



BLACK RIVER

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Middle School & High School
Program of Study

Academic Year
2016-2017



Program of Study 2016-2017

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ADMISSIONS

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

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 25, 2016**, to assure priority in scheduling and to assure his or her enrollment status for the next school year.

M. S. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Department	Credits	Department	Credits
English	3.0	Math	3.0
Science	3.0	History	3.0
Spanish	2.0	Fine Arts	2.0
P.E.	1.0*	Electives	1.0
*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 pass third year Spanish proficiency test. Highly recommended to take two years of a foreign language while in high school.
Fine Arts	2.0	Art, Band, Choir, or Orchestra
History	3.0	Must take World History, Government (civics), and US History. The AP equivalents are allowed. The elements of economics are incorporated into the required courses as well as a portion of CAP class.
PE/Health	1.0 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 and portions of science classes.
Electives	Varies	Choose courses from the program of study to fill a full-time academic schedule.
CAP	.4	College Advisory Program must be taken every year. Elements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum are met during this class. CAP meets 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 121](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

9TH Grade Example Schedule

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

10TH Grade Example Schedule

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

11TH 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 4 or AP Spanish
Symphonic Band
G Period Elective

12TH 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: www.blackriverpublicschool.org/commsvc.shtml. This information is also available from the Community Service Director.

SENIOR CAPstone

Seniors at Black River are required to complete a Senior CAPstone. Each senior writes a proposal for coordinator approval which includes plans for a research paper, annotated bibliography, project, and presentation.

CAPstones are a yearlong process; student meet with teacher coordinators for advice while completing the work outside of school hours.

Each CAPstone reflects the interest of each individual student and is a culmination of student knowledge and experience. The work can be an extension of work begun in academic courses or a complete departure from previous academic work. Senior CAPstones are graded on an A-F scale and students must earn a 60% overall to pass. Students are evaluated on four components, each of which informs 25% of their grade:

Paper: Approximately 6-8 pages in length, these research papers are well developed, organized, articulate, and scholarly in nature. Students take care to edit and present their best writing abilities, supplementing their research with at least 6 sources which are articulated in a comprehensive annotated bibliography.

Project: Project goals are set by each student depending on their final product. These final products are challenging, creative, cohesive, valuable, and well crafted.

Presentation: Presentations occur in an evening showcase during which students share their paper and project with an interested, authentic audience of family, friends, and peers. Presentations are informative, organized, professional, responsive, engaging, and appropriate to each audience.

Process: During the yearlong process of completing the CAPstone, students submit their work on time, attend meetings in a timely manner, plan and prepare

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appropriately, communicate effectively, and self-reflect on their CAPstone 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 12. Juniors will also take the SAT in the spring as part of the Michigan required assessment.

Students should 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. Teachers instruct students on college and help students with college planning as well as give academic guidance. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves the power of a college education.

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

provide support and resources in preparation for college.

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

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

DUAL ENROLLMENT

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

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

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

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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 sign a consent form and return it to the main office. Only parents/ guardians and students may receive access. A link to the online portal is provided on our website at www.blackriverpublicschool.org.

GRADING SCALE

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

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

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

SCHEDULE CHANGES

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

- o If the change is recommended by the instructor or department chairperson,
- o If the student has a schedule conflict, or

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- If the student needs a course for college or graduation.

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

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

WITHDRAW GRADES

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

GRADE REVIEW BOARD

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

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

POLICY ON ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students who earn either one failing grade or two D's for semester grades are placed on academic probation. Students who are placed on academic probation for two or more consecutive semesters may need to repeat a grade level at Black River. Students in this situation will receive written 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. Black River's core courses cannot be replaced with online or summer coursework. See the Head of School for details.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

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

CAREER PATHWAYS

The State of Michigan has divided the major careers into the six categories listed below. Schools have been encouraged to integrate these Career Pathways into their 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.

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ENGLISH 6: AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, AND LATIN AMERICA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6

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

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.

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: LITERATURE & COMPOSITION I

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 begin the class writing standard five paragraph essays and progress to develop multi-page essays by the end of the year. Considerable attention will be paid to developing clear thesis statements, effective transitions, and correct use of MLA format. Students will continue to focus on 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.

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ENGLISH 10: LITERATURE & COMPOSITION II

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.

ENGLISH 11: LITERATURE & COMPOSITION III

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Level: 11

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

Eleventh grade English students will focus on a range of foundational works from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, providing students the opportunity to see how literature is influenced by the social and historical period in which it was written. Through close reading, students will analyze authors' choices and how these choices impact the overall structure and meaning of a text. Students will write 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. Students will also assess the strengths and limitations of each source and work towards integrating research into their writing that maintains the flow of ideas and avoids plagiarism, following MLA format. Mechanics and grammar will be reviewed as necessary in student writing.

ENGLISH 12: LITERATURE & COMPOSITION IV

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 and themes that have shaped the world's literature. Writing assignments will continue to prepare students for college-level expository writing, with review of mechanics, grammar, and research, which will be completed according to MLA format. This course integrates literary and rhetorical analysis to help prepare students for higher-level work at the collegiate level.

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 various genres and periods will be studied extensively and students will use this knowledge in discussions of literary topics. Students will read deliberately and thoroughly, taking

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time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In addition to considering a work's literary artistry, students reflect on the social and historical values it reflects and embodies. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Attention will be given to developing and organizing ideas in clear, coherent, and persuasive language in order to help students develop stylistic maturity. Students are responsible for completing summer reading in preparation for the class.

9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
English 9: Literature & Composition I	English 10: Literature & Composition II	English 11: Literature & Composition III <u>or</u>	English 12: Literature & Composition IV <u>or</u>
		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, *Ghandi*, *Red Scarf Girl*, guest speakers, and selected articles

HISTORY 8: EARLY EUROPE

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

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

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

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

HIGH SCHOOL

The 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: BIG HISTORY

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

“Big History” weaves evidence and insights from many scientific and historical disciplines across 13.8 billion years into a single, accessible origin story, one that explores who we are, how we got here, how we are connected to everything around us, and where we may be heading. The concept arose from a desire to go beyond the specialized and self-contained fields that emerged in the 20th century and grasp history as a whole, looking for common themes across the entire time scale of history. Students explore the history of the Universe, life on Earth, and humans. While Big History weaves together concepts and themes drawn from physics, chemistry, geology, and biology, it does so with a goal of helping students understand a historical narrative and ultimately human civilizations past, present, and future. This is key to understanding and addressing many challenging contemporary issues.

HISTORY 10: HISTORY OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND THOUGHT

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

This course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the history of political theory through the classic works on the subject, Plato’s *The Republic*, Machiavelli’s *The Prince*, and the works of Hobbes, Locke, Jefferson, and Paine leading up to the American Revolution and the writing of the US

Constitution. Focus will be paid to the freedom allowed by each system to its citizens, the efficiency of governmental structure and the ability of each system to endure the tests of human events. Systems such as monarchies, dictatorships, democracies, republican forms, socialism, fascism, and communism will be examined for their various traits, both laudable and deplorable. This knowledge, rooted as it is in the classics of western political thought, will set students up well for later university-level history and liberal arts classes. Research and analytical writing will be of particular focus.

HISTORY 11: UNITED STATES

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

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

HISTORY 12: WORLD ISSUES

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

The world changes and so does this class. 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 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

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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 ART HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 (Fine Art Credit)

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

This college level Art History course is an excellent class for 11th and 12th 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 periodic tests and research projects to help examine understanding and express personal interest.

Students will take an AP Art History exam in early May.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.50

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor

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

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.50

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor

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

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

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: UNITED STATES HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

This course is a college-level survey course in American history with a required summer reading and writing assignment that must be picked up from the teacher before summer break starts. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Students not only examine the facts of American history, but also analyze and synthesize historical information and study historiography as well. Students learn that history is not a static set of events set in stone, but an ongoing human endeavor seeking to answer who we are, where we have been, and where we are going as a nation. The class concludes with a college level examination, prepared by an independent testing agency-The College Board-which, if passed, may result in college credit.

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ADVANCED PLACEMENT: EUROPEAN HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

AP European History focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about European history from approximately 1450 to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Five themes of equal importance—interaction of Europe and the world, poverty and prosperity, objective knowledge and subjective visions, states and other institutions of power, and individual and society—provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places. The course also allows teachers flexibility to teach certain topics of their choice in depth. The course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university European history course. There are no prerequisites for AP European History. Students should be able to read a college-level textbook and write grammatically correct, complete sentences.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

AP Human Geography introduces the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also study about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON HISTORY COURSEWORK

It is recommended that students take the following course of study if they wish to concentrate on history Black River:

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

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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 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.

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INTEGRATED ADVANCED ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

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

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

INTEGRATED ADVANCED ALGEBRA/STATISTICS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry.

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

INTEGRATED PRECALCULUS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Integrated Advanced Algebra/Geometry

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

course in the *Contemporary Mathematics in Context* book series.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

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

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

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 12

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

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

COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING & DESIGN I

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

Eligible Grade Levels: 12

Prerequisite: Completion of Adv. Algebra/Geometry

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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 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th 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 BRASS AND PERCUSSION

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12
Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



The Beginning Brass and Percussion class is an entry-level band class. Students have the option of playing the trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. Making the first tones, understanding simple rhythms and pitches and developing the skill of reading music are the goals. Along with rehearsing and performing, students explore the importance of music in their own and other cultures by listening to and discussing musical examples. After speaking with the Band Director, students will choose their own instruments. Brass players not playing the tuba need to supply their own instrument. Percussionists will have had a minimum of four years of piano lessons and will supply their own mallets, sticks and bag described on the beginning band web page.

BEGINNING WOODWINDS

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12
Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



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

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 1.0
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12
Prerequisites: Beginning Brass and Percussion or Beginning Woodwinds

Career Pathways:



Middle School Band is for students who have completed the first year of band. This class moves at a quicker pace and has a greater focus on musical detail. The text of this class includes the study of middle school level band arrangements. Students will

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continue to discuss the role of music in various cultures and will be given the opportunity to listen to music from around the world. Performance tests will be given on the practice homework and written exams will take place at the end of each semester.

CONCERT BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9, 10 or permission of instructor

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning and Middle School Band

Career Pathways:



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

SYMPHONIC BAND

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1 credit

Eligible Grade Levels: 11-12 or permission of instructor

Prerequisite: successful audition with instructor

Career Pathways:



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

JAZZ BAND

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 one day 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

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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 ensemble. Participation in this ensemble is by audition.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-12

Career Pathways:



Prerequisites: Permission from Instructor

The Black River Advanced Orchestra is a string ensemble focused on the performance of challenging compositions. Students will audition for chairs and be assigned to parts based on their ability. Along with rehearsing for frequent performances, the students will spend class time listening to recordings of great music and discussing what they hear.

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

VOCAL ELEMENTS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grades: 6-9

Prerequisites: none

Career Pathways:



Vocal Elements is a performance ensemble for students with limited previous experience in choral

ensembles. Students will begin the sequential process of vocal development and other basic music skills relating to the choral experience. Grading will consist of daily attendance, 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

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.**

SELECT VOCAL ENSEMBLE

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

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attendance at all performances.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON MUSIC COURSEWORK

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

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

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

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

EARTH SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 6

Prerequisites: none

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

LIFE SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 7

Prerequisites: none

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

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

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 8

Prerequisites: none

Physical science is a blended year of physics and chemistry. Students are exposed to many aspects of physical science 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, atomic structure, particle interactions, energy, speed, motion, force, work and power, radioactivity, carbon chemistry, and acids and bases.

HIGH SCHOOL

BIOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9

Prerequisites: none

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

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

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

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

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

CHEMISTRY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10

Prerequisites: Biology

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

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor

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

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

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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.**

GEOSCIENCE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0 (and optional college credit)

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: General Chemistry or pass 8th 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 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th 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 the high school competency

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exam. Students should participate in high school level Spanish classes up through Spanish 3 to prepare them for the examination.

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 colors, numbers, and months. They also work hard to learn how to ask and answer common questions and learn all of the vocabulary that goes with them. During this course, students engage in all four areas of language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. There is a strong emphasis on developing vocabulary and beginning grammatical concepts, most of which is learned through scripted conversations. The scripted conversations let the students practice in the most authentic way possible. The teacher speaks most of the class period in Spanish and uses props and gestures to help the students understand.

SPANISH 1B

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 7, 8

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 Scholastic News 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..

**8th 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.

The objective of this course is to continue developing proficiency in the Spanish language utilizing the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will develop the ability to communicate effectively in a variety of contextualized situations through roleplaying, skits, and dialogues. Verb conjugation in the present, preterit, imperfect and present progressive will be explained and practiced for mastery. Students will practice their skills through projects, presentations, songs, games, mnemonic devices, and a variety of other products. In addition, they will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Mexican culture and history spanning from the civilizations of Mesoamerica to modern day. This will include group and individual projects and presentations, as well as weekly readings out of a Spanish Reader.

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.

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SPANISH IV

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits : 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10 – 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish III and competency exam

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 do a unit surrounding issues of immigration and will read a short story about a migrant family in the U.S.

SPANISH V

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 10 – 12

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish IV

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

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE (2016-17)

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 (2017-2018)

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 11, 12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course takes a holistic approach to language proficiency and recognizes the complex interrelatedness of comprehension and comprehensibility, vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. Students are encouraged to demonstrate spoken and written proficiency in a variety of situations, employing the Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational modes of communication. Students will explore themes that promote the study of a variety of language concepts in interesting, meaningful, and engaging contexts. Language structures will be addressed inasmuch as they serve the communicative task and not as an end goal unto themselves. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives to promote both fluency and accuracy in language use. In order to best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught in the target language.

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SPANISH LANGUAGE STUDY

Third Year Competency Exam

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

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

Accelerated Study

With successful completion of middle school Spanish IA, IB and Spanish II in 8th 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 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
Spanish 3	Spanish 4	Spanish 5	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.

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

2D/3D FOUNDATIONS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

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

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

variety of techniques in drawing, painting, mixed media, and sculpture to broaden understanding of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art making.

TWO-DIMENSIONAL ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

Prerequisite: Any entry level art course

Career Pathways:



Students build on skills and historical knowledge gained in 2D/3D Foundations. Emphasis on the elements of design will be applied to assignments using a variety of two-dimensional materials—such as: drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed-media artworks. Students in this course learn and apply practices associated with observational drawing, abstract design, surrealism, and contemporary art styles. In addition to production of art, students examine the history of art and the nature of aesthetics.

CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

Prerequisite: Any entry level art course

Career Pathways:



This class is designed to move students past the two-dimensional mediums of drawing and painting and into projects that focus on three-dimensional form with sculpture. Materials such as clay, plaster, recycled materials, and fiber arts will be used to create artworks and to understand concepts of form and space. Students explore idea development through the evaluation of several conceptual sculpture artists. Additionally, this course examines the history of sculpture and the nature of aesthetics.

ADVANCED 2D/3D STUDIO

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

Prerequisite: Advanced students must complete an Intro level course and one year of 2D or Ceramics and Sculpture.

Career Pathways:



This advanced art class is designed to meet the needs of high school students who have completed an introductory art course and one year of 2D Art or the Ceramics and Sculpture class. Idea development, art history, the nature of aesthetics and the practice of critiquing art are the main components of this course. Students must choose between a 2D or 3D portfolio as their focus area when entering this course. Those interested in in-depth skills training, art related careers, advanced placement art credit, or college preparatory art education should enroll in this course.

ADVANCED ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

Prerequisite: Advanced students must complete an Intro level course and one year of 2D or Ceramics and Sculpture.

Career Pathways:



This course is the highest level of the art courses offered at Black River. This course has a seminar/lecture component, but is focused mainly on developing individual student portfolios. The art portfolios are 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 in this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART HISTORY

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisite: Permission of teacher

Career Pathways:



This college level Art History course is an excellent class for 11th and 12th grade students who wish to learn about art history in 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.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

Students will take an AP Art History exam in early May.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

Prerequisite: Advanced students must complete an Intro level course and one year of 2D or Ceramics and Sculpture. Permission of teacher.

Career Pathways:



This course is the highest level of the art courses offered at Black River and students enrolled plan to complete and AP Studio Drawing Portfolio by the end of their senior year. If a student is not planning or able to complete an AP Drawing Portfolio, enroll in Advanced Art. This course has a seminar/lecture component, but is focused mainly on developing individual student portfolios. The art portfolios are used for college applications, scholarships, AP 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 in this course. Permission of AP Studio teacher is required to enroll.

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 and computer graphics. Students gain knowledge of the effects of lighting, composition and basic camera functions. Using Adobe Photoshop Elements, students learn how to correct image exposure, lighting, color and composition. Students will have opportunity to learn to use school supplied Canon DSLR cameras. Students apply the techniques associated with image manipulation and computer created images. In addition to studio work, students examine the artworks of contemporary photographers.

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 apply the skills and techniques of digital photography and computer graphics to create multiple portfolio-ready artworks to be displayed digitally and on high quality prints. Students continue to use a variety of digital media programs to create, and manipulate their artworks such as: Photoshop Elements 12, GIMP 2, Serif Draw and other online programs. Students have opportunity to learn to use school supplied Canon DSLR cameras. Also, they learn about traditional and digital art history, and how to apply this knowledge to their projects.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

COLLEGE ADVISORY PROGRAM

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: .10

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



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

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

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

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

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

ADVANCED SPORTS CONDITIONING

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.50 per semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 7-8
Prerequisites: Must play a BRPS sponsored sport
Career Pathways:



This course is for athletes to improve their athletic ability while recognizing the dedication and time commitment it takes to be a successful athlete! Each student will engage in a circuit like work out that involves plyometric and injury prevention exercises as well as increasing their overall endurance. Two days a week, students will complete a sport specific workout designed to fit their individual needs. One day a week students will learn the importance of good nutrition and its effect on their athletic ability! This class is designed to help athletes become more disciplined in their time away from their teammates and putting in the time and dedication it takes to reach even the highest of dreams!

COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.50 per semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 7-8
Prerequisites: none
Career Pathways:



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

6TH 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.

HEALTHY LIVING

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.50 per semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Prerequisites: none
Career Pathways:



This will be class that is team taught by two teachers that realize the importance of health and physical activity. Each class period students will participate both in physical activity and health knowledge lessons to help improve their overall health and wellness. It is our belief that students do not only need the knowledge but also the skills and practice that is essential to making health a priority in ones' life instead of a fad. Students will engage in discussions about social and emotional health, nutrition and physical activity, safety, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and finally personal health and wellness. Students will have the opportunity for hands on learning through engaging in physical activity and being involved in the community around us.

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.50 per semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Prerequisites: none
Career Pathways:



BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

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.

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Course Length: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.50 Physical Education per Semester
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Prerequisites: none
Career Pathways:



This elective class is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and will be a combination of Physical Education for one semester and Health for the other semester. During Physical Education, students will 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.

During Health, students will learn about how to maintain an overall healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in discussions about social and emotional health, nutrition and physical activity, safety, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and finally, personal health and wellness. Students will have the opportunity for hands on learning through engaging in physical activity and being involved in the community around us.

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 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
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.

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

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

experiential and project-based assignments, independent reading, class discussion and in-class lectures.

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. 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 will also serve 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) is a required course that provides guidance and curriculum for teachers in grades 6-12 and targets outcomes for each student. Teachers deliver lessons to help students with college planning and academic guidance. The intent of the course is to help students discover for themselves the power of a college education.

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

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

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

COMPUTER 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 4th 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 10th -12th 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.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

INDEPENDENT STUDY/ONLINE COURSE

Course Length: 1 semester

Credits: 0.5

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

Career Pathways:



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

INTRO TO 3D COMPUTER ANIMATION

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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 4th math credit.*

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:



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

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

TEACHING PRACTICUM (ELEMENTARY)

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 1.0

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

Career Pathways:



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

For a list of specific requirements, visit <http://www.blackriverta.com/index.html>.

Students will receive a letter grade for the course.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

WEB DESIGN

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



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 will also serve as a prerequisite course for future AP computer classes.

MIDDLE SCHOOL G-PERIOD COURSES

A JOURNEY THROUGH MIDDLE EARTH

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)
Credits: .34
Eligible Grade Level: 6-8
Prerequisites: none
Career Pathways:



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

In this class, students will develop reading, writing, thinking and language skills through exercises and activities related

to *The Hobbit* through development of themes of good versus evil, appearances versus reality, and bravery versus cowardice; character development; oral and written assignments; oral and silent reading; and vocabulary enrichment.

AFRICAN AND EGYPTIAN ART

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



The focus of this course is to provide a first positive middle school experience with art and to study the visual culture of Africa, Egypt and the Middle East. Various mediums 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.

BLACK RIVER ECO CHALLENGE

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



This class is designed to get hands on experience with the process of restoring an urban piece of property into a natural area that best reflect Michigan ecosystems. The property that will be used is the Black River natural area on Lincoln Avenue. Students in this class will learn what the process of restoring an ecosystem involves and then create their own projects or complete already existing projects that will further the process of restoring the natural area. Projects can range from growing and planting native plants, creating walking paths, building bird houses, etc.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

ASTRONOMY

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

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 VACATION EVER! NATIONAL PARKS

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Would you like to plan the ultimate vacation? What if you could go on the best vacation ever and learn about the history and geography of the United States of America at the same time? Do you like to travel? The year 2016 is the 100 year anniversary of our National Park system and to celebrate we will be learning about our National Parks and what makes them awesome. In this class we will watch movies and documentaries about our park system and we will discover the geography and history of the parks. We will engage in several projects to explore the parks and the surrounding communities near the parks. You, as the student, will have the ability to decide the types of projects you will work on. Options for projects will include: website creation, photography, debates, art work, skits, interviews, movie making, and other options. *Based on weather and student desire, this class may also engage in hiking and backpacking during the school hour.

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.

CARDIOVASCULAR FITNESS

Course Length: 1 semester

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.

CHAMBER MUSIC FOR STRINGS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 8-12

Prerequisite: Students must participate in either Advanced Orchestra or Concert Orchestra and have instructor approval.

Career Pathways:



This chamber music class is geared for orchestra students that want to have additional small group experiences. We will form duets, trios, and quartets, and we will also work together as a combined group. Students will learn a variety of music as well as techniques for playing chamber music. We will also perform at area nursing homes each semester.

BLACK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDY

CREATIVE WRITING

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or 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 their own personal style. As a class, we will focus on revising our work through a collaborative workshop format and developing individual digital portfolios of writing. Technology is integrated into the writing process in this class and, as much of our work will be completed in digital format, students will have the opportunity to gain proficiency in keyboarding as they work on various writing projects. In addition to creating individual portfolios of their work, young writers in this class will also have the opportunity to have select pieces of their work published on the class website.

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.

DRAWING, SKETCHING, COLOR & COLLAGE

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



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

ELECTIONS

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



2016 is a presidential election year for the United States of America. This is a great opportunity for students to learn more about the electoral system through discussion, guest speakers, and field trips. Students will get a chance to share their knowledge with classmates through presentations and group projects.

EL MUNDO LATINO

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



Do you have an interest in learning about other people and cultures? Ever wish you could travel to a Spanish speaking country? In this class we will explore the geography, culture, food, music, art, dance and history of some Spanish speaking countries. We will look at famous Spanish speaking people who have changed our world in both positive and negative ways. We will read stories (in English!) by renowned Spanish authors and look at what was happening in their society and how it affected their writing. We will explore some famous artists and their works. We will listen to some different styles of music and explore different forms of dance. We will also look at their cultures and customs and the role that different foods play in their day to day living. They may all speak one language but they live very differently from one another!

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EVERYDAY SCIENCE

Course Length: 1 semester (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: 2 semesters
Credits: 0.67
Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8
Prerequisite: Grade level preference, Student contract required
Career Pathways:



FTC is way more than building robots. FIRST Tech Challenge robotics will consist of 15 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

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 will include units on Sand Dunes, Lakes, Wetlands, Human Communities, History, and Geology. Weather-permitting, we will also include some field trips to one of our local beaches to do some exploring and learning about our Great Lake on its shores. Learn more about the community you live in and about the wonder of the Lakes that surround our state.

HANDS ON SCIENCE

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



During this course Middle School students will have the opportunity to complete several in depth and lengthy investigations representing all of the science disciplines, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics. Students will design, and complete experiments that will answer questions from these science disciplines. Students will then write reports displaying their data and answering the original questions based on this data. These investigations will focus on concepts that are different from those covered in the students regular science curriculum.

HISTORY OF SPORTS JOURNALISM & INTERVIEWING

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



A fantastic area of study is the world of sports journalism. Many fantastic writers have spent their

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

ISLANDS OF THE WORLD

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Did you know that there are 443 islands in our world? How exciting to discover what life on some of these islands is like! Do you like being surrounded with water? Would you like to be on a beach, on an island somewhere? What would you eat, what skills would you need to survive? In *Islands of the World*, we will look at islands and compare cultures, lifestyles and beliefs. Look forward in this class to composing articles, doing research, making advertisements, writing to governments, reading stories and plays about different cultures and more.

JAZZ BAND G

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 7-12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Beginning Band and enrollment in another musical ensemble

Career Pathways:



The Black River Jazz Orchestra is a big band ensemble open to students in grades 7-12. This band performs frequently and focuses on improvisation skills and learning the many genres of jazz music. The course includes discussion on the history of jazz and study of great musicians. Listening is a large part of this class. This class performs throughout the year at high school and collegiate festivals.

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 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.

RAT PACK

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 7-8

Career Pathways:



RAT PACK is BR's peer-to-peer LINKS program. By definition, a LINK is a relationship between two things or situations, especially where one thing affects the other. The focus of this class is building friendships between YOU and an assigned PEER, creating a LINK. Through lunch meetings, games, and occasional off campus activities, you will become a friend, mentor and role model to a student with Autism. As part of this course, you will learn about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and use the learned information to practice leadership skills. This class is designed to help you play a HUGE part in helping a peer to have a POSITIVE school experience and in turn, create a more REWARDING experience for YOU as well.

SCIENCE THROUGH THE AGES

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



Join us for a journey back through time to discover the story of science. We will start in ancient times, studying the lives and achievements of Pythagoras, Archimedes, Brahmagupta, al-Khwarizmi, Fibonacci, Ptolemy, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Aristotle. The curriculum will be based around The Story of Science series by Joy Hakim. The class will focus on reading non-fiction passages about scientists, writers, or philosophers, the geographic location of events in the passage, the dates of events in the lesson, and duplicating historic experiments.

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SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6th Grade only

Career Pathways:



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

Some activities included in this course will include:

Goal Setting

Time Management

Finding a good place to study/do homework

How to use the planner

How to study for a quiz/test

How to read for meaning/take notes

How to effectively study with other students

Following directions

Talking with teachers

Keeping an organized notebook/binder

TECHNOLOGY

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



In Technology, you will practice typing while learning about the different programs within Google drive, such as Google docs, Google slides, Google forms, and Google sheets. Additionally you will learn how to stay safe on the Internet and how to properly cite pictures and work found on the Internet. Finally you will research a topic of your choice and give a presentation using the technology that you learned during the semester.

THE SCIENCE GAMES

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 6-8

Career Pathways:



The Science Games is a class that combines lessons influenced by the events from the National Science Olympiad Program (but without the interschool competitions) with longer and larger-scale science projects that involve many aspects of earth, life and physical science. Students might be gathering information and materials to 'compete' in different events such as Bag of Bones, Helicopters, Egg O Naut, or Keep the Heat (to name a few) or they might be given a general concept/outcome and spend many class periods brainstorming, researching, and designing to display their final products. This class is meant to take ideas learned in any middle school science class, add to those ideas, and use that knowledge in a variety of ways.

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

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.

ASTRONOMY

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9 -12

Career Pathways:



Astronomy is a course in which students will be actively increasing their knowledge of our solar system and the universe. Students will work on both individual and group projects. Topics range from Kuiper Belt Objects to Nebulae. Students will also be covering new topics in Physics such as dark matter

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and energy.

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.

BLACK RIVER ECO CHALLENGE

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



This class is designed to get hands on experience with the process of restoring an urban piece of property into a natural area that best reflect Michigan ecosystems. The property that will be used is the Black River natural area on Lincoln Avenue. Students in this class will learn what the process of restoring an ecosystem involves and then create their own projects or complete already existing projects that will further the process of restoring the natural area. Projects can range from growing and planting native plants, creating walking paths, building bird houses, etc.

CHAMBER MUSIC FOR STRINGS

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67

Eligible Grade Levels: 8-12

Prerequisite: Students must participate in either Advanced Orchestra or Concert Orchestra and have instructor approval.

Career Pathways:



This chamber music class is geared for orchestra students that want to have additional small group experiences. We will form duets, trios, and quartets, and we will also work together as a combined group. Students will learn a variety of music as well as techniques for playing chamber music. We will also perform at area nursing homes each semester.

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 ply metrics. Your speed, quickness, and flexibility will also improve during conditioning class through stretching and drills. Again this is an ideal class for athletes who want to gain an edge on the competition, but it is not limited to only athletes in anyway.

CREATIVE WRITING

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

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Creative Writing may be taken as a full-year elective or as a one-semester course in either the fall or spring. Throughout the year, 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

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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. *Students may enroll in this class for 1 or 2 semesters.

ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH

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

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Permission 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 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 (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.

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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 I

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

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.

FINANCE MATHEMATICS II

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9 - 12

Prerequisite: Finance Mathematics I

Career Pathways:



Students will experience hands-on applications of what it means to become financially independent. In class we will explore and incorporate real life financial situation such as navigating college loans, balancing a monthly income while paying bills, and investing money. Students will role-play various financial lives throughout the semester and report on their successes and struggles along the way. Finance Math I is recommended as a prerequisite course requirement before enrolling in Finance Math II. Upon completion of Finance Math I, Finance Math II would be an excellent class for any 11th or 12th grade student preparing for the financial transition of heading off to college.

PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY AND THE 2016 ELECTION

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Are you interested in politics and presidential history? Take this class and follow the 2016 presidential election as America picks our next president. Learn about past elections and presidential history.

FRONTYARD PHYSICS

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Frontyard physics offers you some of the same features you loved about Backyard physics only with all new sets of challenging and creative projects. This course is designed to present physics concepts with a hands-on approach utilizing labs and projects that peak your curiosity and challenge *you* to discovery. You will take an active approach in discovering the physics that surrounds us. We will study physics concepts found in kinematics, electro-magnetism, 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:



History in Dispute will look at a number of events in history that we can discuss and debate. Students will be encouraged to look at a variety of perspectives, opinions, and facts before making their conclusion. This class is intended to encourage students to think critically, investigate, and formulate their own beliefs. Topics that we will look at are from

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a wide variety ranging from historical controversies, current events, political issues, and even some paranormal topics. Students that take this class should be prepared to think, weigh evidence, question, and participate in class discussions while respecting opposing positions.

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: 6-12 with audition
Prerequisite: successful completion of Beginning Band and enrollment in another musical ensemble
Career Pathways:



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

JUEGOS EN ESPANOL

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



This multi-level class is designed to help students gain confidence and hone their communication skills in the Spanish language. Younger students are encouraged to take this class to help improve their vocabulary and fluency while older students may choose this class to help maintain their fluency levels. We will play games, read children's books, do Reader's Theater short skits, and watch children's television shows and cartoons in Spanish. The expectation is that everyone will speak Spanish for the entire class period with an emphasis on communication, not perfection! This class can be an excellent option for older students who want to retain their fluency in Spanish but may not wish to take AP.

MATH ADVANTAGE

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)
Credits: 0.34
Eligible Grade Levels: 9th
Prerequisite: Permission from current math teacher
Career Pathways:



Designed for students who had difficulty in middle school math, Math Advantage is intended to give students extra time and additional support to foster their success in the high school mathematics curriculum. Students will engage in lessons that reinforce classroom learning, and will have time to work on assigned math homework as well as on additional problems that supplement classroom learning. In order to enroll in this class, students must receive a recommendation from their current (8th grade) math teacher. Each student will be expected to come to class ready to work, with all materials: math book, notebook, homework assignments and any other material necessary for success. Grading will be based on participation and completion.

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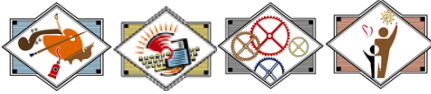
MEDIA LITERACY

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Do you love television? Do you love movies? Do you love 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.

NUTRITION

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



During this course students will learn the basic principles of human nutrition. They will learn about different nutrients found in foods as well as how these nutrients are utilized in the body for growth and health throughout life. What we eat significantly impacts our overall health (mental, emotional, physical). Students will discover the importance of eating healthy foods and learn how they can incorporate more nutrient-filled food in their daily diet.

SKILLED ARTIST WORKSHOP COLLABORATIVE

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

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



This course aims to serve high school students with ability in the fine arts, performing arts or literary arts. Students participating in this class will work individually and collaboratively to complete quality

creative outcomes to be exhibited or performed publicly. This is a hands-on studio based class enabling students to complete quality work in a collaborative setting. Students will work hard and complete high quality products during studio workshops; students that are self-directed, hard-working, enthusiastic, and talented should enroll in this class.

SPECIAL TOPICS IN HISTORY

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall or Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Would you like to take a class in which you select the books? Would you like to identify particular periods of History for individual or small group study? The approach of this course is to support you in reading works of History. These works may be part of current History courses, AP or non-AP, or connect to personal interest. You and the instructor discuss your interests, then determine together a sensible plan for the semester. The bulk of our block together consists of your reading and maintaining a journal. Works from any time period, any geographical region will serve our purposes. You may want to obtain a library user card from the Herrick District Library; we are able to work with this resource to obtain target readings. We look to consider how you can apply or share your work within larger communities.

VILLIANS, HEROES AND LEGENDS

Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Career Pathways:



Do people like Adolf Hitler, Mother Teresa, and Robin Hood peek your interest? Who have been the most influential people in history? Did they have a positive impact or a negative impact on the world? Were they loved and appreciated while they were alive or only after they died? This class will engage your learning in a variety of ways through several types of projects. You, as the student, will be able to help decide the types of projects you will be involved in. Some ideas to be considered would be a personal interview, NCAA bracket throw down, book report, public surveys, and other ideas as well. Multiple methods of instruction will be used: movies, documentaries, books, art, speeches, skits, interviews, movie

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making, and debates. This class will follow the Project Based Learning methodology.

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.

WORLD ART AND CULTURE

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

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: 2D/3D Foundational Art

Career Pathways:



This course aims to serve high school students with ability in the fine arts, performing arts or literary arts. Students participating in this class will work individually and collaboratively to complete quality creative outcomes to be exhibited or performed publicly. This is a hands-on studio based class enabling students to complete quality work in a collaborative setting. Students will work hard and complete high quality products during studio workshops; students that are self-directed, hard-working, enthusiastic, and talented should enroll in this class.

WRITE FOR COLLEGE

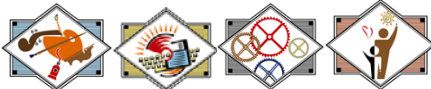
Course Length: 1 semester (Fall)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Completion of English 9

Career Pathways:



Created specifically for seniors, this course will help students to work on two things: college application essays and English 101 preparation. We will begin our year by addressing common college essay prompts and tailoring personal essays for each college we wish to attend. We will then move on to

addressing the common types of writing in most English 101 composition courses, including argumentation, rhetorical and literary analysis, and research. We will discuss expectations and strategies for being successful in a college freshman English courses and how these courses differ from high school courses, and we will spend class time crafting compositions that meet those expectations.

WRITE FOR LIFE

Course Length: 1 semester (Spring)

Credits: 0.34

Eligible Grade Levels: 10-12

Prerequisite: Completion of English 9

Career Pathways:



Writing is not simply an academic endeavor, but rather a skill that we use almost every day for the rest of our lives outside of school! This class will focus on how to approach two important writing styles: argument for an audience and life skills. We will begin our year thinking about how we use writing outside of school for persuasive purposes, whether it's with our parents to change our curfew or with our boss requesting days off. We will analyze the strategies that best persuade any given audience, and we will practice writing for those purposes. Next, we will move on to life skills. Cover letters, resumes, emails, memos, social media, and blogs are only some of the many modes we use to express ourselves in writing, and in this class, we will discuss and practice how to best utilize what we know about academic writing and apply it to real world writing scenarios!

YEARBOOK DESIGN

Course Length: 2 semesters

Credits: 0.67 (Fine Art)

Eligible Grade Levels: 9-12

Prerequisite: Permission of Yearbook Advisor and a B- or higher in current English course.

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

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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 both fine art photography and candid photography work to create a dynamic publication, while learning how to manipulate images in different digital art programs. Lastly, in this course students will focus on writing and editing journalistic articles for the yearbook to go along with their design and photography.

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