

ACADEMIC COURSES

BUSINESS

Accounting-

Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Accounting I introduces concepts and principles based on a double-entry system of maintaining the financial records of a sole proprietorship, partnership, and corporation. It includes analyzing business transactions, journalizing, posting, and preparing worksheets and financial statements.

American Business Legal Systems-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: .5

American Business Legal Systems substitutes for United States Government

Prerequisite: None

The American Business Legal Systems course provides students with an understanding of the legal framework in which American business functions. The students will evaluate the influence of the free enterprise system in a democratic society on one's daily decisions. Students will analyze the alliance between capitalism and democracy, and be better prepared to influence the decisions of tomorrow in the public and private sectors of the United States of America.

Business Economics-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: .5

Business Economics substitutes for Economics credit

Prerequisite: None

This course provides an in-depth study of fundamental concepts, free enterprise trading practices, and the various players in the economic system. Topics include the production, marketing, and distribution of goods and services, as well as the roles of financial institutions, the government and the individual within the free enterprise system. Students will explore various careers related to the economy. International trade and economics have become an integral part of business economics.

Management-

Grade Level: 11, 12

Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Recommended Prerequisite: Principles of Business

Students in Management will develop a foundation in the many activities, problems, and decisions that are intrinsic to the management of a successful business, as well as an appreciation for the importance of these responsibilities. Areas to be examined include business organization, communication, ethical and legal responsibilities, decision making, personal safety, professional development, and related areas. By gaining an understanding of these areas, students will be better prepared to enhance the business decisions of tomorrow.

Principles of Business-

Grade Levels: 9, 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to all aspects of business: the international economy, finance principles, management strategies, information systems, etc. Students will analyze the elements of the business environment and focus on attitudinal and problem-solving skills inherent to success.

FINE ARTS

Art I-

Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to drawing, painting, and the elements and principles of art and design. Color theory, perspective, painting, and drawing techniques are explored with various media. The elements of 3 D design, art appreciation, art throughout the world, and careers in art will also be covered in this course. Media such as pencil, pen and ink, collage, tempera paint, pastel, scratch board, colored pencil, clay, plaster, and papier mache' will be used. This course fulfills the fine arts credit required for graduation and for admission to Tennessee public universities. \$30 art fee or fee waiver required.

Art II-

Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Art I

This course is designed to develop the skills of observing, analyzing, and interpreting art, past and present. The emphasis will be on exploring various art styles and content and on developing creative ideas and thinking skills through studio practice. Media such as watercolor, acrylic, computer, papermaking, metal, and plastic will be used. The principles of art will be the focus of study. \$30 art fee or fee waiver required.

Art III/IV-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Art II

This course will provide further exposure to a wide range of two-dimensional media, as well as begin a basic study of the elements of three-dimensional media to include ceramics. Students will develop advanced drawing and painting skills, and an awareness of art history and contemporary art. Students will investigate the history, basic concepts, and skills involved in the creation of ceramic pieces. Projects will include hand-built pottery, including pinchpots, coil pots, and paddle and slab-building techniques. Students will design and construct sculptural forms using a variety of methods and materials. Focusing on the elements of art and the principles of design, students will investigate how paper, wood, plaster, clay, and fiber can become aesthetic forms in space. Through demonstrations, critiques, viewing artists' work, and collaborations, students will gain insight into the creative process. Students will be required to work outside of the classroom and gather materials from outside sources. Students will complete homework assignments and keep a sketchpad of ideas. \$30 art fee or fee waiver required.

Band-

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: Instrumental Music-2 (Both semesters); Colorguard-1 (First semester only)

Prerequisites: Approval of Band Director

Band is a course that provides instruction in the playing of percussion, brass, and woodwind instruments. Students learn correct band discipline, fundamental instrumental techniques, and the development of quality and precision in musical performance. In the fall, the Band performs at football games, parades, and marching competitions. There are after-school practice requirements during the fall semester. In the spring, the Band performs as a Concert Band, performing concert music. A limited number of after-school practices may be required in the spring semester. The concert band performs 2 to 3 concerts. Some students will be selected to participate in solo and ensemble festivals and Honor Bands at nearby colleges/universities. Students are expected to provide their own instrument; however, some school-owned instruments are available. Instrumental students are expected to participate in both marching and concert band, unless a scheduling conflict is unavoidable.

Colorguard is an auxiliary unit of the Band. Students are selected to participate through an audition in the spring semester. Members learn choreographed routines using flags and props along with elements of modern dance which are performed with the Marching Band during Band Performances.

* Band and Colorguard can be repeated each year. Fees include Band Camp and Colorguard Uniform costs. All Band and Colorguard students are expected to participate in fundraisers to benefit the Band. See the Band Director for information on fees, practices, and tryouts.

General Music-

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory course to music and is open to any student at Mt. Pleasant High School. This course provides a basic introduction to various styles of music ranging from traditional to popular music. The student will explore the role and importance of music in world culture and in our lives. Activities will include textbook assignments, basic music notation, writing and research assignments, listening to and analyzing recordings, and attending live performance. Students are expected to appreciate all music as an art.

Theory and Harmony-

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: General Music

This is an intermediate music course. Students will explore written music notation (notes, scales, rhythms, chords, etc). Activities include reading music, analyzing performances and recordings, music composition, and playing percussion and keyboard instruments. Students are expected to appreciate all music as an art.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I-

Grade Levels: 10, 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course is the study of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and language structure. Spanish culture will also be introduced.

Spanish II-

Grade Levels: 10, 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course is a continuation of the study of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and language structure. Spanish culture is incorporated into this course.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Lifetime Wellness-

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5 for Physical Education and .5 for Wellness

Prerequisite: None

The course consists of nine weeks of Physical Education and nine weeks of Wellness (classroom) instruction. The classroom instruction includes the seven lifetime wellness strands, consisting of personal fitness and related skills, mental health, disease prevention and control, safety and first aid, sexuality and family life, substance use and abuse, and nutrition. In Physical Education, students will learn how strategies affect performance in games and sports, demonstrate an understanding of the development of attitudes and values through games and sports, and understand the importance of daily activity patterns in maintaining fitness.

Physical Education I & II-

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Lifetime Wellness

This course is designed to develop the student's awareness of physical fitness through individual and dual sports, team sports, fitness and conditioning, rhythmic activities, educational gymnastics, outdoor education, and aquatics.

*Not offered every year

LANGUAGE ARTS

Content Area Reading –

Grade Levels: 9, 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn, practice, and internalize strategies that are essential life-long learning skills for reading, writing, understanding, and interpreting content-specific materials. The strategies will be applied in the content areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Skills will include previewing and reviewing print and non-print text, activating prior knowledge, processing and acquiring new vocabulary, organizing information, understanding visual representations, self-monitoring, and reflecting.

English I-

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: None

English for the ninth grade covers a short grammar review for competency testing and mostly writing and literature. In writing, students are required to write personal narratives, persuasively, descriptively, and for research. Compiled research is also given as a speech. Literature encompasses short stories, drama (*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare), poetry, and one to two novels. Along with the novel assignments, students are required to write responsively to what they have read.

Honors English I-

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation. Summer reading list requirement.

English II-

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

English II is a course that seeks to integrate the standards of reading, writing, viewing and representing, and speaking and listening. Students will work to comprehend and produce a wide variety of texts, including traditional works of literature, practical and persuasive forms of communication that involve speaking and listening skills, and the use of appropriate technology and media forms. The course will emphasize the communication and critical thinking skills that empower students to function effectively in a rapidly changing world. The students will develop the structural and creative skills necessary to produce written language that can be read and interpreted by various audiences. The students will develop the reading skills necessary for word recognition, comprehension, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and appreciation of the written text. The students will use, read, and view media/technology and analyze content and concepts accurately. The students will express ideas clearly and effectively in a variety of oral contexts and apply active listening skills in the analysis and evaluation of spoken ideas.

Honors English II-

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 2

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation. Summer reading list requirement.

English III-

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

English III is a course that seeks to integrate the standards of reading, writing, viewing and representing, and speaking and listening. Students will work to comprehend and produce a wide variety of texts, including traditional works of literature, practical and persuasive forms of communication that involve speaking and listening skills, and the use of appropriate technology and media forms. The course emphasizes the communication and critical thinking skills necessary to enable students to deal effectively with multicultural and ethnic diversity in a rapidly changing world.

Honors English III-

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation. Summer reading list requirement.

English IV-

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

The student will study the Anglo-Saxon period, the Medieval period, and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The student will also write compositions and review some facts of grammar. The course will include a vocabulary series designed to increase the student's command of language.

Honors English IV-

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation. Summer reading list requirement.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I-

Grade Level: 9

Credit: Algebra I class can be taught for a full thirty-six week period on block scheduling. A student can receive one credit in Pre-Algebra I A/B (1st semester) and one credit in Algebra I A/B (2nd semester).

Algebra I is a basic course of four quarters emphasizing the usefulness of algebra in problem solving. The topics covered include algebraic expressions, signed numbers, equations, inequalities, graphing, linear systems, ratio and proportion, products, factoring, radicals and roots.

Honors Algebra I-

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course is one semester in length.

Algebra II-

Grade Levels: 10, 11,

Credit: Algebra II class can be taught for a full thirty-six week period on block scheduling. A student can receive one credit in Pre-Algebra II A/B (1st semester) and one credit in Algebra II A/B (2nd semester).

Recommended Prerequisite: Algebra I

Algebra II includes analyzing equations and inequalities, graphing linear relations and functions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, exploring polynomials and radical expressions, exploring quadratic functions and inequalities, exploring rational expressions, and exploring exponential and logarithmic functions.

Honors Algebra II-

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course is two semesters in length.

Geometry-

Grade Levels: 10, 11

Credit: Geometry class can be taught for a full thirty-six week period on block scheduling. A student can receive one credit in Pre-Geometry A/B (1st semester) and one credit in Geometry A/B (2nd semester).

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Analyzing Geometry using constructions and proofs, study relationships of angles and line segments in figures, identify and contrast axioms, theorems and postulates, incorporate inductive and deductive reasoning and logic in problem-solving skills, introduction to Euclidean and non-Euclidean Geometry Theory.

Honors Geometry-

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course is one semester in length.

Bridge Math

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry

Bridge Math is designed to help connect new math skills to skills previously studied. The graphing calculator will be used extensively to help in understanding core concepts. The course is recommended for students who have not earned a 19 on the mathematics component of the ACT.

Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Topics covered in this course include functions and graphs (polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic), and trig basics including graphs, data analysis and inverse functions.

Pre-Calculus -

Grade Levels: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry

Analytic trig, applications of triangles, vectors and polar graphing, conic and polar curves, sequences, series, and limits.

SCIENCE

Biology I-

Grade Levels: 9, 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Investigates the life processes of living organisms and interactions with their environment. Emphasis is placed on biological terminology, basic biological principles, and some laboratory activities.

Honors Biology-

Grade Level: 9, 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Biology II-

Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Biology

Biology II is a laboratory science course in which students engage in an in-depth study of the principles of Biology. This course emphasizes internal and external anatomical structures and their functions, the environmental interaction of organisms, processes of living things, mechanisms that maintain homeostasis, biodiversity, and changes in life forms over time. Students explore biological concepts through an inquiry approach. Embedded standards for Inquiry, Technology & Engineering, and Mathematics are taught in the context of the content standards for Cells, Interdependence, Flow of Matter and Energy, Heredity, Biodiversity and Change, Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, and Botany.

Chemistry-

Grade Levels: 11, 12 (10 with teacher recommendation)

Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course explores the properties of substances and their changes. Students will investigate atomic structure, matter and energy, interactions of matter and properties of solutions, and acids and bases. Students will explore chemistry through inquiry, hands-on laboratory investigations, individual studies, and group activities. The students' experiences in chemistry will enable them to understand the role of chemistry in their lives by investigating substances that occur in nature, in living organisms, and those that are created by humans. Their study will include both qualitative and quantitative descriptions of matter and the changes that matter undergoes. Students will practice the necessary precautions for performing safe inquiries and activities and appreciate the risks and benefits of producing and using chemical substances.

Honors Chemistry-

Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Physical Science-

Grade: 9, 10, 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

A survey of basic physical concepts including: states of matter, kinetic theory, motion, forces, energy, heat, gas laws, electricity, and magnetism.

Honors Physical Science-

Grade Levels: 9, 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Physics-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This is a course that deals with the relationship between matter and energy and how they interact. The major areas to be investigated will include mechanics, thermodynamics, waves and sound, light and optics, electricity and magnetism, and atomic and nuclear physics. Using available materials and technology, students will carry out investigations of the above areas using inquiry-based learning, hands-on laboratory investigations, observation of demonstrations, individual studies, and group activities. This course will afford students the opportunity to apply knowledge and prerequisite skills, habits of mind needed for problem solving and ethical decision-making about local and global scientific and technological concerns. This course will provide knowledge and experiences for advanced studies and personal career choices.

*Not offered every year.

Advanced Placement Biology-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: 1 for A/B and 1 for C/D

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, Biology II and Chemistry

AP Biology is the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The three major areas covered are organisms and populations, molecules and cells, and genetics and evolution. At least twelve laboratory experiences will be conducted. In this challenging course, the student earns high school credit and can earn college credit by making a minimum score on the AP exam. Students will complete outside projects.

*Not offered every year.

SOCIAL STUDIES

American Government-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: .5

Prerequisites: American History

The study of American government provides students the opportunity to understand more fully the institutions that affect their daily lives. The students will examine the role of politics and government, its

characteristics, and why it is necessary. Students will analyze the United States Constitution, describing its function as a living document and examining the ways it can be amended to accommodate change. Students will explain and evaluate the role of the United States legal system. Finally, students will define the rights and responsibilities of citizens living in a democratic society.

American History-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: World Geography/World History

The study of United States history provides students with unique opportunities to gain insight into the present, more fully appreciating our accomplishments and understanding our problems. The content emphasis for this course begins in the last half of the nineteenth century with the development of America as an industrialized nation, poised to emerge as a world leader. The United States in the twentieth century is the major focus as the American people endure world wars, economic depression, and Cold War. The struggle for civil rights by minorities, the changing role of women, and the dramatic impact of technological advances characterize the post-war years, concluding with the study of contemporary United States.

Economics-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

The study of economics provides students with insight into the economic choices they and their families make every day and the impact that both national and international economic conditions have on those choices. The students will gain an understanding of fundamental economic concepts and their application to a variety of economic systems. The students will gain an understanding of the roles individual, business, and government agencies play in the larger economy.

Personal Finance-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Personal Finance is a course designed to inform students how individual choices directly influence occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing.

Service Learning-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credit: .5

Prerequisites: None

Service Learning is designed to provide a comprehensive approach focusing on ethical, social, and intellectual skills development. Mastering the standards will enable students to develop personal integrity based on positive values to learn respect and responsibility, and to learn citizenship in schools and community. Service learning is a form of experiential learning in which students develop knowledge and critical thinking skills while addressing genuine community needs. *Not offered every year.

World Geography-

Grade Levels: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

The study of world geography provides students with the opportunity to explore the relationship between people and the land on which they live. As students begin to understand that all events affecting society occur within a geographical context, they will discover how geography has influenced the development of the world's various cultures and economies. The study of geography will better prepare students to understand the planet on which they live and the people who share its resources.

Advanced Placement United States History-

Grade Levels: 11, 12

Credits: 2 (1 for A/B and 1 for C/D)

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation

AP U.S. History is a college-level course that traces America's past from pre-discovery to post-World War II in an in-depth manner. Students earn high school credit and may earn college credit by taking the Advanced Placement Examination. Discussion/essay format testing is used as well as extensive reading, historical and analytical essays, research assignments and debate style discussions. Critical and analytical thinking is an imperative aspect of the course. (STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL ASPECTS OF THIS COURSE TO EARN THE U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION.)

CAREER AND TECHNICAL COURSES

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Principles of Agriculture-

Grade Levels: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Principles of Agriculture is designed to develop the basic theories and principles involved in animal science, agribusiness, agricultural mechanics, and natural resource management. The standards prepare students to choose among agricultural careers for the 21st century.

Greenhouse Management-

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 or 2

Prerequisite: None

Greenhouse Management sets a foundation for progress in the horticulture sub-cluster area. As populations continue to expand, the importance of food production in a condensed, climate-controlled environment increases. Understanding the integrated principles needed for the successful management of a greenhouse will allow the agricultural industry to continue to produce the quality and quantity of food and fiber needed in the 21st century.