



BLACK RIVER

PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Middle School & High School
Program of Study**

**Academic Year
2011-2012**



Program of Study 2011-2012

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BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

ADMISSIONS

As a public school, Black River seeks students who have a serious desire to learn and work diligently to prepare for higher education. Black River is a college preparatory academy chartered by Grand Valley State University. Black River, during open enrollment periods, is open for any K – 12th grade student in Michigan. Because space is limited, students are encouraged to enroll in the spring semester preceding the new school year.

appropriate. However, most colleges and universities only recognize work completed between grades 9-12.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. Read the course descriptions in the booklet very carefully and thoroughly before you begin planning your schedule. Ask your parents to read the booklet and discuss it with them. It is important to view all possibilities before beginning to choose your courses for the next year.
2. Be sure to note required courses and credits as well as prerequisites, grade requirements and teacher approval.
3. Plan your program not only in light of your special interests and activities, but also with the intention of broadening your interests and enriching your background.
4. Before you reach a final decision on courses, discuss your choices with your parents and teachers. Students and parents are encouraged to meet with the registrar or administration to discuss options in scheduling.
5. Each student must turn in a registration sheet by March 25, 2011, to assure priority in scheduling and to assure his or her enrollment status for the next school year.

M. S. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Department	Credits	Department	Credits
English	3.0	Math	3.0
Science	3.0	History	3.0
Spanish	2.0	Fine Arts	2.0
P.E.	1.0	Electives	1.0
Keyboarding	P		
Credits Total = 18.0			

In addition to the above, all middle school students are required to pass 3 years of project term and complete 20 hours of community service. Middle school students are generally required to enroll in seven courses. Middle school students are encouraged to take keyboarding and to develop keyboarding skills. Students must pass the keyboarding class or achieve 30 WPM before graduation from Middle School. They can meet this requirement during middle school CAP. Middle school students are encouraged to take advanced courses at the high school level when

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BLACK RIVER H.S. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Twenty-four credits is the minimum requirement for graduation from Black River. All courses required for graduation must be taken at Black River (or some school that Black River recognizes in case of transfers). The Michigan Merit Curriculum will be met and exceeded by completing the Black River graduation requirements.

Department	Credits	Clarification
English	4.0	Must take four courses of English, even if the student is advanced.
Mathematics	4.0	Must include evidence of passing Algebra/Statistics, Algebra/Geometry, and Advanced Algebra/Geometry. Must take four math courses while in high school. One of those must be taken during the senior year, even if the student is advanced.
Science	3.0	Must take Biology and Chemistry
Spanish/ Foreign Language	2.0	Must pass third year Spanish proficiency test. Highly recommended to take two years of a foreign language while in high school.
Fine Arts	2.0	Art, Band, Choir, or Orchestra
History	3.0	Must take World Studies, Government (civics), and US History. The AP equivalents are allowed. The elements of economics are incorporated into the required courses as well as a portion of CAP class.
PE/Health	1.0	Three full seasons of Black River interscholastic sports participation will substitute for the PE graduation requirement. Conditioning and weight training courses also count toward meeting the PE requirement. Independent activities outside of school must be approved by administration for credit. Health Credit is granted through CAP activities and portions of science classes.
Electives	Varies	Choose courses from the program of study to fill a full-time academic schedule.
CAP	.4	College Advisory Program must be taken every year. Elements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum are met during this class. CAP meets everyday for 30 minutes.
Online Learning		Throughout the required course of study in grades 6-12, students are required to use technology to reinforce learning and prepare them for the future.
Project Term	1.2	3 years of project term must be taken
Senior Project	P	Presented during senior year project term
Community Service	60 hours	
Four- year College or University Acceptance	Verification from institution	Beginning with the class of 2011, all Black River students will also be required to be accepted into a 4-year college or university.
Minimum Credits	24	All students are expected to maintain full-time status. Most students will graduate with 27+ credits.

Black River's high school graduation requirements have been determined with the school's mission of college preparation as a guide. Successful completion of these graduation requirements is necessary to earn a diploma from Black River Public School. Students with disabilities will be assisted in meeting these graduation requirements as appropriate and as specified in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students with disabilities who are unable to meet these graduation

requirements or for whom these requirements are deemed inappropriate may request a personal curriculum which may lead to a certificate of completion rather than a diploma.

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COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Before selecting courses, students should review college admission requirements that are available in the College Advisor's office.

Black River recommends that applicants to competitive colleges successfully complete the following High School program, including as many AP offerings in each subject as possible:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of history
- 4 years of mathematics
- 4 years of science (biology, chemistry, physics)
- 4 years of foreign language

SAMPLE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHEDULE

9TH Grade Example Schedule

English 9
History 9: World Studies
Biology
Algebra/Statistics
Spanish 2 (Completed Spanish A & B in Middle School)
Concert Band
G Period Elective

10TH Grade Example Schedule

English 10
History 10: Government
Chemistry
Algebra/Geometry
Spanish 3
Symphonic Band
G Period Elective

11TH Grade Example Schedule

English 11 or AP English Literature
History 11: US History or AP US History
Physics or AP Science
Adv. Algebra/Geometry
Spanish 4 or AP Spanish
Symphonic Band
G Period Elective

12TH Grade Example Schedule

English 12 or AP English
History 12 or AP History
AP Science or Elective
Precalculus or AP Math
Spanish 5 or AP Spanish
Symphonic Band
G Period Elective

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our unique community service program is designed to involve every student at Black River in the life of our community and to foster concern for worldwide

issues in order to aid students in discovering their ability and responsibility to make a positive difference in the world.

Elementary school students in grades K-3 must complete a minimum of 10 hours of service, elementary students in grades 4-5 a minimum of 15 hours of service, middle school students a minimum of 20 hours of service and high school students must complete a minimum of 60 hours before graduating. Transfer students will be evaluated on an individual basis and will have a prorated requirement.

The Community Service program is outlined in depth at: www.blackriverpublicschool.org/commsvc.shtml. This information is also available from the Community Service Director.

SENIOR PROJECT

Each senior is required to complete a "Senior Project." This senior project application is due and evaluated in the first semester of the senior year. Projects should reflect a specific interest of the student and is either an extension of work begun in an academic course or work outside of academic courses and must be pre-approved. The project should reflect a culmination of student knowledge and experience and represent the student's best work. Students must choose a faculty advisor/mentor for their project. The faculty advisor should be knowledgeable in the area the student is researching and willing to communicate and give feedback to the student on a regular basis.

The projects will be evaluated on a 5-point rubric for four specific components:

- **Research** – The student will select a topic, gather information and keep a portfolio of project activities. It is due at the time of the formal presentation.
- **Project/Product** – The student will produce a project or product that applies or explains some aspect of the research.
- **Formal Presentation** – The student will make a formal presentation to a panel of Black River faculty that will be scheduled during Project Term. After the presentation, questions will be asked about the research and the process to find out what has been learned.
- **Reflection Paper** – The student is required to submit a three page, typed paper that describes the experience and project from start to finish. The reflection paper is due when the formal presentation is given.

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Senior Projects are graded pass/fail and students must meet the minimum requirement (3) in all four areas to pass. See evaluation rubric below.

Evaluation Rubric:

- 1 – No Effort
- 2 – Minimal effort, below standards
- 3 – Minimum requirements met
- 4 – Exceeded requirements
- 5 – Superb, above and beyond requirements

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Black River requires all sophomores to take the PLAN test and encourages juniors to take the PSAT test in October.

Students take the ACT and SAT in the spring of their junior year. Students may repeat these tests as often as desired. Those wishing to take the ACT or SAT must register in advance through one of several local high school test centers.

All juniors will automatically take the ACT in March as part of the Michigan Merit Examination.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Courses in the Advanced Placement (AP) Program are college-level studies. As such, the homework requirements for these courses exceed those of non-AP courses; as an example, for every hour of course time, a student may be asked for an hour or more of work to be completed outside of class. Students who register for these classes are encouraged to take the AP examination in May. The scores are used as a measurement for placement in college courses with the possibility of receiving college credit. There is an examination fee.

To determine if Advanced Placement courses are the right option for you, please see the course instructor. Course instructors grant approval for student enrollment into AP courses.

COLLEGE ADVISORY PROGRAM

The College Advisory Program (CAP) provides guidance and curriculum for teachers in grades 6-12 and targets outcomes for each student. Teachers use a college readiness curriculum developed by the College Board, and the lessons help students with college planning and academic advice. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves the power of a college education.

Other benefits of the CAP program are to provide students with a teacher advocate, to promote the opportunity of belonging to a focused peer group, and to help students find ways to be successful within the academic and social options the school

provides. The objective of the College Advisory Program is to provide support and resources in preparation for college.

Students will be given a letter grade according to three criteria:

1. Attendance and Participation
2. Class Activities
3. Portfolio Management

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment (also called Postsecondary Enrollment Options) permits an eligible* high school student to take a college class while still enrolled in high school. The college class may be taken for high school credit, college credit, or both.

The law that governs the dual enrollment program provides that a portion of the college cost may be paid by the school district. Under certain circumstances, the amount would be based on the per-student state funding received at the district level and the proportion of courses a student takes at the college level if the student is enrolled in less than a full time schedule of high school classes. It does not cover fees for books, transportation, parking costs or activity fees. These costs, as well as any portion of the college tuition not covered by Black River, must be paid by the student's family.

Eligible classes at college are generally in academic areas where the high school curriculum has been exhausted or the class is not offered by the high school. The Head of School must approve all dual-enrollment courses before the student registers. After Head of School approval, the student must then register through the college's admissions.

*For a list of eligibility requirements, please see the Registrar.

GRADES

Monthly newsletters are posted in Infinite Campus for each class. Students are given comments as well as letter grades five times each year, all of which are posted in Infinite Campus. At the end of each semester, letter grades will be grades-of-record to compute a student's GPA. Each mid-semester, the letter grade will be only an indication of the student's performance at that time, and such grades do not "count" as grades-of-record. Between each grading period a simpler progress report will be posted to Infinite Campus for parents and students to access. Parents and students may request access to on-line grades and attendance via the Infinite Campus on-

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line portal. All grade reports are posted on Infinite Campus.

INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT PORTAL

Parents and students are eligible to use the Infinite Campus student/parent on-line portal. This service allows a parent and/or their student(s) to use the internet to log on to a secure website to view grades, assignments, attendance and other data that has been posted by Black River Public School. To gain access to the portal, parents must sign a consent form and return it to the Registrar. Only parents/guardians and students may receive access. A link to the online portal is provided on our website at www.blackriverpublicschool.org.

GRADING SCALE

Grade Point Average (GPA) reflects coursework completed at Black River Public School.

Grade	Grade Points for Normal Classes	Grade Points for AP Classes *	Interpretation
A	4.0	5.0	Highest Distinction
A-	3.7	4.7	High Distinction
B+	3.3	4.3	Distinction
B	3.0	4.0	Laudable
B-	2.7	3.7	Commendable
C+	2.3	3.3	Satisfactory
C	2.0	3.0	
C-	1.7	2.7	Unsatisfactory
D+	1.3	1.3	Poor
D	1.0	1.0	
D-	0.7	0.7	
F	0.0	0.0	Failing and unacceptable

* A student in an AP class earns the weighted grade points only if the student achieves a C- or better in the class and takes and earns a grade of 2 or higher on the College Board AP Exam.

Project term courses and some electives are assessed with a grade of H (Honors), P (Pass) or F (Fail). These courses will not be computed in a student's GPA.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Incomplete grades must be made up within the two-week period at the end of a grading term. Failure to complete the work within the two-week period may result in a failing grade. Incomplete grades are allowed only for a serious reason (e.g. prolonged student illness with appropriate documentation).

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll is computed on the basis of courses taken at Black River. To qualify for the **Academic Dean's List**, includes all students with a GPA of 3.5 -

4.0 (or higher). The **Honor Roll** includes all students with a GPA of 3.0 - 3.49.

CLASS RANK

Because of the limited size and competitive nature of graduation classes, Black River does not publicize the rank of its students.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

After the registration process is complete, a schedule change will take place only in the following cases:

- o If the change is recommended by the instructor or department chairperson,
- o If the student has a schedule conflict, or
- o If the student needs a course for college or graduation.

All schedules are final after the first five school days of the semester. Schedule changes will not occur for the following reasons: teacher preferences or conflicts, convenience of meeting time, and difficulty of the course.

In order to add or drop a course, students must obtain written approval from the registrar/course instructor/head of school and parents.

WITHDRAW GRADES

A *W* is placed on the permanent records of students who are allowed to drop courses after the five-day period in which changes are permitted. Such drops require the permission of the Head of School and are made only in special circumstances.

GRADE REVIEW BOARD

If a student believes that a grade is invalid or unfair, the first step is to have a private, one-on-one meeting with the teacher, and discuss the matter fully. If the student or parents still think the grade is unfair or invalid, they may request a meeting of the Grade Review Board. The committee meeting with the student and parent(s) shall be composed of the teacher, the Head of School, the Curriculum Director, a student council representative and the student's advisor.

Although the Review Board may recommend to a teacher that a grade be changed, the teacher is the ultimate authority in grade change decisions.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students who earn either one failing grade or two D's for semester grades are placed on academic probation. Students who are placed on academic probation for two or more consecutive semesters may need to repeat a grade level at Black River. Students in this situation will receive written

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notification from the registrar. Students on academic probation may not be able to participate in extra-curricular activities until their academic standing improves.

POLICY ON SUMMER SCHOOL







Ordinarily, students who fail a course during the regular school year must repeat the course during the next school year. Black River's core courses cannot be replaced with summer school credits. See the Registrar for details.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with MHSAA policy, Black River students need to maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and be passing all of their classes to be eligible for interschool athletics. Eligibility checks are conducted weekly beginning in the third week of each semester.

CAREER PATHWAYS

The State of Michigan has divided the major careers into the six categories listed below. Schools have been encouraged to integrate these Career Pathways into their curricula. In the course description, non-required high school courses have been related to the relevant Career Pathway(s).

Arts and Communications	
Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology	
Engineering/Manufacturing and Industrial Technology	
Health Science	
Human Services	
Natural Resources and Agriscience	

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Middle school English classes at Black River are designed in collaboration with history classes to study a specific geographic area each year. Classes are often structured in a workshop format, effectively immersing students in the writing process and engaging them in meaningful responses to literature through discussion and written analysis of literature.

Writing in all middle school courses reflects the State of Michigan benchmarks. The reading focuses heavily on selections of classic and young adult literature. A selected list of works read in each course follows its description.

ENGLISH 6: AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, AND LATIN AMERICA

Sixth grade English students focus on literature from Africa, Middle East, and the Americas, including pre-colonial tribal communities and the influence of western culture. Students will also focus on the African American experience in North America. Students continue to work with the writing process to produce numerous works that are well organized and grammatically correct. Students will continue literary analysis in the form of plot maps, responses to literature, and group discussions. Students will be taught usage and mechanics in grammar and word study through vocabulary as part of their course work.

Selected works include: African Folklore and Myths, *The Slave Dancer*, *A Girl Named Disaster*, *Watson's Go To Birmingham-1963*, *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*, *The Golden Goblet*, selection of poetry, and selections of literature from Latin America.

ENGLISH 7: ASIA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 7

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 6 or permission of instructor

Seventh grade English students focus mainly on the literary contributions inspired by the Far East, including Pakistan, Korea, and Japan. Students will write, revise, and edit creative prose including memoir, compare-contrast, persuasive, and literary analysis essays using MLA format. Responses to literature focus on identifying elements of plot, themes, real-life connections, character analysis, and articulating opinions based on the literature. Students will also learn mechanics, grammar, and word study on a weekly basis as part of their course work.

Selected works include: *The Giver*, *Dreamtime Aboriginal Stories*, *The Tempest*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*, *A Single Shard*, *Farewell to Manzanar*, and selected short stories and poetry.

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ENGLISH 8: EARLY EUROPE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 8

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 7 or permission of instructor

Eighth grade English students focus on Early Europe, from Ancient Greece through World War II. Emphasis is placed on equipping students to lead discussions that include themes, real-life connections, character motivation and analysis, literary devices, word choice, and plot development. Students will also write, edit, and revise personal narrative, compare-contrast, persuasive, or literature analysis essays, as well as an annotated I-Search paper using MLA format. Students will also learn mechanics, grammar, and word study on a weekly basis as part of their course work.

Selected works include: Greek Mythology, *The Odyssey*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Lord of the Flies*, selection from Shakespeare, and selected short stories and poetry.

HIGH SCHOOL

High school English classes at Black River are designed in collaboration with the history department to focus on a specific geographic area each year. English classes prepare students for college by studying a broad range of literature and by analyzing how literature has shaped and been shaped by history, our culture, and its readers. Writing in all high school courses reflects the State of Michigan benchmarks. The reading focuses heavily on selections of classic and contemporary literature. A selected list of works read in each course follows its description.

ENGLISH 9: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 9

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 8 or permission of instructor.

Ninth grade English students focus on ideas and texts central to classic and modern literature. Students will begin the class writing standard five paragraph essays and develop multi-page essays by the end of the year. Considerable attention will be paid to developing effective and appropriate thesis statements. Students will again focus on the process

of writing and produce responses to literature that include compare/contrast, research, literary analysis, and persuasive essays. Mechanics and grammar will be reviewed as needed in coursework. Additional attention will be given to the use of primary sources, as well as MLA format.

Selected works include: *The Alchemist*, *Animal Farm*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Night*, and selected short stories and poetry.

ENGLISH 10: 20TH CENTURY SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 10

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 9 or permission of instructor

Tenth grade English students focus on the continued development of analytical writing skills, with particular attention paid to the writing process. In conjunction with the 10th grade History course, research methods, presentations, and papers will be emphasized throughout each semester with significant attention paid to MLA format. Students will be led through a variety of writing projects, including in class timed writings, multi-draft papers, and a major research project. Mechanics and grammar will be reviewed as needed in coursework. Additionally, students will be offered the opportunity to develop their abilities in writing analytical pieces on important works of literature that deal with society in the 20th century.

Selected works include: *Julius Caesar*, *1984*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Our America*, and selected short stories and poetry

ENGLISH 11: AMERICAN LITERATURE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 11

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 10 or permission of instructor.

Eleventh grade English students focus on some of the works of our country's significant writers. Each literary period is taught in its historical context, providing students the opportunity to see how literature is influenced by the social and historical period in which it was written. Student writing will primarily focus on formal responses to literature in preparation for college level expository writing. Students are expected to produce thesis statement

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driven, multi-page essays that discuss prominent themes, character motivations, and symbolism in their reading. Students will also practice writing college application essays. Mechanics and grammar will be reviewed as necessary in student writing. Research will be done according to MLA format.

Selected works include: Native American Literature, *Of Plymouth Plantation*; "The New England Primer"; *The Scarlet Letter*; *Ethan Frome*, short stories from Melville, Irving, Poe, Gillman, Steinbeck, Shaw; "Self-Reliance"; "Nature"; "Walden"; "Civil Disobedience"; *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*; *The Great Gatsby*; *The Catcher in the Rye*; and selected poetry.

ENGLISH 12: GLOBAL ISSUES

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade level: 12
Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 11 or permission of instructor.

Twelfth grade English students focus on the significant and representative literature of the world. Students will critically compare and contrast the major works and themes that have shaped the world's literature including poverty, racism, and politics. Writing assignments will continue to prepare students for college level expository writing. These include a formal research paper, literary criticism, and a multi-genre response; the academic year will culminate with a "Life View Paper." Mechanics and grammar will be reviewed as necessary in student writing. Research will be done according to MLA format.

Selected works include: *The Sunflower*, *The Kite Runner*, *What is the What*, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Hiroshima*, *King Lear*; and selected poetry and short stories.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible grade levels: grades 11 and 12
Prerequisites: Permission from instructor, Department Chair, and completion of summer reading program (see instructor for details).

Advanced Placement English Literature students focus on college level reading selections and writing. Representative works of recognized literary merit from various genres and periods will be studied extensively. Students will read critically and write

analytically in preparation for college level expository writing. The course is designed to prepare students for the May examination that allows students a chance to earn college credit. Students are responsible to complete summer reading in preparation for the class.

Selected works include: *Beowulf*, *The Lais of Marie de France*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Othello*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Things Fall Apart*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Beloved*, and selected poetry.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (2012-2013)

Course length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible grade levels: Grades 11 & 12
Prerequisites: Permission from instructor, Department Chair, and completion of summer reading program (see instructor for details).

Advanced Placement English Language students focus on college level reading selections, discussions, and writing. The course will concentrate on a comprehensive study of non-fiction literature and language with a focus on different rhetorical modes and strategies. AP Language is designed to prepare the students for the May examination that allows students a chance to earn college credit. Students will identify rhetorical and literary devices, and various organizational structures in their reading and will practice these devices and structures in their own writing. Students are responsible to complete summer reading in preparation for the class.

Selected works include: Dante's *Inferno*, *In Cold Blood*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Things They Carried*, *The Sound and the Fury*, *Walden*, *Into the Wild*, *Endurance*, assorted short stories, essays, speeches, poetry, and philosophical discussions.

9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
English 9: Intro. to Literature and Comp.	English 10: Twentieth Century Society and Social Issues	English 11: American Literature and/or AP: English Literature or Language	English 12: Global Issues and/or AP: English Language or Literature

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HISTORY DEPARTMENT

At Black River Public School, Middle School students enroll in history courses that explore material on a global scale. Although the term "history" indicates a specific subject-area curriculum, history instructors identify various categories for classifying content standards: historical, geographic, civic, cultural, and economic perspectives; inquiry; public discourse and decision making; and citizen involvement. In each course, instructors and students will study a particular region of the world through analyses of the mentioned perspectives. History instructors work with instructors in other disciplines (English, the arts, foreign language) to help students recognize interdisciplinary relationships among various subjects.

HISTORY 6: AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA/MIDDLE EAST

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 6
Prerequisites: none

Sixth grade history is an introduction to ancient civilizations and modern societies of Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Units on Mesopotamia, modern Middle East, African countries, and Latin American civilizations will allow students to investigate and expand their knowledge of the world. Whenever possible, American historical events will be linked to the units.

Students will look at the cultures including but not limited to religions, art, and customs. Discussions will include ideas such as trade and resource management or comparing cultures. Students will also be expected to learn the locations of countries, landforms, and selected cities to understand the geography of the area being studied. Students will continue literary analysis through historical documents, primary documents, and novel studies.

HISTORY 7: ASIA

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 7
Prerequisites: none

Seventh grade history explores Asia as well as Australia and New Zealand. Utilizing specific map skills, students are able to relate to current events with an understanding of location, geography, and past events. Projects, research, and discussion help students discover the people in the countries and

their religions, cultures, and traditions. United States historical events are correlated to events studied when possible. Students are encouraged to develop critical thinking and writing skills while learning about other cultures. Using writing and communication skills, students also share knowledge with each other. Two feasts, Indian and Asian, are held each year for students to explore different foods, make recipes, and share with other students and families. Students read at least one full-length text about history and people in Asia. Resources: *World Cultures* textbook, *Ghandi*, *Red Scarf Girl*, guest speakers, and selected articles

HISTORY 8: EARLY EUROPE

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 8
Prerequisites: none

Eighth grade history introduces students to historical developments of Europe, with examination of the geographic, political, religious, economic, literary and artistic aspects of European cultures. The class explores units on ancient Greece and Rome during the fall semester and Medieval and Renaissance Europe during the spring.

There will be a focus the entire year on reading primary documents and writing. Throughout all four major units, students will read poetry and letters, view pictures, act out plays and read autobiographies. The students will then react to these documents through various forms of writing.

Throughout the year interest will also be shown to see how these different time periods in Europe influenced how America was formed and what our government is like today. Students will be challenged to dive deep into European history to find American roots.

HIGH SCHOOL

The Michigan Merit Examination (March of Junior year) covers topics in late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, geographic and environmental implications of global issues and events, American government and world affairs, and the United States and international economic systems. Students who follow the Black River Public School history curriculum should be in a favorable position to perform well on the state proficiency test.

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HISTORY 9: WORLD HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 9
Prerequisites: none

Six World History themes will be used throughout the course to identify the broad patterns and processes that explain change and continuity over time:

- The relationship of change and continuity from 8,000 BCE to the present
- Impact of interaction among and within major societies
- Impact of technology, economics, and demography on people and the environment
- Systems of social structure and gender structure
- Cultural, religious, and intellectual developments
- Changes in functions and structures of states and in attitudes toward states and political identities, including the emergence of the nation-state

HISTORY 10: HISTORY OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND THOUGHT

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 10
Prerequisites: none

This course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the history of political theory through the classic works on the subject, Plato's *The Republic*, Machiavelli's *The Prince*, and the works of Hobbes, Locke, Jefferson, and Paine leading up to the American Revolution and the writing of the US Constitution. Focus will be paid to the freedom allowed by each system to its citizens, the efficiency of governmental structure and the ability of each system to endure the tests of human events. Systems such as monarchies, dictatorships, democracies, republican forms, socialism, fascism, and communism will be examined for their various traits, both laudable and deplorable. This knowledge, rooted as it is in the classics of western political thought, will set students up well for later university-level history and liberal arts classes. Research and analytical writing will be of particular focus.

HISTORY 11: UNITED STATES

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 11
Prerequisites: none

US History is a course designed for high school juniors to engage them in learning about their country and the events that have set the tone for current American thought. The course begins focusing on the early days of Columbus and moves through the Colonial Era, to the present day. Not only are students exposed to many different people, places, and dates, but they will also be exposed to the various cultural, societal, and political shifts found throughout American history. An emphasis is placed on "knowing" our past and seeing it through a more multi-cultural and less traditional format. Students have the opportunity to participate in group discussions, projects, in-class writings, and daily interactive activities that encourage learning and understanding. As individuals and as a class, students are asked to make connections throughout history and recognize the patterns in thought and policy historically in an attempt to understand the current status of our country.

HISTORY 12: WORLD ISSUES

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 12
Prerequisites: none

The world changes and so does this class. In the past, topics for this class have included the Holocaust, Nuclear Weapons, Refugees, Afghanistan, Rwanda, and Darfur. This class is not necessarily a current events class, but a World Issues class, so when there are issues around the world, the topics of study in this class may change according to current world events.

If you are taking English 12, this class will provide the historical and social background that will help you draw more connections and make sense of the topics and books you read in English. Even if you are not in English 12, you will still benefit from this class as it explores topics that are relevant and important in today's world as well as looking at past events to see if history has, is, and will repeat itself.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.50
Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12
Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

This course addresses knowledge of facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics. Students will develop an understanding of typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures). Work includes analysis and interpretation of data and relationships in U.S. government and politics; written analysis and interpretation of the subject matter of U.S. government and politics; and careful attention to the specific free-response question posed and ability to stay on task. Students in this class are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.50

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor

This course addresses knowledge of facts, concepts, and generalizations pertaining to the government and politics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran.

Students will develop an understanding of typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences. Students will provide analysis and interpretation of basic data that are relevant to comparative government and politics. Work includes written analysis and interpretation of subject matter; ability to compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries and to derive generalizations; and careful attention to the specific free-response question posed and ability to stay on task. Students in this class are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: UNITED STATES HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

This course is a college-level survey course in American history with a required summer reading and writing assignment that must be picked up from the teacher before summer break starts. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Students not only examine the facts of American history, but also analyze and synthesize historical information and

study historiography as well. Students learn that history is not a static set of events set in stone, but an ongoing human endeavor seeking to answer who we are, where we have been, and where we are going as a nation. The class concludes with a college level examination, prepared by an independent testing agency-The College Board-which, if passed, may result in college credit.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: EUROPEAN HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of this college-level course are to develop an understanding of the principal themes in modern European history, an ability to analyze historical evidence, and an ability to analyze and to express historical understanding in writing. Periodic tests and research projects will monitor students' understanding and allow for greater examination of topics of personal interest. Students in this class are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON HISTORY COURSEWORK

The history department recommends the following course of study for students wishing to concentrate on history at Black River:

9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
History 9: World History	History 10: History of Political Systems and Thought or AP European History	History 11: The United States or AP US History or AP European History	History 12: World Issues or AP US History or AP European History or AP US/Comp. Government and Politics

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The mathematics department provides a curriculum, teaching and learning environment consistent with an integrated math program adhering to both the Grade Level Content Expectations and the High School Content Expectations as outlined by the state of Michigan. By successfully completing Integrated Mathematics I through III or equivalent level testing in

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

middle school, students will have met the GLCE requirements as set by the state of Michigan. Upon successful completion of the middle school curriculum or its equivalent, students who complete Integrated Algebra Statistics, Integrated Algebra Geometry, Integrated Advanced Algebra Geometry, and one additional math course as a senior, will have met each of the outlined HSCE requirements by the state of Michigan. Students in high school will be required to earn four math credits and must take a math class or its equivalent as a senior. If students complete all of the courses offered at Black River prior to completing high school, the student may have the option to enroll in further math classes at a local college or university through a dual enrollment program.

The mathematics department does offer occasional intervention classes that utilize the same curriculum but accommodates special needs of students. These classes are open by recommendation only and will not be listed in the course catalog. If you feel your student is in need of intervention please speak with his or her current math teacher and Black River administration for further counseling.

The math curriculum at BRPS is based on verbal and written expression to explain problem solving strategies and solutions. Each math class integrates all forms of math: statistics, geometry, algebra, trigonometry, discrete mathematics, and some forms of precalculus.

Students are taught not only how to solve problems, but how to approach the analysis of a math problem using higher level thinking skills. The focus of the program of study is not only on accurate computation, but also on exploration of subjects and different methods of solutions. Our classrooms utilize a cooperative learning approach.

Before the start of our program students will be encouraged to take a placement test to determine where they should begin. Because of the integrated nature of our program, students may be given the opportunity to advance past their currently enrolled grade level. If seeking advancement please contact the mathematics department chair for more details.

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS I

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 6
Prerequisites: none

Students will study units involving basic fractions, number sense, basic probability, decimals and percents, shapes, area, and perimeter. This is an

integrated mathematics course and it is the first course in the Connected Mathematics Project.

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS II

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 7
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Mathematics I or permission of mathematics department.

Students will study units involving geometric similarities and properties of similar figures; ratios, proportions, and percents; probability and expected value; surface area and volume; linear functions; statistics. Students will be introduced to using graphing calculators to aid in solving problems during second semester. Use of these calculators will be expected in all future math classes. This is an integrated mathematics course and it is the second course in the Connected Mathematics Project.

INTEGRATED MATHEMATICS III

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 8
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Mathematics II or permission of mathematics department.

Students will study units involving mathematical models, the Pythagorean Theorem, linear relations, quadratic relationships, symbolic algebra, and geometric symmetry and transformations. This is an integrated mathematics course and it is the third course in the Connected Mathematics Project. Successful completion of this course may permit a student to advance to Integrated Algebra/Geometry, with permission of the mathematics department.

HIGH SCHOOL

INTEGRATED ALGEBRA/STATISTICS

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 9, 10
Prerequisites: Successful completion of middle school mathematics. Basic knowledge of and experience with graphing calculators.

This is an entry-level high school mathematics class. Students will study units involving introductory statistics, linear functions, exponential functions, quadratic functions, spatial geometry, introductory proof, and probability simulations. This is an integrated mathematics class and it uses the first course in the *Core-Plus Mathematics* textbook series.

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INTEGRATED ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10, 11

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Algebra/Statistics or permission of the mathematics department.

Students will study units involving direct and inverse variation, power functions, multivariable functions, geometric transformations, correlation coefficients, nonlinear functions, common logarithms, graph theory, trigonometric functions, and probability. This is an integrated mathematics class and it is the second course in the *Core-Plus Mathematics* textbook series.

INTEGRATED ADVANCED ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Algebra/Geometry or permission of the mathematics department.

Students will study units involving reasoning and proof, inequalities and linear programming, similarity and congruence, samples and variation, polynomial and rational functions, circles and circular functions, recursion and iteration, and inverse functions. This is an integrated mathematics class and it is the third course in the *Contemporary Mathematics in Context* textbook series.

INTEGRATED ADVANCED ALGEBRA/STATISTICS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry.

This class is intended for students who wish to pursue college studies in the performing arts, liberal arts, or social sciences. Algebra topics will be chosen by the math department based on student need, but may include: linear, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions and their inverses; conic sections, and solving systems of equations and inequalities in two and three variables. Additionally, the class includes a study of descriptive and inferential statistics with an emphasis on application to the social sciences. Topics include: data collection and interpretation, correlation and regression, measures of center and variation, confidence intervals, experimental design, binomial and normal distributions and hypothesis testing. Upon successful completion of this course students

should be prepared for a college-level pre-calculus course and a college-level introductory statistics course.

INTEGRATED PRECALCULUS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry

Students will study units involving derivatives, integrals, vectors, parametric equations, logarithms, counting models, polynomial and rational functions, symbolic reasoning, complex numbers, trigonometric identities, and three dimensional geometry This is an integrated mathematics class and it utilizes the fourth course in the *Contemporary Mathematics in Context* book series.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Completion of Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry with a B or better or successful completion of Integrated Pre-calculus. Permission of the mathematics department is required.

Students will spend the year preparing for the Advanced Placement Statistics examination. Successful completion of the AP examination may earn the student college credit. Topics covered include organizing data, samples and experiments, probability, and statistical inference.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Pre-calculus and permission of the mathematics department.

Students will spend the year preparing for the Advanced Placement Calculus examination. Successful completion of the AP examination may earn the student college credit. Topics covered include in-depth study of limits, derivatives, and integrals.

MATHEMATICS OF ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 Math or Fine Art

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

Career Pathways:



Art and architecture is rich in mathematical structure. Platonic solids, tilings, polyhedra, perspective, symmetry, pattern and the golden ratio are just a few examples of art and architecture that have their foundations in mathematics. Through the interdisciplinary investigation of these topics and others that might include the Parthenon, kaleidoscopes, mazes, labyrinths, optical illusions, applications of mathematics in music, and the fourth dimension, students will gain skills in mathematics, applied math and historical context.

Students will be given a letter grade for this two semester elective course. Grade will be derived through the evaluation of assignments (reading, research, homework and writing), projects, quizzes and tests. This is an applied math hands-on project based course. This course includes interdisciplinary teaching methods that are math, art, history and science based.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON MATH COURSEWORK

The math department recommends the following high school course of study for students wishing to concentrate on math at Black River.

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Algebra/ Statistics	Algebra/ Geometry	Advanced Algebra/ Geometry	Precalculus Alternatives: AP Statistics AP Calculus

New students will complete a mathematics placement test to determine where to begin in our course of study. Students wishing to advance must successfully test out of a course and seek recommendation from their current math teacher to advance. Upon math department permission students will be advanced into upper level courses. For more details on advancement please contact the mathematics department chair.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Black River music department is dedicated to developing a life-long love of music. Students are challenged to become proficient performers by rehearsing with their instruments daily and performing often. All performing ensembles at Black River work very hard to learn both as individual musicians and as members of a group. Students can

look forward to public performances both in the concert setting and also in a festival setting where ratings will be given based on quality of performance. The Black River music program stresses a college preparatory atmosphere by teaching students basic music theory and history. Students do more than play their instruments and sing at Black River. They work to gain knowledge that will enable them to appreciate great music throughout their lives.

BEGINNING BRASS AND PERCUSSION

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



The Beginning Brass and Percussion class is an entry-level band class. Students have the option of playing the trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. Making the first tones, understanding simple rhythms and pitches and developing the skill of reading music are the goals. Along with rehearsing and performing, students explore the importance of music in their own and other cultures by listening to and discussing musical examples. After speaking with the Band Director, students will choose their own instruments. Brass players not playing the tuba need to purchase their own instrument. Percussionists need to supply a bell kit with a snare pad.

BEGINNING WOODWINDS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



The Beginning Woodwinds class is an entry-level band class. Students have the option of playing the flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone or bassoon. Making the first tones, understanding simple rhythms and pitches and developing the skill of reading music are the goals. Along with rehearsing and performing, students explore the importance of music in their own and other cultures by listening to and discussing musical examples. After speaking with the Band Director, students will choose their own instruments. All woodwind students must supply their own instruments.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Prerequisites: Beginning Brass and Percussion or Beginning Woodwinds

Career Pathways:



Middle School Band is for students who have completed the first year of band. The class moves at a quicker pace and has a greater focus on musical detail. The text of this class includes the completion of the *Standard of Excellence* series and study of middle school level band arrangements. Students will continue to discuss the role of music in various cultures and will be given the opportunity to listen to music from around the world. Performance tests will be given on the practice homework and written exams will take place at the end of each semester.

CONCERT BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9, 10 or permission of instructor

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning and Middle School Band

Career Pathways:



The Black River Concert Band is for students who have completed both Beginning and Middle School Band and does not require an audition. The Black River Concert Band will focus on challenging students by exploring and performing music that will develop their skills as musicians. Music of many different styles will be performed to allow students to learn about the standard band literature. The students will learn about music through rigorous rehearsal as well as by studying the terms and ideas found within the chosen pieces. Students in this band can look forward to performing at District Band Festival as well as many other performances throughout the school year.

SYMPHONIC BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1 credit

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12 or permission of instructor

Prerequisite: successful audition with instructor

Career Pathways:



The Black River Symphonic Band is a wind and percussion ensemble designed for students who are musically prepared to perform challenging music from the band repertoire. The music selected for performance by this ensemble will require dedicated students who are willing to work hard both in and out of rehearsal. Students who are interested in performing in this ensemble must audition on the band instrument that they wish to play in the ensemble and be willing to perform in the Black River Concert Band if they are not selected for the Symphonic Band. The Black River Symphonic Band will perform at District Band Festival as well as at least four other public concerts during the school year.

JAZZ BAND (see also JAZZ BAND G)

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 7-12

Prerequisites: must be current member of a Black River band or orchestra, and by successful audition with instructor

Career Pathways:



The Black River Jazz Band is a big band ensemble open to students in grades 7-12. This band performs frequently and focuses on improvisation skills and learning the many genres of jazz music. The course includes discussion on the history of jazz and study of great musicians. Listening is a large part of this class. Students are encouraged to listen to improvisation solos and to get ideas from professionals for their own performance.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Career Pathways:



Prerequisites: none

The Black River Beginning Orchestra is an ensemble where students learn to play string instruments including the violin, viola, cello and string bass. The students will begin by playing out of a beginning string method book. Daily assignments will be given and frequent performance tests will be administered. Students will discuss musical and cultural issues

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while listening to music representative of these genres and time periods. After speaking with the Orchestra Director, students will choose their own instruments. Students not playing the string bass must provide their own instruments.

PREPARATORY ORCHESTRA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Prerequisites: Beginning Orchestra and teacher approval

Career Pathways:



The Preparatory Orchestra is designed for the second-year string student. Students in this class will continue to develop their basic technique and learn increasingly more complex material as they prepare to enter the Concert Orchestra. Students will learn to shift, play in a variety of keys, and learn more complicated bowing technique. Students will be placed in this ensemble at the discretion of the Orchestra Director.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Prerequisite: Permission from Instructor



This ensemble is for developing string players with two or more years of playing experience. Students in the Concert Orchestra build on the basic skills learned in Beginning Strings to increase proficiency and experience. This intermediate ensemble focuses on skills such as shifting, vibrato, and playing as an ensemble. Participation in this ensemble is by audition.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Career Pathways:



Prerequisites: Permission from Instructor

The Black River Advanced Orchestra is a string ensemble focused on the performance of challenging compositions. Students will audition for chairs and be

assigned to parts based on their ability. Along with rehearsing for frequent performances, the students will spend class time listening to recordings of great music and discussing what they hear.

Advanced Orchestra students are expected to practice regularly to prepare the difficult music being studied.

VOCAL ELEMENTS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grades: 6-9

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



Vocal Elements is a performance ensemble for students with limited previous experience in choral ensembles. Students will begin the sequential process of vocal development and other basic music skills relating to the choral experience. Grading will consist of daily attendance, weekly skill tests and mandatory attendance at all performances. Additional information will be included in the choral handbook. The handbook will be distributed the first week of class.

CONCERT CHOIR

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grades: 6-12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Vocal Elements or permission of instructor.

Career Pathways:



This ensemble is for students who are continuing the study of healthy vocal development (singing) and beginning the process of artistic expression through choral music, with two or more years of singing experience. Students in the Concert Choir build on the basic skills learned in Vocal Elements to increase proficiency and experience. This intermediate ensemble focuses on skills such as sight singing and singing as an ensemble. Grading will consist of daily attendance, weekly skill tests and mandatory attendance at all performances. Additional information will be included in the choral handbook. The handbook will be distributed the first week of class. **Participation in this ensemble is by audition.**

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON MUSIC COURSEWORK

The music department recommends the following course of study for students wishing to concentrate on music at Black River:

Students should participate for four years in an ensemble appropriate for the instrument played by the student. For example, a trombonist would be in a band and a violinist would be in an orchestra for four years. Students playing an instrument included in Jazz Band should also be enrolled in Jazz Band for four years.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The science department of Black River is committed to presenting information to the students in the most effective way possible. The recognition that every student has a different way of learning is important in the study of the sciences. An alternative program of study is available for individuals with special circumstances by teacher and administrator approval. Where appropriate, labs are used to complement the curriculum and to give middle and high school students a positive and safe opportunity to participate in experiments.

EARTH SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6

Prerequisites: none

Earth science is a course designed to give middle school students an introduction to some general earth science topics. At the beginning of the year, students will study lab safety, the scientific method, and the metric system of measurement. Once they have completed the study of these general topics, they will begin to focus on earth science. Students will cover concepts that include: atmosphere, weather and climate; the universe; rocks and minerals; plate tectonics; and weathering and erosion.

LIFE SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 7

Prerequisites: none

Life science is a course designed to give middle school students an introduction to some general life science topics. At the beginning of the year, students will review lab safety, the scientific method, and the metric system of measurement. Once they have completed the review of these general topics, they

will begin to focus on life science. Students will cover concepts that include: ecology; classification; microorganisms, fungi, and plants; cells; heredity; and human body systems. This class includes the middle school presentation of the abstinence-based sex education curriculum.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 8

Prerequisites: none

Physical science is a blended year of physics and chemistry. Students are exposed to many aspects of physical science. The first semester focuses on chemistry-related topics including: the periodic table; elements; mixtures; compounds; chemical changes; balancing equations; and atomic theories. The second semester focuses on physical-related topics including: speed; motion; light; heat; electricity; force; work; power; and simple machines.

HIGH SCHOOL

BIOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9

Prerequisites: none

Biology is the study of life. This is a broad field with many different aspects and concepts to learn. In this class, many labs and several group and individual research projects are done throughout the year. Online activities complement topics covered in class. The concepts that will be studied include: cells, biological chemistry, cell respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, evolution, plants, and animals. This class includes the high school presentation of the abstinence-based sex education curriculum. This course is required for graduation from Black River and is a prerequisite for Chemistry and AP-level sciences.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisites: Biology, and permission of the instructor, Chemistry is also recommended

This course is designed for those students who intend to major in a science field in college or wish to test out of part of their college science requirement.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

This course is meant to mirror a college biology course. The topics covered in this course are similar to topics in the regular biology course, but are learned more in-depth. A standard set of AP labs is completed throughout the year and students are prepared to complete a comprehensive exam in May that will determine college credit. If a student chooses not to take the AP exam, the course will appear on their transcript as Advanced Studies in Biology. It is recommended that students complete both Biology and Chemistry prior to enrolling in this course.

CHEMISTRY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10

Prerequisites: Biology

This course provides a year-long introduction to chemistry. First semester topics include energy and matter, atomic structure and configurations, the periodic table, chemical formulas and bonding, chemical reactions and equations, and moles. Second semester topics include heat and stoichiometry, states of matter, solutions and chemical equilibrium, and acids and bases. Labs done throughout the year provide an opportunity to apply knowledge learned during discussion and group work exercises.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor

This course is designed for those students who intend to major in a science field in college or wish to test out of part of their college science requirement. This course is meant to mirror a college chemistry course. The topics covered in this course are similar to topics in the regular chemistry course, but are learned more in-depth and with more calculations and application in labs. Furthermore, other topics studied include chemical kinetics and thermodynamics, oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, and organic chemistry. Lab work is documented in specific laboratory notebooks and lab reports are expected to be written as if the results were being published in professional chemistry journals. If a student chooses not to take the AP exam, the course will appear on their transcript as Advanced Studies in Chemistry.

PHYSICS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Alg./Geometry

Physics is the study of the laws of nature at their most basic level. This course is a yearlong introduction to Physics. During the first semester, the topics covered include one-dimensional, two-dimensional, and circular motion, energy, and matter. The second semester topics are heat, electricity and magnetism, light and waves, and atomic nature. There is a minimum of three laboratory reports as well two projects per semester. The students will enjoy hands-on activities and utilize their problem solving skills. Students must have successfully completed Algebra/Geometry.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: successful completion of, or concurrent enrollment in Precalculus, and permission of the instructor.

This class will cover primarily Newtonian Mechanics; the goal will be to prepare students for the AP Physics C Mechanics exam. There will be numerous hands on experiments and activities. The class will be mathematically rigorous at the level of beginning Calculus. Students attaining a high score on the AP exam for this class will usually be given college credit or placement for one semester of Physics for Scientists and Engineers or a similar course.

HIGH SCHOOL EARTH SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Earth Science is a detailed look at our planet and the processes that have shaped it. During this one-year course, students will be exposed to important concepts in astronomy, meteorology, geology, and physical oceanography. Students will also examine the energy at work in forming and modifying earth materials, landforms, and the continents. Through regular laboratory and investigations, students will understand the history and development of the earth and space sciences. We will also investigate earth and space science problems concerning personal needs and community issues.

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and permission of the instructor

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The course provides students with the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Topics include human demographics, human health, and transmission of diseases, biomes, ecosystems, biodiversity, global warming, ozone depletion, pollution, renewable and nonrenewable energy, agriculture global economics, and environmental legislation. A laboratory component is also a required part of this course.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SCIENCE COURSEWORK

The science department recommends the following course of study for students wishing to concentrate on science at Black River:

9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
Biology (Required)	Chemistry (Required)	Physics and/or AP Biology or AP Chemistry or AP Env. Science	Earth Science or AP Physics or AP Biology or AP Chemistry or AP Env. Science

SPANISH DEPARTMENT:

Students in the Spanish program develop the ability to communicate in another language and gain insight into themselves and others. They acquire knowledge of the structure and function of the Spanish language and Spanish speaking societies. Their study will provide learners with access to additional knowledge and skills necessary to function in a global community and workplace.

Black River requires that all graduating students successfully complete the high school competency exam. Students should participate in high school level Spanish classes up through Spanish 3 to prepare them for the examination.

All students in Spanish levels 4, 5 and AP participate in the National Spanish Exam. The NSE is a nationally recognized test for students of members of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). It is designed to promote achievement in vocabulary and grammar. There are awards for top-scoring participants at the state and national level.

SPANISH IA

Course length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6, 7

Prerequisites: none

Spanish IA is a beginner's course to learning the Spanish language. At the start of the year, the aim is to make students realize the importance of knowing a second language. Bilingual community members are invited to come speak to the classes to share how they use Spanish in their everyday lives. Students also learn about the cultures and geography of five different Spanish-speaking areas around the world: Spain, Puerto Rico, Texas, Costa Rica, and Chile. Spanish IA students are required to research one famous Latin American and present him/her to the class. During this course, students engage in all four areas of language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There is a strong emphasis on developing vocabulary and beginning grammatical concepts. Students will be able to read and write comics, poems, short stories, and dialogues by the end of the year. The teacher provides opportunities and special incentives for verbal practice of the Spanish language so that students feel confident and start using Spanish in their community.

SPANISH IB

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 7, 8

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish IA or permission of instructor.

Students will continue to build upon the vocabulary from the previous year as well as develop a deeper understanding of grammar concepts. Students will be required to work in all areas of language: reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension. Students will be expected to write and perform short guided dialogs, and to read simple stories for understanding and comprehension. They will explore the role of translation between languages through the use of poetry. During the year, the students will explore the geography and culture of Mexico, Argentina, Peru and the Dominican Republic. They

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

will also explore the role of Spanish speaking people who have made Florida their home.

HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH I

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 8-12*
Prerequisites: None

Students will learn basic vocabulary and conversation, introductory grammar skills, present indicative conjugation and geography of the Spanish-speaking world. Lessons will include speaking, writing, listening and some singing in the target language.

Students will be expected to write short passages and read simple stories with comprehension. Towards the end of the year students will write and illustrate an original children's story that will utilize some preterit verb forms. This story will be presented to class. Past stories of superior quality have been read to elementary classes.

**8th grade transfer students will be placed in Spanish I*

HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH II

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 8-12
Prerequisites: Successful completion of middle school Spanish IB and/or High School Spanish I.

Students will continue to study critical concepts in grammar. Lessons will include practice speaking, listening, writing and reading in Spanish. Short stories by Spanish authors will be read and rhythmic poetry will be explored. Short skits and dialogues will also be performed in front of class. Verb conjugation in the present, preterit, imperfect and present progressive will be drilled for mastery. Students will do a variety of projects including research on a famous Spanish speaking person or country. They will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of culture as well as improve their conversational skills.

HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH III

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 9 – 12
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish II

In Spanish III, students will learn more complex grammar including the subjunctive mood. During each class they will practice speaking, reading, writing and listening. The majority of the class is taught in Spanish. They will increase their vocabulary through thematic units. They will enhance their

understanding of culture through songs, projects, discussions, research and artifacts presented in class. They will read articles, poems and short stories. In addition, they will learn skills important for traveling in a Spanish – speaking country. Frequently, they will perform dialogues to practice their speaking and grammatical skills as well as aspects of the culture.

HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH IV

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits : 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 10 – 12
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish III and competency exam

Students in Spanish IV will continue to add to their knowledge of the subjunctive mood as well as other complex grammar topics. Spanish is the primary language in the class. Students are expected to practice their conversational skills every class by using the target language during casual conversations and regular class activities. The vocabulary is presented in thematic units. There is more emphasis on mastery of idiomatic phrases at this level of study. During each class students will practice speaking, reading, writing and listening in the target language. They will write and present plays, participate in debates, discuss literature and conduct research. Culture permeates activities in the class. Activities draw on vocabulary and culture to provide the themes for the study of grammar.

HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH V

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 10 – 12
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish IV

This course gives students interested in studying advanced Spanish the opportunity to continue their study of the language. The students will read more literature and be expected to discuss those works in Spanish while continuing with advanced grammar study. Students will have a variety of writing tasks such as informative articles, scripts and essays. They will add another layer to their appreciation of culture through their study of art, architecture, dance and other cultural items.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LITERATURE

Course Length: 2 semesters (2012-2013)
Credits: 1
Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12
Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor and recommendation from past Spanish Teacher

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

AP Spanish Literature seeks to prepare students for the AP exam in May. The course is taught in strict concordance with the College Board. The course focuses on classic and contemporary literature, including short stories, plays, picaresque novels, epics, and poetry. Students will learn advanced literary terms, political and social ambient associated with a variety of genres, and a plethora of regional and lexically unique vocabulary words.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE

Course Length: 2 semesters (2011-2012)

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

Students in this course will be preparing to take the Advanced Placement exam for Spanish Language given nationally every spring. Students can earn college credit if they successfully complete the exam. They will be required to perform comprehension, verbal, written and aural tasks on the exam.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDY

Third Year Competency Exam

Black River requires that all graduating students successfully complete the high school competency exam. This exam includes the four areas of language learning: speaking, reading, writing and listening. Students must participate in high school level Spanish classes up through Spanish III to fully prepare them for the examination.

Accelerated Study

With successful completion of middle school Spanish IA & IB, students may move directly into Spanish II at the high school level. We encourage student to extend their study of Spanish beyond Spanish III.

VISUAL ART DEPARTMENT

The art department of Black River Public School provides a comprehensive and challenging visual art curriculum that reflects our school's mission statement. The middle school classes broaden students' understanding of the cultures they study in Humanities with clear steps that build on one another. Students who complete the high school series of art courses will be prepared to enter college and life with real skills and a developed sense of personal aesthetics.

AFRICAN AND EGYPTIAN ART

Course Length: 2 semesters (See MS G-Period Electives)

Credits: .67

Eligible Grade Level: 6

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



The focus of this course is to provide a first positive middle school experience with art and to study the visual culture of Africa, Egypt and the Middle East. Various mediums will be explored, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, mask-making and fiber arts. Students will gain basic skills in these areas while creating fun and interesting projects, such as hollow Nkisi figures and contemporary African masks. Students will also look at how African art has influences other artists, such as Picasso.

ASIAN ART

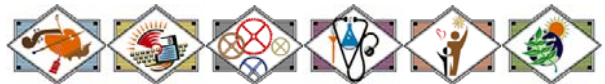
Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 7

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



This course continues to focus on the development of creativity and studying the visual culture of Asia. Since Asia is such a large continent with so many diverse cultures, this class will maintain a focus on China, Korea, Japan, and South Asia including India, Thailand, and Malaysia. Various mediums will be explored such as drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and functional design. In this course students may use traditional block printing methods, techniques of Chinese brush painting, and conventional methods and decoration of Japanese pottery.

EARLY EUROPEAN ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 8

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



This course offers students an opportunity to study the visual culture of early Europe as they embark upon more advanced projects that may include

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and architectural design. Students will learn European art history from Prehistory through the Baroque period. Projects may include creating Roman-inspired mosaics, carving a plaster bust, designing a medieval castle and painting a traditional royal family portrait.

HIGH SCHOOL

INTRO TO ART: ALL MEDIA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12 (entry level course)

Career Pathways:



This course will provide an academic study of art through an introduction to art history and historical artists, contemporary art and artists, and basic art techniques. Students will explore a variety of techniques in drawing, painting, mixed media, composition design, and sculpture to broaden their understanding of two-dimensional as well as three-dimensional art.

INTRO TO ART: GRAPHIC DESIGN

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12 (entry level course)

Career Pathways:



The focus of this course is on understanding art and design through the study of graphic arts. This class will investigate the impact, meaning, purpose and importance of contemporary commercial art. For the first half of the semester, students will be working with basic design principles and color theory. As the course progresses, students will explore the art of company logos, product packaging, and typography. Students will work with media and techniques in drawing, painting, sculpture, and computer design.

2D DESIGN

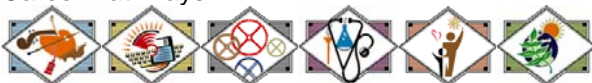
Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12 (2nd or 3rd Year)

Prerequisite: Any entry level art course

Career Pathways:



Students will build on skills and historical knowledge gained in Intro to Art. Emphasis on the elements of design organization will be applied to assignments using a variety of two-dimensional materials such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and multimedia works. In addition to production of art, students will examine the history of art, the nature of aesthetics and the practice of critiquing.

3D DESIGN/ADVANCED 3D DESIGN

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12 (2nd or 3rd Year)

Prerequisite: Any entry level art course; Advanced students must complete an Intro level course and one year of 3D Design

Career Pathways:



This class is designed to move students past the two-dimensional mediums of drawing and painting, and into projects that focus on three-dimensional form with sculpture. Materials such as clay, plaster, and wood will be used, and concepts of form and space will be discussed and experimented with. Students will explore idea development through the evaluation of several conceptual sculpture artists. Additionally, this course will examine the history of sculpture, the nature of aesthetics and the practice of critiquing.

ADVANCED 2D DESIGN: LECTURE & STUDIO

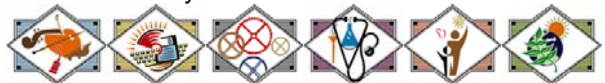
Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12 (3rd Year HS Art)

Prerequisite: Introductory course and 2D Design

Career Pathways:



This advanced art class is designed to meet the needs of high school students who have taken an introductory art course and completed one year of 2D Design. Students will explore idea development, art history, the nature of aesthetics and the practice of critiquing art. With the synthesis of upper-level art students, and a variety of lecture and studio viewpoints, this course will be a fun but challenging juncture. Students interested in in-depth skills training, art related careers, advanced placement art credit, or college preparatory art education should enroll in this course.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

ADVANCED ART/AP STUDIO ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12 (4th year HS Art)

Prerequisite: Advanced 2D or 3D Design

Career Pathways:



This course is the highest level of the art courses offered at Black River. This course has a seminar/lecture component, but is mainly focused on developing individual, student portfolios. The art portfolios are used for college applications, scholarships, AP credit, exhibitions, competitive exhibitions and to create a body of work representing the culmination of a high school student's experience. Students **must** have completed two pre-requisite art courses at Black River in order to enroll in this course.

MATHEMATICS OF ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 Math or Fine Art

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



Art and architecture is rich in mathematical structure. Platonic solids, tilings, polyhedra, perspective, symmetry, pattern and the golden ratio are just a few examples of art and architecture that have their foundations in mathematics. Through the interdisciplinary investigation of these topics and others that might include the Parthenon, kaleidoscopes, mazes, labyrinths, optical illusions, applications of mathematics in music, and the fourth dimension, students will gain skills in mathematics, applied math and historical context.

Students will be given a letter grade for this two semester elective course. Grade will be derived through the evaluation of assignments (reading, research, homework and writing), projects, quizzes and tests. This is an applied math hands-on project based course. This course includes interdisciplinary teaching methods that are math, art, history and science based.

Please Note: Students in grades 7-12 who are not able to register for A-E studio art courses as a result of scheduling conflicts should consider a G Block art course as an opportunity to maintain studio time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

COLLEGE ADVISORY PROGRAM

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: .10

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



The College Advisory Program (CAP) is a required course that provides guidance and curriculum for teachers in grades 6-12 and targets outcomes for each student. Teachers use a college readiness curriculum developed by the College Board, and the lessons help students with college planning and academic advice. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves the power of a college education.

Other benefits of the CAP program are to provide students with a teacher advocate, to promote the opportunity of belonging to a focused peer group, and to help students find ways to be successful within the academic and social options the school provides. The objective of the College Advisory Program is to provide support and resources in preparation for college.

Students will be given a letter grade according to three criteria:

1. Attendance and Participation
2. Class Activities
3. Portfolio Management

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Course Length: 1 or 2 semesters

Credits: 0.50 per semester

Eligible Grade Levels: 7-8

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



This is an advanced sports class for 7th and 8th grade students only. Less learning and more playing of our various games will take place. Grading will be based on effort and co-operation. This class is ideal for students who enjoy competition. High emphasis will be put on team sports and also individual personal physical fitness. Competition will follow you everywhere in life and learning how to compete with class will be emphasized in Competitive Sports.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

6TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Length: 1 or 2 semesters
Credits: 0.50 per semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 6
Prerequisites: none
Career Pathways:



This elective class will allow 6th grade students to improve their physical fitness, cardiovascular health, and athletic ability. As an activity based class, each student is required to participate each day. A variety of sports and games will be played allowing for growth and skill development in a number of different areas. With only 6th grade students, this class will offer a risk free area to expand your physical health and wellbeing.

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Prerequisite: Introduction to Art History or permission of instructor
Career Pathways:



This college level Art History course is an excellent class for 11th and 12th grade students who wish to learn about art history in historical its context. Students will: express historical understanding in writing, understand important historical events in context with visual art history, grasp major art historical periods from early European history to modern western historical perspectives, and distinguish between western and non-western aesthetics. Also, students will complete periodic tests and research projects to help examine understanding and express personal interest. Students will take an AP Art History exam in early May.

ADVANCED SPORTS CONDITIONING

Course Length: 1 or 2 semesters
Credits: 0.50 per semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Prerequisites: Must play a BRPS sponsored sport
Career Pathways:



This course is for athletes to improve their athletic ability while getting a great physical workout. Each student will obtain an hour long sport specific workout from the Varisty coach of the sport(s) they play. Two days a week, the students will perform these workouts, the third class period each week will be a cardiovascular workout. This class is designed to build and improve athletic ability and improve physical conditioning.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12
Pre-requisites: Advanced Algebra/Geometry (may be taken concurrently)
Career Pathways:



This course is designed to introduce students to the academic, scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Principles of psychology include, but are not limited to: biological bases of behavior, research methods, history and approaches, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, motivation and emotion, cognition, developmental psychology, psychopathology, and social psychology.

Students are required to complete an AP Psychology exam in May. Students will learn through experiential and project-based assignments, independent reading, class discussion and in-class lectures.

COLLEGE ADVISORY PROGRAM

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: .10
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

The College Advisory Program (CAP) is a required course that provides guidance and curriculum for teachers in grades 6-12 and targets outcomes for each student. Teachers use a college readiness curriculum developed by the College Board, and the lessons help students with college planning and academic advice. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves the power of a college education.

Other benefits of the CAP program are to provide students with a teacher advocate, to promote the opportunity of belonging to a focused peer group, and to help students find ways to be successful within the academic and social options the school provides. The objective of the College Advisory Program is to provide support and resources in preparation for college.

Students will be given a letter grade according to three criteria:

1. Attendance and Participation
2. Class Activities
3. Portfolio Management

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



Students will understand computer systems, develop proper keyboarding technique, and format personal and school documents by using the most common types of software applications. Students will create documents using spreadsheet, database, word processing, and presentation software. This course provides a technology base for assigned work in other courses. The student will learn to demonstrate product professionalism, which includes: audience appropriateness, effective formatting, presentable and/or publishable final form, and utilization of effective mechanics.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.5
Eligible Grade Levels: 11 -12 and permission from the Curriculum Director and the Head of School
Career Pathways:



Students may seek approval to research or explore a topic for academic credit on an "independent study" basis if the course is not offered or available due to schedule constraints. Independent Study students will be encouraged to enroll in a Michigan Virtual High School course if applicable (fees may be incurred).

Permission to pursue an independent study project is a privilege granted to students who have demonstrated their ability to work with little supervision. The student wishing to undertake the project must complete an Independent Study application and secure approval from the potential faculty advisor of the project and the Head of School. Students must complete assignments as designated by their faculty advisor. Students will receive a letter grade for the course.

INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



This is a survey style examination of major trends in western art history to include art historical periods from Prehistoric to Post-modern. This is a full year art class for students interested the study of art in context of history, art theory, and western civilization. Key aspects of this course include: project based learning, class participation, slide lectures, cooperative learning, short writing assignments, and very little homework. This course will help students in all their humanities requirements and electives.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HS)

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



This course will engage you in healthy activity to promote physical wellness in both body and in mind. This is an activity-based class; therefore all are expected to participate on a daily basis. Physical activity has been shown to help you think more clearly, breathe better, and be relaxed in a way that is conducive to the over all excellence in all areas of academia. Fitness is a life long goal; by teaching you a healthy life style we expect you will continue this healthy life style into life after school. Successful

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

completion of two semesters of this course fulfills the graduation requirement of 1.0 credit in Physical Education.

SOCIOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Have you ever sat down and thought about why people act the way they do? Why are men typically more aggressive than women? Why are women portrayed as more nurturing than men? How we learn is valuable in our culture. Who makes those decisions? Those are the kinds of questions that sociology attempts to answer. Put simply, sociology is a study of human behavior. It studies how social groups function in our society and how these social groups influence our behavior.

This course will focus on the ways in which social institutions - family, education, economy, religion and politics - influence our lives. We will also discuss how people are stratified based on race, ethnicity, gender and age.

TEACHING PRACTICUM (ELEMENTARY)

Course Length: 1 or 2 semesters

Credits: .5

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12 or permission from the Curriculum Director or the Head of School

Career Pathways:



By devoting a class period to a "Teaching Practicum," a student indicates a desire to learn more about teaching. A teaching practicum allows a student to assist a teacher directly with important day-to-day instruction as well as increase their knowledge about the practice of teaching. A student who signs up for this study will be work directly with our Title I/Montessori Specialist and then periodically visit elementary classrooms. Students will be evaluated on several criteria and be responsible for semester and/or year-end assignments. For a list of specific requirements, please see the registrar. Students will receive a letter grade for the course.

UTOPIC/DYSTOPIC STUDIES

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



Can society change individuals, and can individuals change their society? What are the possibilities for identity, ethical behavior, and courage under totalitarian systems? How do computer and robot technology lead us to a new set of questions about the nature of reality? What are the ethical issues surrounding bioengineering and mechanization? We will discuss these and other related questions throughout this visual arts and English course. Utopias and dystopias are genres of literature, film, and other media that analyze social constructions and political structures. While utopias focus on an ideal world as the setting for the novel, dystopias focus on a world in which these perfect ideals have been undermined.

This investigation of utopic and dystopic genres will include the study of philosophical, ideological, and historical contexts. Hands-on, project-based learning is a significant aspect of this course.

Many of the novels for this course contain mature content, including strong language and sexual references. Students should be prepared to analyze and discuss this content in a responsible and appropriate manner.

MIDDLE SCHOOL G-PERIOD COURSES

A JOURNEY THROUGH MIDDLE EARTH

Course Length: 1 semester

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



A good book can touch our lives like a good friend. Within its pages are words and characters that can inspire us to achieve our highest ideals. We can turn to it for companionship, recreation, comfort, and guidance. It also gives us a cherished story to hold in our hearts forever. J.R.R. Tolkien creates a world in which Bilbo Baggins travels on a year-long journey across hazardous terrain and faces formidable foes. *The Hobbit* invites readers to a fantasy world full of implausible, wonderful, memorable characters with

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

whom we can often identify. Perhaps we, along with Bilbo Baggins, can learn to suspend what we are accustomed to doing and believing, and enter the captivating world of Middle Earth.

In this class, students will develop reading, writing, thinking and language skills through exercises and activities related to *The Hobbit* through development of themes of good versus evil, appearances versus reality, and bravery versus cowardice; character development; oral and written assignments; oral and silent reading; and vocabulary enrichment.

AFRICAN AND EGYPTIAN ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.34 per semester

Eligible Grade Levels: 6th

Career Pathways:



The focus of this course is to provide a first positive middle school experience with art and to study the visual culture of Africa, Egypt and the Middle East. Various mediums will be explored, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, mask-making and fiber arts. Students will gain basic skills in these areas while creating fun and interesting projects, such as hollow Nkisi figures and contemporary African masks. Students will also look at how African art has influences other artists, such as Picasso.

ASTRONOMY

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Astronomy is a course in which students will be actively increasing their knowledge of our solar system and the universe. Students will be working in the computer lab, in the classroom, and in the science lab on many different assignments. Topics range from the Kuiper Belt to constellations, it will be lots of fun!

BOOK AND FILM STUDIES

Course Length: 1 Semester

Grade Levels: 6-8

Prerequisites: None

Career Pathways:



Directors have turned many of today's most famous and enjoyable books into films: *Eragon*, *Inkheart*, *Twilight*, *Spiderwick Chronicles*, *The Tale of Despereaux*, *Hoot*, *City of Ember*, and even Harry Potter are only some of the options available to us. Even if you have read these books or seen these movies before, this class will help you focus on using reading strategies to delve into the books' characters, themes, and symbols as we unearth the structure, message, and writing style of each. Using reading strategies like sticky notes, mental pictures, interactive journals, reciprocal teaching, anticipation guides, and story maps will help you interact with these stories in new and pleasing ways. Viewing the companion film for each book we study will provide an opportunity for us to consider how the setting, director's perspective, and casting choices influence the delivery and effectiveness of a story.

CREATIVE WRITING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Creative writing can adorn our lives with flavorful images, crystal-clear honesty, and therapeutic insights into the way we view and interact with the world. With this in mind, we will delve into the artistic world of writing fiction, creative memoirs, myths, and poetry in an inspired and inclusive environment. While reading short stories and poems, we will learn from the masters and determine our own personal style. As a class, we will focus on revising our work through the workshop format and on developing a portfolio of highlighted work. The culminating project will be a chapbook that features one's unique writing style, design, and personality.

BRAIN STORM

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Prerequisites: None

Career Pathways:



BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

Are you always looking for a challenge? This class of logic puzzles and brainteasers is design to stretch your brain in new ways. Each class we will exploredifferent ways logic can be used to plan moves, solve puzzles, and win logic games. Some of the puzzles we will explore include the popular sudoku puzzles, logic grid puzzles, riddles and brain games, as well as other logic-based games such as Battleship and Connect Four. We will keep journals for reflecting on each new experience with logic and will discuss the logic that we used to solve the puzzle or win the game. Periodically throughout the semester, you will be designing your own logic puzzles for the class to try.

DRAWING, SKETCHING, COLOR & COLLAGE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



This middle school G period class will give students the opportunity to create using pencil, pastels, charcoal, color and collage. They will learn how to use those materials to their best effect to create pleasing artwork. Students will learn basic color theory and will be introduced to some influential artists. The main focus of this class is to create. They will be given art assignments to complete in class and will be expected to complete them all to earn full credit. At the end of the course the students will have a portfolio of assignments showing their progress.

EJERCISIOS IN ESPANOL (KINESIOLOGY & LANGUAGE)

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34 (Physical Education)
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



This class includes an immersion approach to the Spanish language with an introduction to habits conducive to a healthy lifestyle. Class instruction is eighty to ninety percent in Spanish. Students will learn subjunctive commands, various songs and extensive vocabulary relating to the body and motion. Students will also engage in a number of cardiovascular activities including stair climbing, distance running, anaerobic sprinting and aerobic calisthenics. All activities will focus on enhancing

pulmonary functions, muscular and skeletal flexibility, and over all homeostasis. By the end of the semester a student should be able to run three miles at a ten mile per hour pace. Participation in one local 5km race is encouraged!

EVERYDAY SCIENCE

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



To better understand science around us, Everyday Science has incorporated a hands-on approach to learning blended with inquiry-driven “missions” in which students design, build, test, troubleshoot and compete final products with classmates. In addition, students are able to work together to offer problems and solutions to other classmates in an effort to encourage teamwork and effective communication.

GREAT LAKES IN MY WORLD

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



Come and explore our biggest natural resource, the Great Lakes! In this course we will look at how the Lakes have impacted human society an dhow humans are impacting the Lakes. We will explore the history and geology of the region as well as how this fragile ecosystem is changing over time. This course will include units on Sand Dunes, Lakes, Wetlands, Human Communities, History, and Geology. Weather-permitting, we will also include some field trips to one of our local beaches to do some exploring and learning about our Great Lake on its shores. Learn more about the community you live in and about the wonder of the Lakes that surround our state.

HANDS ON THE PAST

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



Weaving is more than potholders and spider webs! Throughout history weaving has helped people to

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carry, display, and to wear many different elements including, but not limited to, palm fronds, yarn, strips of cloth and/or plastic, and grass. Weaving has produced products that have helped cultures express themselves artistically, use weaving as an expression of their religions, as well as live better lives due to the practical nature of the arts. Weaving has also produced ways that people could adorn themselves.

In this class we will explore the various ways weaving has been used in cultures. We will learn the terms that a weaver needs to understand, discover how different methods are used to make baskets, and use different types of hand looms to learn how to make clothing or art displays.

HISTORY OF SPORTS JOURNALISM & INTERVIEWING

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



A fantastic area of study is the world of sports journalism. Many fantastic writers have spent their years interviewing and covering the realm of athletics. Students in this class would both read and dive into many great writers' work, but also would be responsible for covering a Black River sports team. The writer would watch, interview, and thoroughly cover the team throughout the season. This class would give many students the opportunity to allow two of their passions intertwine - writing and sports.

INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.67
Eligible Grade Levels: 7-8
Career Pathways:



This class offers students in middle school the opportunity to investigate many aspects of visual art to include: drawing, painting, installation, collaboration and sculpture. This is a project-based course; students will be able to create artworks in response to assignments and use a hands-on approach with the guidance of a skilled artist/teacher. No prior art experience is necessary to be successful in this class.

JAZZ BAND G

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.67
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12 with audition
Prerequisite: successful completion of Beginning Band and enrollment in another musical ensemble
Career Pathways:



The Black River G period Jazz Band is for students who are interested in learning about jazz and have completed Beginning Band. This band does not require an audition but does require permission of instructor. The course focuses on challenging students to explore the elements of jazz and improvisation. Music of many different styles will be performed to allow students to learn about the literature. The students will learn about music through rigorous rehearsal as well as by studying the terms and ideas found within the chosen pieces. Students in this band can look forward to performing publicly throughout the school year.

MATHCOUNTS

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Prerequisites: IM II enrollment
Career Pathways:



MATHCOUNTS is a national math and coaching competition program that promotes middle school achievement through grassroots involvement in every US state. Student "mathletes" will be coached and selected to compete individually or as part of a team in written and oral competitions; locally in February, and at the state contest in March. Winners will go to the national finals in May. This is a challenging class geared to students in 7th grade math or higher.

PHI, PI, MO, HUM

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



This course will discover the influences and uses of mathematics in everyday life. It includes a study of

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art, culture, music, physics, space, sports, and technology. We will look at patterns in numbers, ratios and proportions of values, algebraic and quadratic modeling, and statistics to understand how they play an integral role in the lives of people around the globe.

PROJECT CITIZEN

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



Do you have an issue with a law or rule? Would you like to know how to change or improve it? In Project Citizen you will see that you have a voice in our democracy and have the right to try to influence the decisions people in government make about problems you feel are important. You will learn how to express your opinions, how to decide which level of government and which agency is most appropriate for dealing with the problem you identify. You will work cooperatively with others to gather and research information about your chosen area, develop your own public policy and create an action plan which may ultimately be presented to the targeted government agency.

ROBOTICS

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



In this course, students will study how robots work and how they are programmed. They will work in teams to build, program, and test Lego-based robots using the Lego Mindstorms kit. This kit was created so that students 12 years and older can create robots and program them; it uses a simplistic way of programming suitable for students with no programming experience. The students will build programs and download each one to a physical robot that they have constructed. Several robotic projects and challenges will be constructed throughout the term.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)
Credits: 0.67
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Middle School Science Olympiad is a course that prepares the Middle School team for their Invitational and Regional Science Olympiad Competitions. In order to take this course and be on the team, students must attend both the Invitational and Regional Science Olympiad competitions. These competitions are day-long events held on the last Saturday of February and the last Saturday of March respectively.

SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6 only
Career Pathways:



Moving from 5th grade to 6th grade is a big change for students. The purpose of this course is to help students make this transition and become successful middle school students. Students will work on many activities ranging from learning to effectively use the planner and Infinite Campus to library and computer skills necessary for success in middle school and beyond. By participating in the class students will gain test-taking strategies, note-taking skills as well as organizational skills.

Some activities included in this course will include:

- Goal Setting
- Time Management
- Finding a good place to study/do homework
- How to use the planner
- How to study for a quiz/test
- How to read for meaning/take notes
- How to effectively study with other students
- Following directions
- Talking with teachers
- Keeping an organized notebook/binder

WHERE DID MUSIC COME FROM?

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: .34
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Career Pathways:



Where did music start and how was it developed? These are the questions we will explore throughout the semester. The purpose of this class is to gain a deeper understanding of music. We will listen to and

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discuss a wide variety of music. Major goals are to develop listening skills, learn about different elements of music and the style periods, review concerts, participate in class discussions, and keep a listening journal. Students will actively participate in class projects such as writing a jingle, composing original lyrics, improvising on percussion instruments, and writing a musical story.

HIGH SCHOOL G-PERIOD COURSES

ACCOUNTING

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9 - 12
Prerequisites:
Career Pathways:



Exploring the real-world of business through accounting. In this G block class students will focus on a business perspective of accounting. Throughout the course students will explore accounting careers and study accounting methods used in a variety of settings. Students will work with business scenarios to complete actual accounting projects from a real-world perspective.

ADVANCED STUDY OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



This upper level class will take an in-depth look at the history, culture, and political systems of a variety of countries around the world. Through this in-depth study, students will explore the differences and similarities between these countries, while exploring the trends and events that affect them. Our study will focus on the United Kingdom, China, Iran, Russia, Mexico, and Nigeria, but current events and global developments will provide fresh topics of learning and discussion throughout the year. This course is recommended for students taking AP Government.

AMERICAN WARS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Study the history of America at war from the Revolutionary War all the way up until today. Learn how tactics and technology changed over time. Study the greatest battles in US history and the men who forged their names forever into the history books. Students will also look at how politics influences the military and vice versa. This class will have a required research assignment and a presentation. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of all major wars that the United States has been engaged in.

AP WRITING LAB

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: .34 per semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12
Career Pathways:



The AP Writing Lab is for students who are currently enrolled in AP Language and Composition or AP Literature and Composition. If students are not currently enrolled in the class, they must ask permission from the instructor. In this course, students will learn a variety of methods to help other students improve their writing. They will learn how to identify problem areas in writing such as creating an arguable thesis, solid organization, syntax, the incorporation of textual evidence, and grammatical errors. More importantly, students will learn how to communicate these problem areas to other students. The focus will be on helping students understand the process of writing and not merely to peer-edit for them.

This process of peer tutoring will, in turn, help AP-level students identify and correct errors in their own writing. Many teachers require their students to have rough drafts examined by the AP tutors, so students in this course are expected to work with other student's papers throughout the semester as well as with their own papers.

BACKYARD PHYSICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



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Physics is everywhere! From the time you start throwing your spoon from your high chair to the first time you get behind the wheel of a car you are actively engaging in a world governed by the rules of physics. You will take an active approach in discovering the physics that surrounds us. This course is designed to present physics concepts with a hands-on approach utilizing labs and projects that peak your curiosity and challenge *you* to discovery. We will study physics concepts found in kinematics, electro-magnetics, thermodynamics, and more through various projects including rocketry, collisions, circuitry, and controlled explosions. This course is an elective that can be chosen for all high school levels. Although it focuses on physics concepts, it will not be offered as a science credit.

CONDITIONING

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



The idea behind the class is to keep your body in good physical condition. This class is ideal for athletes who want to gain an advantage going into the season or keep a high fitness level during the off season. In Conditioning class you will work to improve your cardiovascular endurance and muscular endurance through aerobic activity. You will build and strengthen muscles through anaerobic activity such as sprints and plyometrics. Your speed, quickness, and flexibility will also improve during conditioning class through stretching and drills. Again this is an ideal class for athletes who want to gain an edge on the competition, but it is not limited to only athletes in anyway.

CREATIVE WRITING

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways



Creative Writing is a one-semester course in which students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in various forms of creative writing. During the semester, we will study the thematic and stylistic elements of classical and modern poetry, the short story, the one-act play, and the fairy tale. Students will be challenged not only to examine professional creative works carefully to analyze and understand

literary elements, but will also have the opportunity to create their own pieces of writing in each of the genres we study. Ultimately, students will be asked to submit pieces of writing for an individual final project to be compiled at the completion of the semester. Works studied will include by are not limited to: Poetry by American and International poets, as well as a variety of short stories and plays.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY WITH PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



This course introduces students to the basic skills and techniques of digital photography. Students will gain knowledge of the effects of lighting, composition and basic camera functions. Using Photoshop Elements, students learn how to correct image exposure, lighting, color and composition. Students will explore the art of image manipulation. In addition to studio work, students will be looking at the history of photography and exploring the art of contemporary photographers.

ECONOMIC APPLICATIONS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



This course explores the roles of consumers and producers in economic life and demonstrates how money, goods, and services flow. We will study in depth the role that consumers, workers, businesses, and governments play in our economy. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of money and economics in United States history, discover what it means to us now, and predict how it may shape our future. In addition, students will learn practical tips and advice for day-to-day economics on topics such as budgeting, loans, mortgages, investments, and credit.

EVERYTHING SHAKESPEARE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

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Career Pathways:



Learn how to enjoy Shakespeare! This class will investigate William Shakespeare and his writing by reading, and sometimes acting out, many of his plays. Why is Shakespeare sometimes difficult to understand? Learn how to deal with the dense language and obscure allusions in order to enjoy Shakespeare in a way that is accessible and entertaining. We will attend at least one live performance as a class, and view numerous video performances as well.

This class requires no previous study of Shakespeare. We will read at least one play from each of the four genres in which Shakespeare wrote: Comedy, Tragedy, History, and Romance, making sure not to re-read any plays that are used in other classes at BRPS. By the time you complete this course, you will feel confident reading any Shakespearean text required for future classes!

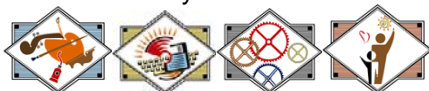
FILM STUDIES

Course Length: 1 semester

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



The main reason we watch movies, beyond the technical and the sociological reasons for why they are made, is to enjoy them. Movies are 1 ½ to over three hour escapes from our reality. They can provide background white noise, or we can listen and watch intently to what is happening. And, in some strange ways, although they are escapes, they can also mirror our own reality quite nicely. Furthermore, as advanced technology continues to invade our everyday lives, we watch supposedly groundbreaking movies that leaned on new technological advances for their time periods. For the 1930s, sound in movies was a big deal. For the 1950s and 60s, color was a big deal. For now, computer generated images are a big deal. By watching out for many aspects of film—cinematography, special effects, plot, dialogue, character interaction--movie watching could possibly be more enriching. A movie is not just inherently bad or good—there are reasons why.

By understanding basic film terminology, we will learn why movies are bad or good. Primarily, a good deal

of discussion on why we think we are watching these films is important. Furthermore, essays and questions about these films, the genres they represent, and the reasons why they might be important are critical for understanding and interpretation. Although movies are watched primarily for their entertainment value, it is important to have critical and technical knowledge in movie-watching. Through writing and discussing, the value of movies will be divulged, opined, and explicated.

Watching and critiquing film is becoming a benchmark in many classes that students take. Appealing to the visual aspect of student learning, video is fast becoming a media tool that will possibly be standard for any subject matter. By participating in this class, students will have the opportunity to discern intelligently and explicate thoroughly what they are watching. This explication and discernment will be important as they are asked to discern and explicate videos they watch in other classes.

The standards by which this class is run are very wide open. With the writing and critiquing skills the students use in this class, they get practice on any writing and critiquing they might do on state standard tests (like the 11th MME Reading and Writing) and on national standard tests (like the ACT and SAT writing portions). Furthermore, the ability to write thoroughly yet succinctly is vital for success on job and college applications.

FRONTYARD PHYSICS

Course Length: 1 semester

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Frontyard physics offers you some of the same features you loved about Backyard physics only with all new sets of challenging and creative projects. This course is designed to present physics concepts with a hands-on approach utilizing labs and projects that peak your curiosity and challenge *you* to discovery. You will take an active approach in discovering the physics that surrounds us. We will study physics concepts found in kinematics, electromagnetism, thermodynamics, and more through various building projects and competitions. You can take Frontyard, or Backyard physics in either order with no prerequisites. Each class features its own set of challenging projects that will have you investigating the more active side of science. This course is an elective that can be chosen for all high

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school levels. Although it focuses on physics concepts, it will not be offered as a science credit.

GREAT WRITINGS, GREAT IDEAS

Course Length: 1 semester

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Great books possess themes of enduring importance, noble language that elevates the soul and ennobles the mind, and a universality that enables it to speak across the ages. In this course students examine a body of work that offers an extraordinary gift of wisdom to those willing to receive it.

The semester reading will address topics of inquiry (possibly sacrifice, virtue, ambition) and find expression in writings that span the ages and globe. The material will be presented so high school students of any age may engage with passion and satisfaction.

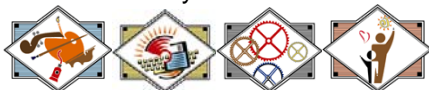
HISTORY IN DISPUTE

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



History in Dispute will look at controversies, conspiracies, and disputes throughout history. Students will be asked to research, debate, discuss, and write as they find their own point of view on these issues. We will look at the JFK assassination and see if Oswald acted alone or if there was a conspiracy. If so, who was behind it? Did a UFO really crash at Roswell or is there a more likely explanation? Did Roger Patterson really film a 'bigfoot' in 1967 or was it a hoax that has perpetuated a myth. We will also look at other myths and lies that prevail throughout history. Take this class and learn about these and other disputes in history.

HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

Course Length: 1 Semester

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisites: Have taken or concurrently taking Chemistry

Career Pathways:



Since ancient times and Democritus' idea that the world is made up of tiny particles that we now know of as atoms, the study of chemistry has had a great number of discoverers and the important principles they studied. How did John Dalton verify Democritus' ideas about the atom? How was Ernest Rutherford able to wave a piece of gold foil in front of an electrical discharge tube and somehow come up with the nucleus? How did Amedeo Avogadro come up with the magic number of atoms that led to the mole? Did Marie Curie really know what she was dealing with when she worked with radium and uranium? And were their discoveries sheer accidents that led to profound discoveries or were their profound discoveries determined through predictable results from verified hypotheses? In this class, we will learn about these discoverers, the historical context of their scientific work, and the experiments they conducted to change or add to the foundation of chemistry. As a complement, we will try to replicate some of the experiments that these discoverers used to come up with their principles. What materials did Robert Boyle use when he came up with the pressure-volume relationship for gases? Let's do his work and find out. Chemistry is chock-full of names—Boltzmann, Lavoisier, Nernst, Hess—that have constants, laws, or relationships named after them. Let's discover who is behind the name and the impact their discoveries had on chemistry.

HISTORY OF SPAIN

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Spain has had a profound effect on world history. This one semester course will explore the major events of Spanish history that have impacted the course of world history. The students will gain more insight through readings, class discussions, video and projects. The class will be taught in English. It will be especially useful as preparation to students planning to travel to Spain during Project Term 2012, but it is not a requirement for them. Come and learn how Spain has affected the world we live in.

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HOLOCAUST LITERATURE I

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



This course serves as an introduction to Holocaust Literature and history. We quickly discover that this literature shows mankind at its worst and most evil. At the same time, it shows man at his most noble—those who broke laws and risked their own lives to save other human beings. Holocaust literature reaches to the depths of human experience. Through studying the literature and history of the Holocaust, we can not only learn about facts relating to the tragedy, but also make personal connections to individuals who lived and died during the Holocaust. Topics include history of anti-Semitism, motives of the Nazi party, survivor testimonies, mosaic of victims, and concentration camp systems. Primary documents, short stories, novels, and poetry will be read to gain a better understanding of this significant historical event.

HOLOCAUST LITERATURE II

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



Holocaust Literature II is a continued attempt to understand this atrocity and honor of victims of this senseless tragedy. Student do not need to have taken Holocaust Literature I to take this class; necessary historical background will be presented as needed for students who are studying the Holocaust for the first time. Topics include survivor testimonies, German reactions, righteous Gentiles, resistance, plight of children, and formation of the state of Israel. Primary documents, short stories, novels, and poetry will be read to gain a better understanding of this significant historical event. Students who enjoyed Holocaust Literature I or desire to know more about the Holocaust are strongly encouraged to take this class.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Course Length: 1 semester
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



This course is intended for students who may wish to enroll in AP Psychology, or for those students interested in a survey course. Topics will include an introduction to biological mechanisms of behavior, the history of psychology, approaches to psychology, basic research methods, environmental and genetic influences on human behavior, and human development. Students will learn through weekly readings and independent research, as well as class discussion and individual and group projects.

JAZZ BAND G

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.67
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12 with audition
Prerequisite: successful completion of Beginning Band and enrollment in another musical ensemble
Career Pathways:



The Black River G period Jazz Band is for students who are interested in learning about jazz and have completed Beginning Band. This band does not require an audition but does require permission of instructor. The course focuses on challenging students to explore the elements of jazz and improvisation. Music of many different styles will be performed to allow students to learn about the literature. The students will learn about music through rigorous rehearsal as well as by studying the terms and ideas found within the chosen pieces. Students in this band can look forward to performing publicly throughout the school year.

LIFE DRAWING

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12
Career Pathways:



This course will introduce students to drawing through studies of the human figure. This class will work with a variety of media and techniques in drawing and painting. The first half of this course will be centered on practicing the art of mimesis, or accurate portrayal in proportion and color, while the second half of the semester will allow for more expressive approaches in figurative art. In addition to studio work, students will be analyzing and critiquing a variety of contemporary figurative artists.

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MEDIA LITERACY

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Do you love television? Do you love movies? Do you love magazines? Do you even love advertisements? Then Media Literacy is the class for you! During our semester, we will focus on the media and the influence it has on American Culture. Students will be involved in a variety of investigations and research activities to determine the cultural impact different genres, styles and types of media have on our society. Our group will be exposed to various types of media including news programs, talk shows, music videos, politics and animation. Works studied will include but are not limited to *The Simpsons*, *The Jerry Springer Show*, *Bill O'Reilly*, *Survivor*, *The Apprentice*, *Dawson's Creek*, *The Daily Show*, and *Oprah Winfrey*. Additionally, students will be exposed to various forms of print media including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, magazine advertisements, graphic design and photography. Be warned—this class is not simply watching television and movies. We will be supplementing our study with nonfiction research based reading focusing on the history of media influence in our culture. Students will complete multimedia projects and compose a research paper on a genre, style or media outlet of his/her choice.

MUSIC APPRECIATION: THE HISTORY OF WESTERN MUSIC

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



The purpose of this class is to gain a deeper understanding of music. We will focus on many aspects and styles. One focus will be the examination and study of the history of Western music. By the end of this one semester course, students are expected to know periods of music history, the influential composers associated with each era and the chronological order of Western music periods. We will listen to and discuss a wide variety of music. Students are expected to participate in class projects such as writing a jingle,

composing original lyrics, improvising on percussion instruments, and writing a musical story.

WEIGHT TRAINING

Course Length: 1 semester

Credits: 0.34 (Physical Education)

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisites: Must be 16 years old before the first day of class.

Career Pathways:



This course is offered in conjunction with the Holland Community Aquatic Center. The purpose of this class is to introduce students to a weight room and initiate a weight-training program. Students will study the muscle system and learn ways to strengthen the muscles. Since each student in the class is a guest at the facility and an ambassador of Black River Public School, exemplary behavior is expected.

Note: Due to enrollment or changes in staff, some courses may not be offered; elective or G-period courses may be added later.