



# **BLACK RIVER**

**PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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

**Academic Year**  
**2021-2022**



# Program of Study 2021-2022

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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. For more information regarding admissions at Black River, visit our website at: <http://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/content/admissions>

## 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 their CAP teacher or School Counselor to discuss options in scheduling.
5. Each student must turn in a registration sheet by **March 29, 2021**, to assure priority in scheduling and to assure their 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
*or 2 G period courses (.667)		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 advanced courses at the high school level when appropriate. However, most colleges and universities only recognize work completed between grades 9-12.

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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 take and pass Spanish 3. 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 History, Civics/Economics, and US History. The AP equivalents are allowed.
PE/Health	1.0 PE .5 Health	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 in 11 <sup>th</sup> grade.
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. CAP meets every day for 25 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 CAPstone	P	Presented during senior year project term
Community Service	60 hours	
Four-year College or University Acceptance	Verification from institution	All Black River students are 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) or 504 Plan. Students can request a Personal Curriculum which may allow the student to meet certain graduation requirements through School Board approved modification of state

and local standards. For additional information regarding personal curriculum requirements, please contact the Director of Special Education at [616-355-0055 ext 159](tel:616-355-0055).

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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

### 9<sup>TH</sup> Grade Example Schedule

English 9  
History 9: World History  
Biology  
Algebra/Statistics  
Spanish 3 (Completed Spanish 1A &1B and Spanish 2 in Middle School)  
Symphonic Band  
G Period Elective

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Example Schedule

English 10  
History 10: Civics and Economics  
Chemistry  
Algebra/Geometry  
Spanish 4  
Symphonic Band  
G Period Elective

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Example Schedule

English 11 or AP English Language  
History 11: US History or AP US History  
Physics or AP Science  
Adv. Algebra/Geometry  
Spanish 5 or AP Spanish  
Symphonic Band  
G Period Elective

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Example Schedule

English 12 or AP English Literature  
History 12 or AP History Elective  
AP Science or Elective  
Precalculus or AP Math  
AP Psychology  
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: <http://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/content/community-service>

## SENIOR CAPSTONE

Seniors at Black River are required to complete a Senior Capstone learning experience. Each senior writes a proposal for coordinator approval which includes plans for a research project and a presentation at the Senior Capstone showcase event. The Capstone effort takes place over the course of senior year; students meet with teacher coordinators for advice while completing their project outside of school hours. Capstones reflect the specific interests of each individual student and are a culmination of student knowledge and experience. The work can be a new extension of work begun in academic courses or a complete departure from previous academic work in instances in which a student chooses to explore new ideas or areas of study.

Senior Capstones are graded on an A-F scale, and students must earn a 60% overall to pass. Students are evaluated on three components, each of which informs a portion of their overall grade:

**Project:** Project goals are set by each student depending on their final product. Student projects are assessed based on their self-defined criteria of success as well the challenge, creativity, and value of their work. Additionally, students must complete an annotated works cited that adheres to current MLA formatting standards.

**Presentation:** Presentations occur in an evening showcase event during which seniors unite to share their individual final projects with an interested, authentic audience of family, friends, and peers. Presentations are informative, organized,

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professional, responsive, engaging, and appropriate to each audience.

**Process:** During the yearlong process of completing the Capstone, students submit their work on time, attend individual conferences and group meetings in a timely manner, plan and prepare appropriately, communicate effectively, and self reflect on their Capstone learning experience as a whole.

## COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Black River requires all juniors to take the PSAT test in October. The test will be administered on Wednesday, October 13. Juniors will also take the SAT in the spring as part of the Michigan required assessment.

Students can elect to take the ACT in the spring of their junior year. Students may repeat both the ACT and SAT test 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 be registered to take the SAT in April as part of the State of Michigan required assessment.

## 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.

A student in an AP class earns 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. The grade is weighted by default unless the student does not meet the above criteria.

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 while providing meaningful relationships between staff and students. Teachers instruct students on college, college preparation and college planning as well as give academic guidance, intervention and

support. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves how to be successful in Middle School and High School and to appreciate the power of a college education.

These goals will be accomplished through two types of CAP Classes. The first will be a consistent CAP class that meets with an advisory teacher twice a week, during which time students will complete various lessons and sign up for Flex classes. The second will be Flex CAP classes the remaining days of the week, the content of which will be based on the student's needs.

Other benefits of the CAP program include providing students with a teacher advocate, helping students find ways to be successful within the academic, enrichment and social options available, building important social skills in a focused peer group, and promoting a culture of personal responsibility, engagement and respect. These benefits support the objective of the College Advisory Program by providing support and resources in preparation for college and life.

Students will receive a letter grade according to three criteria:

1. Participation and Accountability
2. Class Activities
3. Class Lessons

## 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.

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After Head of School approval, the student must then register through the college's admissions office.

**Grades received in a Dual Enrollment class will be included on the Black River transcript, however grades will not factor into the cumulative GPA calculation.**

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

## CAREERLINE TECH CENTER

The Careerline Tech Center (CTC) offers over twenty-five different programs for students to consider. Visit their website at <http://www.oaisd.org/ctc/> to find out more about what they offer. Students attend the CTC for a half day with the other half of the day being spent at Black River. In general, seniors have priority to attend the CTC, but some juniors may be eligible. Priority will be given to students who are on track to graduate and who have positive daily attendance. The careerpath and future goals of the student will also be considered. Students considering the CTC should attend an observation in early February and consult the school counselor early on in their high school career.

**Grades received at the Careerline Tech Center will be included on the Black River transcript, however grades will not factor into the cumulative GPA calculation.**

## GRADES

Updates of what students are doing in their classes are available through teacher websites or monthly newsletters. 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-line portal. All grade reports are posted on Infinite Campus.

## INFINITE CAMPUS PARENT PORTAL

Parents and students are eligible and encouraged 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 complete an online consent. Only parents/ guardians and students may receive access. A link to the online portal is provided on our website at [www.blackriverpublicschool.org](http://www.blackriverpublicschool.org). Parents only need to submit the form once and will have access to all students in their household as they are enrolled.

## 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. The grade is weighted by default unless the student does not meet the above criteria.

Project term courses 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 term GPA of 3.5 - 4.0 (or higher). The **Honor Roll** includes all students with a term 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.

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## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

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

- If the change is recommended by the instructor or department chairperson,
- If the student has a schedule conflict, or
- 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 **WP** (*Withdraw Pass*) or **WF** (*Withdraw Fail*) 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 considered to be on academic probation. Students who are 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 notification from the Head of School. Students on academic probation may not be able to participate in extra-curricular activities until their academic standing improves.

## **POLICY ON CREDIT RECOVERY**

Black River does not offer credit recovery courses. Ordinarily, students who fail a course during the regular school year must repeat the course during the next school year. Generally, Black River's core courses cannot be replaced with online or summer coursework. See the Head of School for details.

*\*Credit recovery during the Pandemic is being discussed and details will be available when finalized.*

## **POLICY ON TESTING OUT/CREDIT BY EXAM**

Per Michigan law, a student may attempt to test out of high school classes with the sole purpose of advancing in the curriculum. The intent of this law is to allow students who have extensive prior knowledge in a subject, the opportunity to test out and move on to higher level classes in that subject area. Once credit is earned by exam, a student may not receive credit thereafter for a course lower in sequence within the same subject area. To successfully test out, students must exhibit mastery by scoring a 76.5% (C+) or better on a final exam in the course. A successful test out attempt will be posted on a student's transcript as a CR (Credit). Test out attempts, either successful or unsuccessful, do not factor into a student's grade point average. Test out requests will be addressed individually by student. Students may not request to test out of a course once it has begun and students will not be provided with a study guide.

## **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.

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## 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 curriculum. In the course description, non-required high school courses have been related to the relevant Career Pathway(s).

Agriscience	
Arts and Communication	
Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology	
Engineering/Manufacturing	
Health Sciences	
Human Services	

## 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 Common Core standards of Michigan. 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 & LATIN AMERICA

Course Length: 2 semesters  
Credits: 1.0  
Eligible Grade Levels: 6

Sixth grade English students will focus on literature from Africa and the Americas, including pre-colonial tribal communities, slave trade, sharecropping, civil rights, and the influence of western culture. Students will focus on the African American experience in North America. Inferential and experiential literature responses will be introduced and expected to provide a basis for discussions and seminars. Students will

be expected to demonstrate understanding of the writing process and various writing styles to produce numerous works that are well organized and grammatically correct. As part of their course work, the usage and mechanics of grammar will be taught as well as precision of language and vocabulary skills.

### 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, China, 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.

### 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. Reading instruction will equip students to lead discussions that include themes, symbolism, real-life connections, character motivation and analysis, literary devices, word choice, and plot development. Writing instruction will encourage students to engage in brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and revising formal essays that focus on paragraph building, literary analysis, narrative development, and research style using MLA format. Students will also study vocabulary and grammar on a weekly basis to supplement their language development.

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## HIGH SCHOOL

High school English courses at Black River are designed to allow for collaborative content and focus with other humanities courses. Each English course provides students with opportunities to study a broad range of classic and contemporary literature including fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. Students will write in a variety of modes that ask them to consider purpose, audience, and voice. Throughout each course, students will be encouraged to make meaningful connections between language and life as they develop skills to analyze these texts and effectively articulate ideas in a variety of written work, collaborative discussions, and presentations.

### ENGLISH 9: LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY

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 a variety of themes and texts central to classic and modern literature. Students will continue to explore the process of writing over varying time frames as they consider a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. Students will produce a variety of written and project-based responses to literature including narrative, analytical, informative/explanatory, and persuasive essays, as well as other creative and interpretive works. In addition to writing, students will also initiate and participate effectively in collaborative discussions and create engaging presentations that incorporate the use of technology. Students will continue to develop their understanding of how language functions in different contexts, and mechanics and grammar will be reviewed as needed in coursework. Students are responsible for completing the English 9 summer reading assignment.

### ENGLISH 10: LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND RESEARCH

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 given to paragraph development, textual evidence, and the writing process. Students will pursue a variety of writing projects, with emphasis on sentence composing and MLA formatting. The culminating writing project for English 10 is a large-

scale research paper focused on human rights violations. Throughout the year, students will develop their critical thinking, reading comprehension, and speaking skills when engaging with important works of literature that deal with social, political, and cultural contexts in a changing world. Students are responsible for completing the English 10 summer reading assignment.

### ENGLISH 10: ADVANCED PLACEMENT SEMINAR

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 10

Prerequisites: Permission from 9<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher

Tenth grade English: Advanced Placement Seminar is a foundational course that engages students with a variety of texts and resources that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspective in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. Throughout the year, students will develop their critical thinking, reading comprehension, and speaking skills as well as focusing on the continued development of analytical writing skills, with particular attention given to paragraph development, textual evidence, the writing process, sentence composing, and MLA formatting. Students in this course will learn to synthesize information from varying genres and propose solutions to social issues on a local, national, and global scale. English 10: AP Seminar is a great course for students who intend to pursue other rigorous courses in their high school career, as it prepares students for the types of thinking and responding that other AP courses require. This is a hybrid course, earning students their required English 10 credit within an elective AP course framework. AP Seminar is the first of two courses in which students can choose to participate with the AP Capstone Diploma program; it is a prerequisite for AP Research. Students are responsible for completing the English 10 summer reading assignment.

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## **ENGLISH 11: LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 11

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

English 11 focuses on major works from a variety of genres, but particularly on non-fiction books, essays, and speeches. An emphasis will be placed on understanding how various rhetorical strategies are used to convey meaning. Students will examine influential writing and study philosophical arguments, current events, historical documents, and visual rhetoric. Through close reading, students will analyze authors' choices and how these choices impact the overall structure and meaning of a text. This class will emphasize writing in each unit. Writing assignments will include argumentative, expository, and narrative pieces that require thoughtful planning, revising, editing, and rewriting, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. Students will conduct sustained research, synthesizing multiple sources on a single subject. Emphasis will be placed on practicing the art of clearly communicating thoughts and ideas in written form, as well as utilizing a variety of rhetorical modes of writing. Additionally, rhetorical grammar and vocabulary will be addressed, and established methods of research and documentation will be reviewed throughout the course. Students are responsible for completing the English 11 summer reading assignment.

## **ENGLISH 12: LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

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 significant and representative global literature. Students will critically compare and contrast the major works of fiction, poetry, and drama and the themes that have shaped them. An emphasis will be placed on literary analysis, how elements such as figurative language, imagery, and symbolism construct meaning, how social and historical values get communicated through literature, and how structure and style contribute to the artistic quality of a piece. Writing assignments will continue to prepare students for college-level writing and include chances to write expository, analytical, and argumentative pieces, considering both formal, multi-draft essays, and exploratory informal writing. Students will learn how to develop and control tone and voice in

writing, develop a variety of organizational techniques to increase coherence, and review and mechanics, grammar, and research, which will be completed according to MLA format. Students are responsible for completing the English 12 summer reading assignment.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Course length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible grade levels: Grades 11 & 12

Prerequisites: Permission from English 10 or 11 instructor 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 and language with a focus on different rhetorical modes and strategies. The goal is to study and write various kinds of analytic or persuasive essays on nonliterary topics. As writers, students will focus on expository, analytical, and argumentative writing by reading primary and secondary sources and synthesizing this research in order to communicate an argument effectively. Discussions will be centered on current issues, author bias and manipulation, and the use of language to successfully develop an argument. Students are responsible for completing a summer reading assignment in preparation for the class. In addition to several novels, a vast assortment of essays, speeches, documentaries, political cartoons, and other forms of rhetoric are integral to this course.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible grade levels: grades 11 and 12

Prerequisite: successful completion of AP English Language, permission from instructor, and completion of summer reading program (see instructor for details)

Advanced Placement English Literature students focus on college-level reading selections, discussions, and writing. Representative works of recognized literary merit from the genres of fiction, drama, and poetry will be studied extensively and across multiple literary periods. Students will read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, by studying a variety of literary devices, such as figurative language, symbolism, and imagery, to absorb its richness of meaning, ultimately analyzing how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In addition to considering a work's literary artistry, students reflect on the social

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and historical values it reflects and embodies. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include explication, analytical, and argumentative essays. Students will have extensive opportunities to develop their analysis and evaluation of literature through formal and informal writing activities, and learn how to develop critical essays into their own interpretations of literature. In writing, attention will be given to developing and organizing ideas in clear, coherent, and persuasive language in order to help students develop stylistic maturity. Focus will include developing a sophisticated and controlled voice and tone through elevated syntax and diction. Students are responsible for completing the AP English Literature summer reading assignment.

9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
English 9: Language Arts Literacy	English 10: Language, Literature and Research	English 11: Language and Composition or	English 12: Literature and Composition or
	English 10:AP Seminar	AP English Language	AP English Literature

## 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, *Gandi*, *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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

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 M-STEP Summative Assessment (April 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 required assessment.

### HISTORY 9: WORLD HISTORY

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

World History focuses on a time continuum encompassing our world from pre-history to the present. Investigations will begin with life before the development of any human written record. Students will draw information and historical perspective from historical documents, literature, videos, and selected articles. This study of the historical development of people, places and patterns of life in our world will provide connections and understanding through written and oral critical analysis and the evaluation of facts and opinions using technology, presentations and research. The textbook, Traditions and Encounters, as well as, selected books and materials from The Big History Project, may also be used to help deliver the content.

### HISTORY 10: CIVICS

Course Length: 1 semester  
Credits: .5 Civics  
Eligible Grade Levels: 10  
Prerequisites: none

Civics is a one semester survey course that is typically taken during the sophomore year and fulfills the civics 0.5 credit required for graduation. This class will study American Government, Citizenship, and law. Students will examine the structure and function of government, the Constitution, the checks and balances system, federalism, the three branches of Government, political parties, public policy, and foreign policy.

### HISTORY 10: ECONOMICS

Course Length: 1 semester  
Credits: .5 Economics  
Eligible Grade Levels: 10  
Prerequisites: none

Economics is a one semester survey course typically taken during the sophomore year and is required for graduation. We will cover microeconomics, macroeconomics, and personal finance. Topics discussed will include consumers, suppliers, governments and the impact their decisions make on the economy. We will also discuss personal debt and budgets and the impact of consumerism. A short overview of investments will also be covered. Instruction will include table discussions, powerpoints, and videos. A final project will require real life budgets based on a career of your own choosing and a location that you would chose to live.

### HISTORY 11: UNITED STATES

Course Length: 2 semesters  
Credits: 1.0 US History  
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. This class is not a current events class but a world issues class. We do look at current events and try to stay aware, but our focus will be on issues that recur over time. When new issues come up, we add new content to

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

the class. Some topics discussed in recent years have been racism, finances, legalization of drugs, world religions, human rights, government, and elections. Students are expected to read one book per semester and participate in a discussion about that book. Students will be expected to make presentations to the class on topics that are important to them so they can educate their classmates. Students will also engage in a video series about finances. Students will 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 repeated, is repeating, and will repeat itself in the future.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT: U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 Civics

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor

*\*Students who opt to take this course would still be required to take a semester course of Economics*

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: 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: 10-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

In AP European History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world, economic and commercial development, cultural and intellectual development, states and other institutions of power, social organization and development, national and European identity, and technological and scientific innovations.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT: HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

The Advanced Placement Human Geography course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Topics include, but are not limited to, population, political patterns, agriculture and culture. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. Tools and methods of geographers will also be used in this course.

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9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
History 9: World History	History 10: Civics .5 Economics .5	History 11: US History	History 12: World Issues
	Alternate Choices:  AP European History <b>or</b>  AP US Government & Politics*	Alternate Choices:  AP US History <b>or</b>  AP European History <b>or</b>  AP Human Geography <b>or</b>	Alternate Choices  AP US Government & Politics <b>or</b>  AP European History <b>or</b>  AP Human Geography <b>or</b>  AP US History

**History graduation requirements are 1 credit of World History, .5 credits of Civics, .5 credits of Economics, and 1 credit of US History.**

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The mathematics department provides a curriculum, teaching and learning environment consistent with an integrated math program adhering to standards and practices outlined by the state of Michigan by the Common Core State Standards CCSS. By successfully completing Integrated Mathematics I through III or equivalent level testing in middle school, students will have met the requirements for grades six through eight. Upon successful completion of the middle school curriculum or its equivalent, students will complete Integrated Algebra Statistics, Integrated Algebra Geometry, Integrated Advanced Algebra Geometry, and one additional math course as a senior. With successful completion of each high school course, students will have met the outlined mathematics requirements by the state of Michigan from each of the CCSS strands in Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Modeling, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. 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 required math 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 will 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 and seeks to deepen understanding by spiraling each strand together to initiate more diverse and complex understanding. 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 curriculum is not only on accurate computation, but also on exploration of applied content and diverse methods or solution strategies. Our classrooms utilize a cooperative learning approach to explore math through discovery and discourse that lead to deeper understanding.

Before the start of our program students will be encouraged to take a placement test to determine their entry level. 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

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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.

### **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

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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.

## COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING & DESIGN I

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 Mathematics (if taken in 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Eligible Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisite: Completion of Adv. Algebra/Geometry

In this course, students will explore and learn engineering drawing techniques and computer aided design software. The class will focus on three main learning areas: engineering software knowledge, technical drawing concepts, and product design activities. Basic 2D CAD mechanical drawing concepts through advanced 3D solid model product design will be studied. Students will work individually as well as in groups to progress from basic technical drawing concepts through advanced product design and documentation.

## INTRO TO 3D COMPUTER ANIMATION

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 Mathematics (if taken in 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Eligible Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisite: Completion of Adv. Algebra/Geometry

In this course, students will explore and learn 3D animation software. The class will focus on two main learning areas: software knowledge and manipulation as well as fundamental animation story telling. Students will use extended project based learning activities working individually and in groups to explore the use of 3D animation software and storytelling.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Algebra/Statistics	Algebra/Geometry	Advanced Algebra/Geometry	Precalculus or
			Adv. Alg/Stats AP Statistics AP Calculus CAD/Design I 3D Animation

*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 BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:

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We start students by having them try different instruments during their 5th grade music classes. Our goal is to find a good fit for the students that will allow them to succeed at learning how to play. Choices consist of the following instruments with opportunities to play other instruments during the second year of their progress:

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium and orchestra bells

Black River Beginning Band students will:  
Be able to produce a characteristic tone on their chosen instrument using proper embouchure, breathing, hand position and posture. This will be demonstrated on an individual basis as well as during group activities in rehearsal and concert.

Have an understanding of the musical circle of fifths and how it is constructed. This understanding is measurable by the student being able to construct one on as part of a written examination.

Negotiate four major key signatures (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db) by demonstrating on their chosen instruments the corresponding major scale with arpeggio from memory.

Begin to explore the tenets of band music production - Sound, Rhythm, Notes, Articulation, Dynamics, Phrasing and Balance.

Have an understanding of basic rhythmic concepts using note values from whole notes and rests sub-divided into half notes, quarters, eighths and sixteenths. Students will be able to negotiate the time signatures of 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4. This understanding is measurable by the student being able to write in the counting of basic rhythms as part of a written examination.

Class work will include the study and performance of beginning band literature as well as textual study from a band method book. A written assignment in the form of a narrative paper will be submitted each semester. Students will attend a live musical performance and respond using a guiding rubric.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND**

Course Length: 2 semesters  
Credits: 1.0  
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12  
Prerequisites: Beginning Band  
Career Pathways:



Black River Middle School Band students will:

Continue to strive to produce a centered and characteristic tone on their instrument using proper embouchure, breathing, hand position and posture with a beginning emphasis on intonation tendencies. Beginning collaboration skills will be learned through small group dynamics. This will be demonstrated on an individual basis as well as during sectional group activities in rehearsal and concert.

Continue to explore solid band music production through its tenets.

Use the musical circle of fifths to be able construct all major scales. This understanding is measurable by the student as part of written examinations.

Negotiate eight major key signatures (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, B, E, A) and their corresponding modes.

Understand and be able to negotiate all seven modes in the key of Bb major.  
(Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian)

Augment the understanding of basic rhythmic concepts using note and rest values from whole notes and rests sub-divided into half notes, quarters, eighths and sixteenths. Students will continue to negotiate the time signatures of 4/4, 3/4, 2/4 and begin work with triple meters of 6/8, 3/8. In addition, students will start to develop cut time (2/2) counting skills. This understanding is measurable by the student being able to write in the counting of basic rhythms as part of a written examination.

Class work will include studying band literature from popular composers of level 1 & 2 from Europe and North America and begin the study of musical form through march music. (I, AA, BB, C, DD). Students will continue to explore music composition for wind and percussion instruments through collaborative projects. A written assignment in the form of a narrative paper will be submitted each semester. Students will attend a live musical performance and respond using a guiding rubric.

## **SYMPHONIC BAND**

Course Length: 2 semesters  
Credits: 1 credit  
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12 or permission of instructor  
Prerequisite: successful audition with instructor

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## Career Pathways:



Black River High School Symphonic Band students will:

Employ a consistent high standard of musical performance through personal preparation at all times and demonstrate artistic collaboration through performance.

Use prior knowledge to construct all major scales, melodic minor scales and modes. Understanding will be measurable by written examinations and individual performance.

Negotiate twelve major key signatures (Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, B, E, A, D, G, C, F).

Continue to negotiate prior stated time signatures and be able to work in compound time signatures. This understanding will be measurable by the student being able to perform and write counting of these rhythms as part of a written examination.

Class work will include studying classic and new band literature from popular composers of level 3,4 & 5. Students will explore music composition for wind and percussion instruments through collaborative and individual projects.

## JAZZ BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.20

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:



Zero Hour Jazz Combos take place before the regular school schedule during zero hour. Students will be able to commit to a small jazz group that rehearses three days each week. All band, orchestral and electronic instrumentalists are eligible to join from grades 7-12. This band performs frequently and focuses on improvisation skills and learning the many genres of small group jazz music.

## BEGINNING ORCHESTRA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Career Pathways:



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 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

Career Pathways:



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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

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: 6-8

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, vocal assessments, basic music theory assignments, 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: 7-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor/Audition required for 9-12

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, vocal assessments, 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.**

## COLUMBIA AVENUE CHAMBER CHOIR

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor/Audition

Career Pathways:



The Select Vocal Ensemble is an advanced choral ensemble open by audition only. This ensemble will focus on the study of advanced choral repertoire and vocal technique. Students in the Select Vocal Ensemble will be expected have had at least 1-2 years of prior vocal experience in either Concert Choir or Vocal Elements, as this course will build upon the basic skills previously learned so as to increase proficiency and experience. This ensemble will be focused on performance and learning advanced music. Grading will consist of daily attendance, vocal assessments, and mandatory attendance at all performances.

## 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.

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## **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 as well as how physics and chemistry work together in the world around them. Topics covered in this year will include the periodic table, chemical changes and balancing equations, measurement, atomic structure, mechanical and thermal energy, simple machines, speed, motion, force, work and power, electricity and circuits, magnetism, and waves.

## **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 and will also include the state required CPR/AED instruction. 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: 11-12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry and permission of the 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 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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

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.

## CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Alg./Geometry

Conceptual Physics is a first year introductory physics course. Topics include Newtonian Mechanics, energy, rotational motion, mechanical waves, electricity and magnetism, heat, and Quantum Mechanics. Students should be enrolled in or have completed Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry. This course focuses heavily on concepts. Up to six formal laboratory reports will be completed. Students may take AP Physics 1 or AP Physics C Mechanics after successful completion of this course if desired and eligible.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS 1

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Completion of Chemistry, permission from physics instructor, enrolled in at least Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry and strong trigonometry skills.

AP Physics 1 is an advanced physics course. It may

be taken instead of Conceptual Physics or as a second physics course after successful completion of Conceptual Physics. Dual enroll or previous completion of Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry is required. In addition, students need to have strong algebra and trigonometry skills as well as have earned at least a B in Integrated/Algebra Geometry. This course focuses heavily on inquiry, problem solving, and math skills. 20-25% of the class is devoted to laboratory work and at least 24 formal laboratory reports will be completed by the student. It is equivalent to a one semester algebra-based college course. The course is generally taken by health science and social science majors in college.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS C

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Permission from physics instructor, enrolled in or successful completion of AP Calculus, successful completion of either Conceptual Physics or AP Physics 1.

AP Physics C Mechanics is **a second year** physics course. It may only be taken after successful completion of either AP Physics 1 or Conceptual Physics at Black River Public School. The course is mathematically rigorous and concepts are expected to have been mastered in the previous physics course taken. Approximately 20 % of class time will be devoted to laboratory work. Up to 18 laboratory reports will be completed. Proof of a laboratory component is required in order to receive full college credit. The goal of the course is to prepare students for the AP Physics C Mechanics exam in May. The course is generally taken by engineering and physics majors in college.

## ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology

Anatomy is the study of the structure of parts of the body and their relationships to one another. Physiology is the study of the functions of parts of the body and their connectedness on a cellular and molecular level. Through the investigation of these structures and their functions, this course will explore more deeply human anatomy and physiology for those students interested in pursuing medical sciences in college. **Please note: this course will require a large scale dissection experience.**

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## GEOSCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 (and optional college credit)

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: General Chemistry or pass 8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical science with a B or greater

This course is designed to allow students to experience a rigorous geology course in high school. The objective of this course to provide students with a basic understanding of the Earth's materials and processes. Students will be introduced to the methods that geoscientist use to explore the Earth, while becoming knowledgeable citizens that can make informed decisions concerning geologic issues. Students may choose to participate in an ongoing research project through the University of Wisconsin, Madison, to earn college credit. In order to earn college credit, students must pass two geoscience lab exams and one comprehensive knowledge-based final exam with a 70% or greater cumulative score. The class format consists of lecture, discussion, demonstrations, and videos that reinforce the important topics of the text. Useful materials and current news items are discussed, while lab activities will reinforce lecture topics and demonstrate methods used by geologists. Field study, in the form of trips on and off campus, will be provided to help students experience a more enriched understanding of geoscience.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
Biology (Required)	Chemistry (Required)	Physics or	Geoscience or
		Anatomy/Phys. or AP Physics 1 or AP Biology or AP Chemistry or AP Env. Science	AP Physics 1 or AP Physics C 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 Spanish 3. Students are encouraged to take at least two years of Spanish in high school.

### SPANISH 1A

Course length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6, 7

Prerequisites: none

Spanish 1A is a beginner's course to learning the Spanish language. The students sing songs to learn basic concepts such as months, days of the week and weather. They learn how to ask and answer basic questions on topics like their names, where they are from, how old they are, what they like to do, etc. During this course, students engage in all four areas of language literacy: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There is a strong emphasis on developing vocabulary and beginning grammatical concepts, including present tense verb conjugations. Students practice the language through games, skits, short readings, guided partner conversations, music and videos and also explore the cultures of various Spanish-speaking countries.

### SPANISH 1B

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 7, 8

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Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 1A 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 communicate in the language daily as well as produce short skits for presentation. We will also focus on reading comprehension through the use of children's books and short articles to help improve vocabulary and fluency. During the year students will be learning about Spain and its rich and varied history. In the second semester we will read a short novel entirely in Spanish which will shed light on the painting *Guernica* by Pablo Picasso and students will do presentations on cities in Spain.

## 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 tense conjugation and the geography of the Spanish-speaking world. Lessons will include speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension activities. Students will be expected to communicate in the language to the best of their abilities and will be expected to read simple stories with comprehension. In the second semester students will read a short novel written entirely in Spanish and present an oral retelling of this story to the class..

*\*8<sup>th</sup> grade transfer students will be placed in Spanish I*

## 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.

This course will build upon communicative skills learned in Middle School B and/or High School Spanish I. Students will reach communication targets through the 3 modes of communication: Interpersonal (person to person), Presentational (speaking & writing), and Interpretive (listening & Reading). Students will participate in a wide array of authentic experiences and task-based activities that will enhance their knowledge of the Spanish language and culture while building their proficiency with the language.

## 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. They majority of the class is taught in Spanish. They will increase their vocabulary through thematic units and enhance their understanding of culture. They will read articles, poems and books. In addition, they will learn skills important to traveling in a Spanish-speaking country. The geographical focus for the class is the Spanish speaking Caribbean and Central America.

## SPANISH IV

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

This course is taught almost entirely in Spanish and students are expected to practice their conversational skills at all times by using the target language during both casual conversations and regular class activities. Active participation is expected and is essential. In addition to learning new, more complex grammar structures, students will also review and perfect those learned in previous years. The vocabulary is presented in thematic units and students will practice it by writing and presenting plays, participating in debates, and discussing literature. Activities draw upon vocabulary and culture to provide the themes for the study of grammar. Students will start the year by reading a mini-novel set in Spain which will teach them about the culture of southern Spain and the controversial art of bull-fighting. In the second part of the year, students will read short novels and study the Spanish speaking Caribbean Culture. Projects about Spanish speaking cultures are a large part of the Spanish IV Course, and students will prepare a large project during the second semester about a Spanish speaking country of their choice.

## 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 achieving strong proficiency in the Spanish language the opportunity for more intensive study and communication practice. The students will read authentic stories, poems, and articles and be able to

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comprehend and discuss them. Students will have a variety of writing tasks and interactive projects, such as designing their own business, creating a newscast, and exploring their ancestral roots. They will study the culture of various Spanish-speaking countries from both a historical and modern perspective. Finally, students will complete their study of grammar as well as revisit previously learned structures and tenses in order to fine-tune their usage. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish and students are expected to use Spanish as much as possible.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE (2022-2023)

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor and recommendation from current Spanish Teacher  
This course is designed to prepare students for the AP exam in May, and is taught in accordance with the College Board. Students will read classic and contemporary literature from Spain, Latin America, and the United States, including short stories, plays, poetry, and selections from novels. Students will examine the readings in their historical, sociocultural and geopolitical contexts and will use authentic media (music, radio, film) to sharpen their critical thinking skills. Students will hone their writing through numerous short and extended essays. This discussion-based class, in which student participation is essential, will be conducted entirely in Spanish.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE (2021-2022)

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish.

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of cultures in both contemporary and historical contexts. This course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, law

conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDY

### Accelerated Study

With successful completion of middle school Spanish IA, IB and Spanish II in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students may move directly into Spanish III at the high school level. We encourage students to extend their study of Spanish beyond Spanish III.

9 <sup>th</sup> grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	11 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
Spanish 3	Spanish 4	Spanish 5 or AP Spanish Lang AP Spanish Lit	AP Spanish Lit. or AP Spanish Lang

## 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 art mediums will be explored-such as: drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, papier-mâché sculpture, and mask making. Students will gain basic skills in these areas while creating fun and interesting projects, such as hollow Nkisi figures, contemporary African masks, and Egyptian canopic jars. Students will also learn and apply the elements of art and other art making techniques to help enhance artistic abilities.

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## ASIAN ART

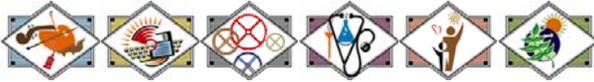
Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 7

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



This course focuses on the development of creativity and the study of the visual culture of Asia. Since Asia is such a large continent, with so many diverse cultures, this class will maintain a directed emphasis on Australia, China, Japan, and South Asia including India and Indonesia. Various art materials will be used, such as: drawing, painting, sculpture, and clay. In this course, students may use traditional block printing methods, techniques of Chinese brush painting, and create papier-mâché Chinese dragons. Students also learn about basic color theory, as well as developing a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of art.

## EARLY EUROPEAN ART

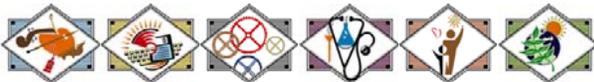
Course Length: 2 semesters

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 painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and architectural design. Students will learn European art history from Prehistory through the Baroque period. Projects may include creating Greek inspired vases, designing a medieval castle and learn how to draw ancient Greek and Roman architecture using two-point perspective. Students further their understanding of applying value with pencil, the use different watercolor techniques, and illustrate how the elements and principles of art are used to create stronger and more developed artwork.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### ART FOUNDATIONS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



This course provides an academic study of art through an introduction to art history, contemporary art, and basic art techniques. Students will use a variety of techniques in drawing, painting, mixed media, and sculpture to broaden understanding of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art making.

### ART FOUNDATIONS II

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Completion of Art Foundations

Career Pathways:



This course is for students that have completed Foundations, but aim to focus on two-dimensional art making—drawing and painting specifically, at an intermediate level. Students will increase skill levels with dry media (drawing) and painting, while developing artworks to communicate ideas and concepts through the completion of well composed artworks. Additionally, course content will include focus on the history of art—modernism and postmodernism, art making techniques, and composition/design.

### CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

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. The course will cover the academic study of art through an introduction to art history, contemporary art, and basic sculpture techniques. Materials, such as clay, plaster, recycled materials, and fiber arts, will be used to create artworks and to understand concepts of form and space. Students will explore idea development through the evaluation of several traditional and conceptual sculpture artists. This course counts as a foundation art credit.

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## ADVANCED ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Advanced Art students must have completed two Foundations level art courses.

Career Pathways:



This course is an advanced level of the art course that has a seminar/lecture component, but is focused mainly on developing individual student portfolios. This course is a prerequisite for Art Portfolio and also supports the AP Drawing Portfolio requirements for students working to complete an Advanced Placement Drawing portfolio. The art portfolio completed as a result of this class can be used for college applications, scholarships, AP Studio credit, and competitive exhibitions; the aim of this course is to create a body of work representing the culmination of a high school student's experience. Students should have completed two prerequisite art courses at Black River in order to enroll.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12

Prerequisite: Permission of teacher

Career Pathways:



This college level Art History course is an excellent class for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who wish to learn about art history in its historical 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 tests periodically and research projects to help examine understanding and express personal interest. Students will take an AP Art History exam in early May.

## ART STUDIO

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Student must be enrolled in Advanced Art

Career Pathways:



Students in AP Drawing or Advanced Art often need more studio time to complete portfolio requirements. This course is designed specifically for students enrolled in Advanced Art. Students must meet the minimum quantity of artworks for Art Studio and their Advanced Art class or classes. The final grade for each semester is determined through participation and production during studio classes; additionally, midterm and final portfolio review are required.

## INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 (Fine Art)

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



This Digital Media and Photography course is designed to introduce students to the basic skills and techniques of digital photography, digital illustration, video editing, and computer image editing. In the fall semester, students will focus on digital illustration and computer image editing. In the spring semester, students will focus on digital photography and videography. Students will gain knowledge of the effects of lighting, composition and basic camera functions. In this course students will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop Elements and Adobe Premiere Elements, as well as Serif DrawPlus x8 and several other free programs. Students will have the opportunity to learn to use school supplied Canon DSLR cameras and Wacom tablets. In addition to studio work, students will examine the artworks of traditional and digital artists past and present. This course counts as a foundation art credit.

## ADVANCED DIGITAL MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 (Fine Art)

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Intro. to Digital Media

Career Pathways:



The Advanced Digital Media and Photography course is a continuation of the Introduction to Digital Media course. Students in this course will choose an area of focus for their digital portfolio. Choices on portfolio focus include: digital photography, digital illustration, videography, or digital collage. Students will work on creating multiple portfolio-ready artworks to be

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displayed digitally and on high quality prints. This course is independently driven with several portfolio assignments. Students in this course must be willing to work outside of school to expand their portfolio variety. This course counts as a second foundation art credit.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

### COLLEGE ADVISORY PROGRAM

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: .10

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



The College Advisory Program (CAP) provides guidance and curriculum for teachers in grades 6-12 and targets outcomes for each student while providing meaningful relationships between staff and students. Teachers instruct students on college, college preparation and college planning as well as give academic guidance, intervention and support. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves how to be successful in Middle School and High School and to appreciate the power of a college education.

These goals will be accomplished through two types of CAP Classes. The first will be a consistent CAP class that meets with an advisory teacher twice a week, during which time students will complete various lessons and sign up for Flex classes. The second will be Flex CAP classes the remaining days of the week, the content of which will be based on the student's needs.

Other benefits of the CAP program include providing students with a teacher advocate, helping students find ways to be successful within the academic, enrichment and social options available, building important social skills in a focused peer group, and promoting a culture of personal responsibility, engagement and respect. These benefits support the objective of the College Advisory Program by providing support and resources in preparation for college and life.

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

1. Participation and Accountability
2. Class Activities
3. Class Lessons

### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Length: 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.

### MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.50 per semester

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



This elective class is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who want 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. We will work on building team skills in sports and games as well as individual athletic skills.

## HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

### 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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

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 PREPARATION

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12

Pre-requisites: Concurrently enrolled in 3 or more AP classes or combination of college courses

Career Pathways:



Students who are enrolled in a combination of three or more AP or college courses are eligible for this class. The purpose of this class is to prepare students to be ready for the AP exams associated with their AP class load. Assignments related to their classes will be assigned weekly with the intent of serving as a review over learned material from their advanced classes as well as practice for the spring exam. These assignments will take up a portion of the class period and with the remainder of the time in class dedicated to course work, either individually or in small study groups.

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## 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.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT SEMINAR: IDENTITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Pre-requisites: English 9 Completion

Career Pathways:



AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspective in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

AP Seminar course engages students in multidisciplinary, in-depth discussions about real-world social issues from a variety of perspectives. Students in this course will learn to synthesize information from varying genres and propose solutions to social issues on a local, national, and global scale. AP Seminar is a great course for students who intend to pursue other rigorous courses in their high school career, as it prepares students for the types of thinking and responding that other AP courses require; it is also a valuable course for seniors who wish to hone their analysis, critical thinking, and presentation skills for a college setting. AP Seminar is an elective course, and is the first of two courses with which students can choose to participate with the AP Capstone Diploma program; it is a prerequisite for AP Research.

## APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of new and exciting technology.

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

The course will be divided into three rotations each semester in which students will be welcomed to study a technology topic of their choosing. Ever thought it would be fun to try a programming language but didn't want to take a full class? Or what about designing web pages? Animation? Computer aided 3D design? These are just a few of the potential topics of study. You name it, within reason and budget of course, and you can study it. *This course also serves as a prerequisite course for future AP computer classes.*

## COLLEGE ADVISORY PROGRAM

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



The College Advisory Program (CAP) provides guidance and curriculum for teachers in grades 6-12 and targets outcomes for each student while providing meaningful relationships between staff and students. Teachers instruct students on college, college preparation and college planning as well as give academic guidance, intervention and support. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves how to be successful in Middle School and High School and to appreciate the power of a college education.

These goals will be accomplished through two types of CAP Classes. The first will be a consistent CAP class that meets with an advisory teacher twice a week, during which time students will complete various lessons and sign up for Flex classes. The second will be Flex CAP classes the remaining days of the week, the content of which will be based on the student's needs.

Other benefits of the CAP program include providing students with a teacher advocate, helping students find ways to be successful within the academic, enrichment and social options available, building important social skills in a focused peer group, and promoting a culture of personal responsibility, engagement and respect. These benefits support the objective of the College Advisory Program by providing support and resources in preparation for college and life.

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

4. Participation and Accountability

5. Class Activities
6. Class Lessons

## COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING & DESIGN I

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



In this course, students will explore and learn engineering drawing techniques and computer aided design software. The class will focus on three main learning areas: engineering software knowledge, technical drawing concepts, and product design activities. Basic 2D CAD mechanical drawing concepts through advanced 3D solid model product design will be studied. Students will work individually as well as in groups to progress from basic technical drawing concepts through advanced product design and documentation.

*Seniors can take this course for their 4<sup>th</sup> math credit.*

## GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters  
Credits: 1.0  
Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12  
Career Pathways:



This course will run concurrently with AP Psychology. It is intended for sophomores and juniors who wish to prepare for the rigor of the AP Psychology class, or for any 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade student who would like a general course in psychology. Course content will be identical to the AP Psychology curriculum, but the emphasis for General Psychology will be on vocabulary rather than on application. Students will learn the psychological facts, principles and phenomena associated with the major subfields of psychology: 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 will participate in lectures, activities, labs and assigned readings, and assessments will be modified to reflect the nature of a general psychology class.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY/ONLINE COURSE

Course Length: 1 semester  
Credits: 0.5  
Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12 and/or permission from the Head of School

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

## 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 online 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 and course syllabus. Students will receive a letter grade for the course.

## INTRODUCTION TO 3D COMPUTER ANIMATION

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 Mathematics (if taken during 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



In this course, students will explore and learn 3D animation software. The class will focus on two main learning areas: software knowledge and manipulation as well as fundamental animation story telling. Students will use extended project based learning activities working individually and in groups to explore the use of 3D animation software and storytelling. *Seniors can take this course for their 4<sup>th</sup> math credit.*

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Career Pathways:



This course will introduce you to the major thinkers and questions of philosophy. And philosophers ask big questions. Who am I? How can I live a meaningful life? What does it mean to live in a just society? Over the course of the year we will study the ideas and writings of major philosophers, and learn how to discuss and debate in the philosophical discipline. We will cover topics such as logic, knowledge, ethics, freedom, happiness, justice, and more. Most importantly, this course will teach you

how to consider the big questions about yourself and the world around you.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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 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: 10-12

Career Pathways:



Why do people act the way they do? Why are men expected to be more aggressive than women? Why are some behaviors considered deviant in our society while others are totally acceptable? How much does bias and prejudice really affect our daily thoughts and actions?

Sociology seeks to answer these questions in a scientific manner. Simply put, Sociology is the study of how humans behave in groups. Sociologists use different sociological perspectives to determine how groups and social institutions influence people and how people are influenced by society. In studying Sociology, we seek to understand our own world as well as the world far from our own experiences. This course will examine the sociology of deviance, stratification, gender, race, and religion, among other topics.

Students will receive a letter grade for the course.

## WEB DESIGN

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

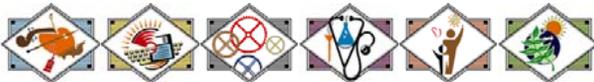


The class where creativity and computer programming come together. This class blends the discipline and structure of computer programming with the creative fun of web site design. Students, especially those of whom are stereotypically absent from computer science classes, will come to enjoy the basics of programming without fear because it's programming. Over the course of the year we'll ease you into the field of computer science while learning HTML, CSS and perhaps even some JavaScript. What other course can offer you three languages in one year? We will learn how to code web pages from scratch as well as explore the other tool options available to professional web designers today. This course also serves as a prerequisite course for future AP computer classes.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL G-PERIOD COURSES

### AFRICAN AND EGYPTIAN ART

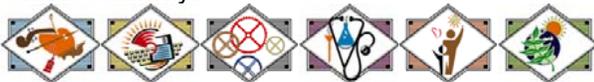
Course Length: 2 semesters  
Credits: .67 Fine Art  
Eligible Grade Level: 6  
Prerequisites: none  
Career Pathways:



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 are explored-such as: drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, paper mache sculpture, and mask making. Students will gain basic skills in these areas while creating fun and interesting projects, such as hollow Nkisi figures, contemporary African masks, and Egyptian canopic jars. Students also explore the elements of art and techniques to help enhance artistic abilities.

### ANIME, MANGA & THE MAGIC OF HAYAO MIYAZAKI

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



Anime artists and enthusiasts-- this is the class you have been waiting for! Throughout this course you will explore the history of anime and manga, experience the amazing artistry and storytelling abilities of Hayao Miyazaki and anime creators, and

enjoy plenty of time to experiment with your own anime drawings and stories. We will be covering a variety of topics throughout this class, and creativity will be encouraged each day! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to spend time learning more about the anime and manga that you love! NOTE: Students in this class should have a high level of interest in these specialized forms of art, as well as some experience in conceptualizing, drawing, and illustrating in this unique style. Some class art materials will be provided, but students are welcome to bring their own supplies to supplement the classroom offerings.

### ASTRONOMY

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)  
Credits: .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!

### BEST BABYSITTER ON THE BLOCK

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



You will learn what you need to know and what every parent wants in a safe and responsible babysitter! This babysitter's class can help you— care for children and infants, be a good leader and role model, make good decisions and solve problems, keep the children you babysit and yourself safe, handle emergencies such as injuries, illnesses and household accidents, write resumes and interview for jobs, design a business plan, and gain the reputation as the best babysitter on the block! You will receive expert training in first aid and CPR from a Red Cross certified BR teacher.

### BOTANY

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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY



Botany is the study of plants. In this course, students will study the characteristics, adaptations, structures, and life cycles of plants. Students will study a variety of plants including vascular, non-vascular, seedless, and seed plants. During the first half of the semester, the class will walk to parks surrounding our campus to identify local tree species and compile a leaf collection. Upon the completion of the leaf collection project, the class will start on other botany experiments.

## BRAIN STORM

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Prerequisites: None

Career Pathways:



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 explore different 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.

## CALLING ALL COLORS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Calling All Colors creates an inviting, safe space to talk about race and provides students with tools for increasing positive racial impacts within their school. The year-long curriculum aims to foster an inclusive school community, and also features two conferences run by the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance. Let's learn and grow together!

## CARDIOVASCULAR FITNESS/HEALTH

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34 (Physical Education)

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



This course provides guidance on habits conducive to a healthy lifestyle that are important for students as they grow and develop. Students will 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, skeletal flexibility, and over all homeostasis. At the conclusion of the semester a student should be able to run three miles at an eight mile per hour pace. Participation in one local 5km race is encouraged.

## COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING (CAD)

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Prerequisite: Students wishing to take this class who have taken 3D Cars during Project Term need prior permission from the teacher.

Career Pathways:



The class where creativity and computer aided design come together. This class blends the discipline and structure of CAD with the creative fun of object design. Over the course of the semester we'll ease you into the field of CAD while learning SketchUp and perhaps more as time allows. What other course can offer you three languages in one year? We will learn how to design items in SketchUp as well as explore the other tools and standards used by professional CAD designers today.

## CREATIVE WRITING

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Creative writing can enhance our lives with vivid images, crystal-clear honesty, and fascinating insights into the way we view and interact with the world. With this in mind, we will delve into the artistic world of creative writing in an inspired and inclusive environment. While reading short stories and poems, students will learn from the masters and determine

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

their own personal style. As a class, we will focus on revising our work through a collaborative workshop process while developing a digital portfolio of writing using Google Classroom. Each class period we will start with a short journal-writing prompt to help build a creative mindset, and many of these prompts could lead to ideas we pursue in poems and stories. As poet Shel Silverstein beckons, "If you are a dreamer...come in, come in!"

## CULTURA DEL MUNDO HISPÁNICO

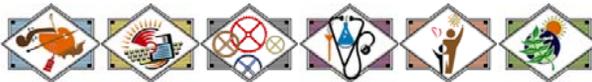
Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)  
Credits: 0.34  
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8  
Career Pathways:



In this class, we'll explore the cultures of Spanish-Speaking Countries around the world. We'll look at what makes them unique and what they hold similar. We'll learn about their histories, their food, their cities and landscapes, and what every day life looks like for those who live there. If you love learning about culture in your Spanish classes, this is the class for you!

## DRAMA

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



Students enrolled in Drama will gain a great understanding of theatre technique through acting exercises, improvisation activities, and performances. All students will perform monologues, duo scenes and short scenes from a variety of plays. We will also spend some time learning about the off-stage aspects of theatre, such as costume design, set design, makeup techniques and prop creation.

## EVERYDAY SCIENCE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)  
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.

## FTC ROBOTICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)  
Credits: 0.34  
Eligible Grade Levels: 7-8  
Prerequisite: Grade level preference, Student contract required  
Career Pathways:



FTC is way more than building robots. FIRST Tech Challenge robotics will consist of two teams of 12 students that will be challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to play a floor game in an alliance format. Participants have called it, "the hardest fun you'll ever have!" Guided by Coach Bittrick and various Mentors, students will develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles (like keeping an engineering notebook), while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and sharing ideas. The robot kit is programmed using a variety of languages. Students will also raise funds and participate in community outreach for which they can win awards. Students taking the class will have access to tens of millions of dollars in college scholarships. FTC Robotics concludes with regional Championships and an exciting FIRST Championship at the end of April.

Students will be asked to sign a contract of commitment, which will ensure their commitment to the program. This course will require some travel, as well as scheduled Saturday meetings.

Description modified from What is First Tech Challenge - [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)

## GREAT LAKES IN MY WORLD

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)  
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 and how 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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

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.

## JUEGOS EN ESPAÑOL

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



Juegos en Español is a course for students who want to continue to build their skills in Spanish and learn new vocabulary while playing games! We'll use both online and hands on games to practice with verb conjugation as well as learn new vocabulary from topics such as animals, food, to anything else you'd like to choose! We'll also learn about some games typically played in Spanish speaking countries. In the end, you'll be able to create your own Spanish study game.

## LIFE AT THE LIBRARY

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



Students will be given time to read, research, and explore topics that are interesting to them. Trips to the library will allow students to dive into a subject and become an expert on the material. Space will be given so that students can have discussions with their peers and teachers.

## MATH & SCIENCE ADVANTAGE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)  
Credits: 0.34  
Eligible Grade Levels: 8<sup>th</sup>  
Prerequisite: Recommendation from current math or science teacher  
Career Pathways:



Designed for students who had difficulty in their previous math or science classes, Math and Science Advantage is intended to give students extra time and additional support to foster their success in high

school mathematics and science curricula. Students will engage in lessons that reinforce classroom learning, and will have time to work on assigned math and science homework as well as on additional problems and activities that supplement classroom learning. In order to enroll in this class, students must receive a recommendation from their current math or science teacher. Each student will be expected to come to class ready to work, with all materials: textbook, notebook, homework assignments and any other material necessary for success. Grading will be based on participation and completion.

## NEXT-GEN ROBOTICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)  
Credits: 0.34  
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-7  
Prerequisite: Grade level preference, Student contract required

Career Pathways:



Next-Gen Robotics is a class designed for the next "generation" of FTC robotics students. This course is recommended for students that are interested in joining the competitive FTC robotics course in the Fall. The course is open to 6th and 7th grade students. Any 8th grade FTC robotics students currently enrolled in the course in the fall will be required to take a different G-block course in the spring. Next-Gen Robotics will prepare future FTC team members for the coming season. Students will concentrate their efforts on designing, programming and building robots. Students will also get involved in raising funds and community outreach leading into the competitive season. If a student does not plan to join the competitive team in the fall, they are encouraged to choose another G-block elective. A Next-Gen student may be given preference during team selection in the fall.

## ORIGAMI

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



Origami is an ancient Japanese art and is not just for decoration. You will learn the history as well as practical applications. In this class we will learn to make items that can be used every day as well as for school projects. Some to possibly make are cards for all occasions, Christmas decorations, boxes and baskets, vases, many different animals to illustrate

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

stories. Tea bag folding, 3-D origami, and edible origami will be topics that will also be part of the class. Students will create a service project using origami.

## PODCAST YOUR PASSION

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Do you have a passion you want to learn more about during a semester long class? Do you have a desire to share your knowledge with others through the use of technology? Then join this class where you will be able to propose a passion to study, research the topic, and then make a series of podcasts to share what you have learned.

## SPORTACULAR!

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Dah-na-nuh! Dah-na-nuh! If you recognized the famous ESPN jingle, Sportacular is the class for you! This semester we will dive into the historical, cultural, and economic impact of sports. Students will discuss the societal influence of athletes like Jackie Robinson and Colin Kaepernick and hear from local professionals that work in the world of athletics. We will also debunk some of the biggest mysteries in sports; is it true that a basketball player can be 'on fire'? Is Aaron Rodgers really worth \$20 million? Lace up your kicks, strap on a helmet, and get ready to tackle the world of sports in Sportacular!

## SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade only

Career Pathways:



Moving from 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> 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

## SUPERPOWERS UNITE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



What does it take to have a superpower? Come on in and discover the Power of One! Here we will look at people that may not have gotten a lot of publicity but used their power of one to achieve success. What were they like? What gave them the will to succeed? Through articles, books, plays and videos we will meet them. We will also look at what your superpower may be-it could be a wonderful surprise

## WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



"Great stories happen to those who can tell them" -- Ira Glas. In Written and Illustrated by..., students will bring their stories, their imaginations, and their creativity to share and to publish. During the class time, students will explore various styles of writing in literature, novels, children's books, short stories, and more. After students grasp the understanding of the world of stories, they will begin to experiment with their own style of writing and end with a final published work of their own. Students will also begin to explore visual literacy - to understand what they see. In addition to writing, different techniques of illustrating will be introduced and developed. At the

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

end of the semester, the students will have a portfolio of work to be shared and a self-published book.

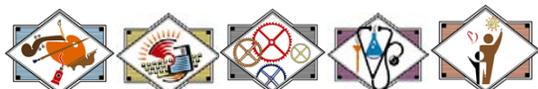
## YOGA AND WELLNESS

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



In the Yoga and Wellness class, we will practice yoga and also dive into different facets of self care and personal wellness. In addition to a daily yoga practice, each week we will discuss, read or watch videos on, and journal about a new topic related to mental, physical and emotional health. For example; mindfulness, nutrition, stress reduction strategies, healthy relationships, sleep habits, mental health, time management etc. Students will not only learn about the benefits of self care, but will get to practice the methods as well.

## HIGH SCHOOL G-PERIOD COURSES

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT PREPARATION

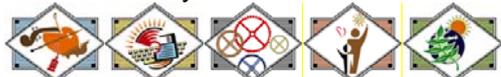
Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12

Pre-requisites: Concurrently enrolled in 3 or more AP classes or equivalent college courses

Career Pathways:



Students who are enrolled in a combination of three or more AP or college courses are eligible for this class. The purpose of this class is to prepare students to be ready for the AP exams associated with their AP class load. Assignments related to their classes will be assigned weekly with the intent of serving as a review of learned material from their advanced classes as well as practice for the spring exam. These assignments will take up a portion of the class period and with the remainder of the time in class, students are expected to be working quietly, either individually or in small study groups, on AP class assignments and test preparation.

### ART OF DRAWING

Course Length: 1 or 2 Semesters (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34 Fine Art

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



This course starts to develop basic drawing skills and builds toward mastery. High school students with any level of drawing skills will benefit from the instruction and critique offered throughout the semester of two semester academic year. This class is enhancement for experienced art students, but works well for any student that wishes to learn to draw. The ability to draw is learned—it is not a gift or a natural talent; drawing well has foundation in learning and applying techniques, working diligently to render artworks, and careful teaching.

### BACKYARD PHYSICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



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.

### BRAIN STORM

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Career Pathways:



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 explore different 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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

or win the game. Periodically throughout the semester, you will be designing your own logic puzzles for the class to try.

## CONDITIONING

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)  
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 any way.

## 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 the fall. Throughout the semester, you will have the opportunity to immerse yourself in both poetry and prose and find your literary voice as you tackle genre writing assignments that include short stories, memoirs, tiny stories, prose poems, apprenticeship poems, negative space poems, Sestinas, and more. We will read published stories and poems in each genre, and we will use the witty and poignant advice of veteran writers like novelist Anne Lamott (*Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*) and poet Ted Kooser (*The Poetry Home Repair Manual*) to guide our writing. As a class, we will hold small group workshops and readings, and you will ultimately craft an individual chapbook of written work that you have created throughout the semester or year. As poet Shel Silverstein beckons, "If you are a dreamer...come in, come in!"

## DRAMA

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



Students enrolled in Drama will gain a great understanding of theatre technique through acting exercises, improvisation activities, and performances. All students will perform monologues, duo scenes and short scenes from a variety of plays. We will also spend some time learning about the off-stage aspects of theatre, such as costume design, set design, makeup techniques and prop creation.

## EL MUNDO EN TUS MANOS (THE WORLD IN YOUR HANDS)

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



For students who wish to continue developing their Spanish skills, but may not be interested in AP courses, this upper level course is designed to reinforce conversational Spanish and immerse students in cultural context. Throughout this course, students will explore current events and cultural components that better help them to understand the uniqueness of Spanish culture and language.

## ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)  
Credits: 0.34  
Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12  
Prerequisite: Referral from Current English Teacher  
Career Pathways:



Elements of English is a course designed to strengthen students' reading and writing skills, enabling them to be successful in their English classes. Students will learn methods to improve reading comprehension and critical thinking skills, as well as strategies to advance their writing. Students will engage in extra vocabulary practice, guided reading, and one-on-one conferencing with their essays. Students will have extra work time and help

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to complete the reading and writing assignments from their English classes, and they will be provided with one-on-one help in preparation for assessments. Students must obtain the recommendation of their current English teacher in order to enroll in the course.

## EVERYTHING SHAKESPEARE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

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!

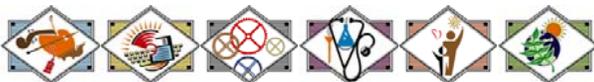
## FILM STUDIES

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

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.

## FINANCE MATHEMATICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9 - 12

Career Pathways:



Explore the world of personal finance and investigate financial career paths. In this class, students will complete a variety of finance related projects relating to goal setting, budgeting, and investing. Students will compete with other schools around the state in the Stock Market Game. Throughout the course, students will also analyze various career paths tied to the financial topics they encounter.

## FINANCIAL HISTORY & FUTURE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9 - 12

Career Pathways:



What are some time tested ways to build wealth? The stock market versus real estate? What caused the Great Depression? What is the future of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin? What is the difference between short selling a stock and a call option? What is the difference between a fiat currency and a gold standard? What are the impact of unions? We will tackle these questions and more.

## FRONTYARD PHYSICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:

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

## HISTORY IN DISPUTE

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



In this class we will tackle many interesting issues in class. We will look at everything from the paranormal, to current events, to key historical issues that people still to this day debate. Do ghosts really exist? Did we really land on the moon? Was Bill Clinton a good president? Was Ronald Reagan a good president? Should we raise minimum wage? We will look at many issues and take recommendations from students on topics that we may address.

## HUMANS & NATURAL RESOURCES

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



How have humans used nature's resources? We will explore many stories throughout human history. Plants (fruits and trees, grasses and grains); animals (beavers and bison, fish and whales); and fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, oil), may give way to wind, water, and waste as solutions for the future. One target book may be Nathaniel Philbrick's *In the Heart of the Sea. The Tragedy of the Whaleship "Essex"* (a "Big Read" selection for 2020-2021), which is the historical account that inspires Herman Melville's

novel *Moby Dick*; this book establishes the impact of whaling on human expansion. Another book may be Mary Doria Russell's *The Women of the Copper Country* (a "Michigan Humanities Council Great Read" which is a historical fiction novel on the 1913-1914 copper mine strikes in Michigan's Upper Peninsula).

This course introduces us to the abundance of the natural world and the imagination of the human spirit.

## INNOVATORS IN SCIENCE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Are you intrigued by the inventions of people like DaVinci, Alexander Graham Bell, Elon Musk, and Ben Franklin? In *Innovators in Science* you will learn about different innovators and scientists and then create a replica of one of their inventions. This is a project based class, but students will also be presenting various inventions and innovations in technology throughout the semester.

## INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

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

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisite: Permission from Instructor

Career Pathways:



# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

The Black River Jazz Collective is an extension of the zero hour Jazz Orchestra. Students explore the Jazz idiom through a smaller ensemble that is focused on improvisation. A collaborative effort from all participants that prepares music for performances both on and off campus is our goal. We will study classic small ensembles from BeBop through Miles Davis through current Jazz Fusion groups. All instruments are welcomed.

## MATH & SCIENCE ADVANTAGE

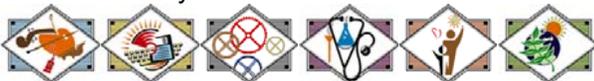
Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)  
Credits: 0.34  
Eligible Grade Levels: 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Prerequisite: Recommendation from current math or science teacher  
Career Pathways:



Designed for students who had difficulty in their previous math or science classes, Math and Science Advantage is intended to give students extra time and additional support to foster their success in high school mathematics and science curricula. Students will engage in lessons that reinforce classroom learning, and will have time to work on assigned math and science homework as well as on additional problems and activities that supplement classroom learning. In order to enroll in this class, students must receive a recommendation from their current math or science teacher. Each student will be expected to come to class ready to work, with all materials: textbook, notebook, homework assignments and any other material necessary for success. Grading will be based on participation and completion.

## MATH TEAM

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



Math Team is a challenging elective course that will explore concepts not covered in other high school mathematics courses at Black River. We will research topics that include Pascal's triangle, network optimization, spherical geometry, probability, modular arithmetic, and the history of math. We will investigate famous mathematical problems. Together, we will advance our math skills to compete in various national and state competitions. Math Team students will be expected to showcase individual research about an interesting math topic. While it is highly suggested that you have an aptitude

for math; all levels of high school experience are welcome.

## 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 social media? 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, documentaries, television shows, politics, and animation. Works studied will include but are not limited to *Bowling for Columbine*, *Miss Representation*, *Fed Up*, *Generation Like*, and several television shows and films. Students will complete multimedia projects in a group and individually throughout the semester.

## MICHIGAN YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT (MYIG)

Course Length: 1 or 2 semesters (Fall or Spring)  
Credits: 0.34  
Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12  
Career Pathways:

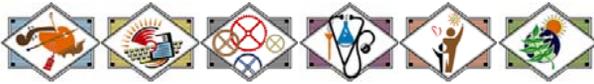


Michigan Youth In Government (MYIG) can be a life changing experience. In MYIG, students will write bills and/or proposals, debate bills and/or proposals, and learn and practice Parliamentary procedure. This class will allow students to learn all aspects of YIG. Students may choose to learn about Model Judiciary Program (MJP), National Issues Forum (NIF), Lobbying, the Press Corp., or various aspects of the Michigan Legislative Process. The ultimate goal of the class is to attend the YIG Conference in the spring, but it is not mandatory. Each year the class will be tailored to the students in the class.

## ORGANIZE YOUR LIFE

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

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY



Have you struggled with organization? There's a fix for that! Learning to motivate yourself, to create to-do lists, to stick to schedules, and to set up daily routines can help you be more productive and feel better about your time. Whether it's your schoolwork, your closet, or your Google Drive, in this class, you will learn how to organize and manage your time and space for a simpler and less overwhelming high school experience. By the time you finish this course, you will not only have a decluttered bedroom, but you will also have put into practice strategies to help you prioritize and make decisions for future organization tasks..

## SCIENCE OR SCIENCE FICTION?

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



In this course, students will analyze various science fiction media and apply Newton's Laws of Motion as well as Quantum Mechanics to determine if the science is valid or if it is only science fiction. Students will be watching various video clips and reading sections out of several books. The final project will include a presentation and explanation of the science behind the science fiction media of their choice.

## SPANISH CLUB

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9 -12

Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 1 or Spanish A & B

Career Pathways:



In Spanish Club, we will learn about and explore many parts of Spanish culture including food, dance, music, movies, different countries, holidays, ways of life etc. We will play games in Spanish, create crafts, have conversation time, Spanish reading time, learn different dances, watch movies, and prepare and bring in different foods.

## SPORTACULAR!

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Dah-na-nuh! Dah-na-nuh! If you recognized the famous ESPN jingle, Sportacular is the class for you! This semester we will dive into the historical, cultural, and economic impact of sports. Students will discuss the societal influence of athletes like Jackie Robinson and Colin Kaepernick and hear from local professionals that work in the world of athletics. We will also debunk some of the biggest mysteries in sports; is it true that a basketball player can be 'on fire'? Is Aaron Rodgers really worth \$20 million? Lace up your kicks, strap on a helmet, and get ready to tackle the world of sports in Sportacular!

## SUSTAINABILITY & YOU

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Why should you and your peers think about the future? The future may be very different from the present, as suggested by some statistical projections. Human population may rise from 7.8 billion to 10 billion people within 50 years; no human during its history has experienced such growth within a lifetime. Extinction rates for other life species project to skyrocket. A hundred years ago, human water use was around 600 cubic km/year; currently it is 4,000; by 2025 it may be 6,000. During the twentieth century, 2.6 billion automobiles were produced; by 2050 another 4 billion may join the fleet. This course attempts to connect topics of interest (food, resources, waste, water) to efforts of action here in Holland, MI. The approach will be highly interdisciplinary (combination of many areas of specialization). We will have the opportunity to explore a plan of "sustainability" for school property along Lincoln Ave. (the former "pool property"). Join the class, and the movement, as we develop together action plans, for groups and individuals, in consideration of our school, local community and the wider world.

# BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

## THE LONG 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



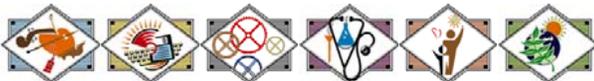
From the American and French Revolutions to World War I and the Russian Revolution, 1776 to 1918, the Nineteenth Century, labelled as “The Long Century,” covers much more than one hundred years. This course explores the immense scale of transformation throughout the world. Many themes organize our pursuits. “Energy and Industry: Oil from Whales and the Middle East” considers how people use resources of the natural world to harness unprecedented power; one target book will be Mary Doria Russell’s *The Women of the Copper Country* (a “Michigan Humanities Council Great Read”) which is a historical fiction novel on the 1913-1914 copper mine strikes in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. “Labor” considers various approaches to socialism as a response to rising awareness of individual liberties. “Networks” considers communications and rising consumerism. “Hierarchies” considers new political systems and revolutions. “Knowledge and Human Expression” considers new understandings of the universe, propelled by a second Scientific Revolution, and various forms of artistic expression. “Civilization and Exclusion” considers exploration (North America, Siberia, Africa), imperialism, and human subjugation (case studies of India, China, and the Philippines in their struggles against western powers). This course offers much to our high school students, enriching understanding of today’s global alignments.

## THE SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Eligible Grade Levels: 9 -12

Career Pathways:



In this course, we will explore the psychology and sociology behind what makes real people happy. Through the lenses of these social sciences, we will explore our brains and our society to discover what misconceptions we may have about what might make us happier versus what the science tells us actually improves well-being. We will discuss and practice various techniques, ending with a project in which we commit ourselves to a happiness practice and reflect on our successes and failures. The content of this course is based on: 1) for a psychological

perspective, the work of Dr. Laurie Santos from Yale University’s course “The Science of Well-Being”; and 2) for a sociological perspective, Mrs. Foreman’s own work from her undergrad, continuing education, and teaching experience. This is a great course for students who are interested in understanding and improving their own happiness as measured through research-based scientific methods.

## WE ARE NOT EQUAL YET: UNDERSTANDING OUR RACIAL DIVIDE

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring!)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Equality is something guaranteed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America. Unfortunately, reality has not lived up to these founding documents. This unique class will follow a Project Based Learning format to attempt to understand race and equality through a variety of learning experiences. The book, *We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide*, will be the foundation for our class. Students will have the opportunity to explore ideas and develop projects that mesh with their interests. Class meetings and projects will include diverse learning opportunities that may include discussions and interviews with guest speakers, engagement with music and films, book club experiences, performance poetry, art, research on American heroes, as well as other student driven ideas and projects.

## WEIGHT TRAINING

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34 (Physical Education)

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



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 an off-site facility and an ambassador of Black River Public School, exemplary behavior is expected.

## YEARBOOK

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67 Elective

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisite: Permission of Yearbook Advisor

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## Career Pathways:



This class focuses on building a product for students that is designed by students; the yearbook is published and sold at the end of the school year. One of the three major areas of focus includes the graphic design aspect of creating a school yearbook or publication—students learn how the elements and principles of design work to create aesthetically pleasing, professional spread design. Students learn how to create spread layouts on an online yearbook editing site, create unique advertisements, and understand how to sell a product in a diverse market. The second aspect of this production is developing an understanding of photography and working to create a dynamic publication, while learning how to manipulate images and digital art. The last aspect of the course is learning to creatively present topics with dynamic headlines and themes for the current yearbook.

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