

**Resiliency Preparatory Academy  
Fall River Public Schools  
Program of Studies  
2018 - 2019**



290 Rock Street  
Fall River, MA 02720

**School Administration  
Phone Numbers**

Main Phone Number: 508-675-8230

Fax Number: 508-235-2661

---

**Important Contact Information**

Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Matthew Malone	508-675-8420
Principal	Robert Correia	<a href="mailto:rcorreia@fallriverschools.org">rcorreia@fallriverschools.org</a>
Vice Principal	Matthew Scott	<a href="mailto:mscott@fallriverschools.org">mscott@fallriverschools.org</a>
Adjustment Counselor	Ashley Monterio	<a href="mailto:amonterio@fallriverschools.org">amonterio@fallriverschools.org</a>
Special Education	Kristen Donahue	<a href="mailto:kdonahue@fallriverschools.org">kdonahue@fallriverschools.org</a>
Guidance Counselor	Dave Dussault	<a href="mailto:ddussault@fallriverschools.org">ddussault@fallriverschools.org</a>
Director of Guidance	Janet Doyle	<a href="mailto:jjdoyle@fallriverschools.org">jjdoyle@fallriverschools.org</a>
Instructional Department Head	Nicole Archambault	<a href="mailto:narchambault@fallriverschools.org">narchambault@fallriverschools.org</a>

## **Organization and Communication**

- ***First Level***

In order to facilitate timely and supportive communication regarding your student's educational experiences at Resiliency Preparatory Academy, the first level of communication regarding your concerns or issues is to contact the teacher. Teachers can be contacted via the main office phone number. We strive to make contact with you regarding your concerns within 24 hours of receiving your message. In addition to phone contact, all faculty can be reached via the internet. For a full listing, please see the Fall River Public Schools website, [www.fallriverschools.org](http://www.fallriverschools.org), and click on Resiliency Preparatory Academy. Should the matter require additional information, the courteous and proper sequence for contact would be to contact the following:

- ***Second Level***

**Upper School VP- Grades 10-12**  
**Lower School VP- Grades 7-9**

- ***Third Level***

Principal - Robert Correia

- ***Fourth Level***

**Central Administration**

Julia Carlson  
Dr. Matthew Malone

Assistant Superintendent  
Superintendent of Schools

## **Resiliency Preparatory Academy Mission Statement**

The mission of the Resiliency Preparatory Academy is to create a safe and supportive learning environment for opportunity youth in need of flexible programming and alternative pathways to graduate. Through the mutual creation of nurturing and trusting relationships, students will be inspired to invest in themselves and in their futures.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Fall River Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs or activities, which it operates and is required by Title IX not to discriminate in such a manner. In addition, no child shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school or in obtaining the advantages, privileges, and courses of the study of such public schools on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or disability.

## **Introduction to the Program of Studies**

There are several programming options available at Resiliency. Upon entering the building, students will meet with their team leaders and guidance counselors to review their transcripts and identify a schedule that best meets their needs. The course selection process is one that should be a cooperative venture among the student, parent, team leader, and guidance counselor. It is expected that when these course selections are made, the student will have the fortitude to follow through with his or her decision. The choices that a student makes when scheduling are very important; therefore, he/she is expected to remain in his or her chosen classes through the first full week before a change is considered (except for errors, duplicate courses, credit, or prerequisite problems). All change requests must be submitted to the guidance department by appointment only.

**Disclaimer:**     *Course offerings in this program are subject to budgeting, staffing, and student requirements.*

## **Grading System**

Students will be evaluated according to the program in which they are enrolled.

- Students taking trimester long credit recovery courses will receive a mid-trimester progress report and a report card at the end of each trimester. Credit is awarded at the end of the trimester.
- Students enrolled in year-long courses will receive a midterm progress report and a report card for each trimester. Credit may be awarded at the end of the school year.

Students will receive a letter grade for each course. Note that some classes will be graded as Pass/Fail. The letter grades, along with the corresponding numerical grades, are listed below.

A+	(100-97)	A	(96-93)	A-	(92-90)
B+	(89-87)	B	(86-83)	B-	(82-80)
C+	(79-77)	C	(76-73)	C-	(72-70)
D+	(69-67)	D	(66-65)		
F	(64 and below)				

## **Grade Point Average (GPA), Course Weighting, and Class Rank**

Students Grade Point Average (GPA) is a tool used by colleges and universities to assist them in determining the potential success a student may have at their institution. It is also used as a threshold for admittance. The system that colleges and universities use varies from one to the other, and they have not adopted a standard for GPA. Colleges and universities require a wide range of student proficiencies in order to be considered for admittance.

We at Resiliency Preparatory Academy feel that utilizing a weighted system better reflects a sense of a student's potential based on the rigor of the course. A particular weight of a course reflects the rigor and expectations of the coursework, and therefore a course taken in an honors level will have a higher weight. Elective courses do not count in the determination of the GPA. In the event that circumstances exist which are not covered by any academic policy, a student must petition the principal for a hearing.

### **Weighted GPA Scale**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Equivalent</b>	<b>College Preparation</b>	<b>Honors</b>
<b>A+</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>

## **Graduation Requirements**

### **Program of Studies at Resiliency Preparatory Academy**

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY AT RPA (Minimum Standards For All Graduating Classes)**

The Resiliency Preparatory Academy diploma is awarded in recognition of the completion of certain academic requirements. The diploma also signifies that the student has, in the opinion of the School Committee, achieved a standard of conduct during the period up to and including the time of graduation. Academic requirements for the high school diploma shall be attached to this policy and at the request of the School Administration; the School Committee shall review these requirements yearly. Full year and trimester courses earn 1 credit towards graduation. Semester courses earn .5 credits and mini-courses, labs, and quarter courses earn a variation of .25 credits to .50 credits.

To obtain a diploma from the Resiliency Preparatory Academy, each student must satisfy the following requirements in addition to acquiring the mandated passing Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) score for each of the required tests.

#### **Minimum Standards for All Graduating Classes**

English	4 Credits
Social Sciences	3 Credits
Mathematics	3 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Health and/or Physical Education	2 Credits

*Additional elective courses may be required to reach the required promotional credits for graduation.*

#### **Promotion and Graduation Requirements (Minimum Standards)**

To enter the Sophomore Class, a student must have passed a minimum of 5 credits.

To enter the Junior Class, a student must have passed a minimum of 10 credits.

To enter the Senior Class, a student must have passed a minimum of 15 credits.

The minimum Graduation Requirement is 20 credits.

*\* If a student transfers from RPA to Durfee, they are expected to meet Durfee's graduation requirements.*

## **Credit Awarded for Courses Taken at Colleges, Universities and Dual Enrollment**

A student may choose to take a course at a local college or university. When a student elects to take a college course, he/she must decide whether or not the course will count on the high school transcript. This decision must be made at the time the course begins, not after the grade is awarded. The guidance counselor will determine the weight, if any, which will be associated with the course.

## **Transfer Credit**

Student transcripts and past academic records will be evaluated by the guidance counselor at the time of registration. All previous courses are awarded credit values that reflect the RPA school approved Program of Study based on the course level and the combination of all courses previously taken. All courses transferred in from another school will be given the appropriate weight.

## **Massachusetts Board of High Education College Freshman Admissions Standards High School Academic Course Requirements**

The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education requires the following college-preparatory academic units as a minimum:

- 4 year English
- 3 years Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry)
- 3 years Science (2 years of lab science)
- 2 years Social Science (1 U.S. History required)
- 2 years World Language in a single language (or voc. Tech/ Chapter 766 substitution)
- 2 years College Preparatory Electives

The grade point average utilized to determine an applicant's eligibility for admission is cumulative (grade 9 through most recent marks at the time of application) and is weighed using 4.0 scale where "A" = 4.0, "B" = 3.0, "C" = 2.0, and "D" = 1.0. Full year honors level and Advanced Placement courses receive an extra .5 and 1.0 points respectively.

## **Minimum GPA for State College Admission**

The minimum GPA for the state college and universities is 3.00. This GPA must be achieved in the college preparatory courses completed at the time of application, and should be weighted for honors and Advanced Placement courses.

If the student's GPA falls below the minimum required, a sliding scale based on SAT and ACT scores will apply. This scale should be used only when a student's GPA falls below the minimum requirements for the State Colleges or Universities (between 2.00 and 2.99). meeting these requirements does not guarantee admission, as these are minimum requirements. Individual colleges and/or special programs, such as engineering and nursing, may have specific requirements.

It is important that students follow the suggestions of their counselor in choosing courses for their specific goals. It is the responsibility of students planning to further their education beyond high school to consult college catalogs or set

up visits to colleges, universities, and/or technical schools regarding admission requirements.

Resiliency Preparatory Academy students may be allowed to participate in some **Career & Technical Prep Education** programs offered at the RPA Community Engagement Center.. Please refer to the listings in this Program of Studies for further information around these programs.

### **Grade Recovery**

Students who have failed a course or earned a low passing grade at either DHS or RPA, may be allowed to retake the class within the credit recovery program. Student assessments will be based on the original course content. The grade earned may then replace the original course on the student's transcript.

### **Notations and Policies**

#### **Books**

The care and return of textbooks and other assigned materials are an integral part of the course requirements for completing that course and receiving your earned grade. If books are not returned at the end of the course, if the student withdraws, or transfers out of school, an incomplete grade shall be recorded due to failure to meet the course requirements. The book must be returned or a replacement paid for before a grade is issued. Extra curricular participation and sports activities (both privileges) will be denied.

#### **Parent Notification Law**

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 32A allows parents to exempt their children from and portion of the curriculum that primarily involves human sexuality issues through written notification from the parent/guardian to the high school principal. Before making a determination, parents can call the Health Education Office at (508) 675-8430 to review instructional materials.

#### **Attendance Policy**

RPA's attendance policy requires daily attendance with a limited number of absences for full credit in a course. The complete policy is published in the Student Handbook, which each student receives at the beginning of the school year. In short, the policy states that any student who is absent, either excused or unexcused, more than 10 times during a trimester class, or 20 times during a full year class, could receive reduced credit for that course. In addition, any student who cuts 3 or more classes could lose half of the credit earned. Students, who are taking trimester classes and exceed more than 3 absences, may lose half their credit earned.

#### **Late Registration**

Students who have not registered by the beginning of the third week of each trimester will be registered only at the discretion of the Principal or his designee. The Principal or designee will determine final credits issued.

#### **Summer School Regulations**

RPA students may be able to participate in Summer School programming offered at RPA and/or B.M.C. Durfee High School as long as they are in good standing with the school. Summer school students are able to take courses for either original or make-up credit. In order to receive make-up credit for a course, a student needs to have completed the full course with good attendance during the school year, even though the student will receive a failing grade. To receive credit, the signature of the student's Vice- Principals must be obtained before summer school registration begins. Admission to the Summer School Program is not automatic and is at the discretion of the Vice-Principals.



## Early Graduation

There are a number of alternative pathways for students to pursue early graduation. If a student requests to graduate early, he or she, along with parents/guardians will meet with an early graduation review committee that consists of the RPA principal or designee and a member of the district administrative office. A student will only be considered for early graduation by the committee if he/she meets the minimum graduation requirements in addition to one of the following:

- has been accepted to an institution of higher learning
- actively employed, met competencies
- engaged in independent study
- acceptable community service
- extenuating personal circumstances  
(student is a parent, pregnant, family supports are not in place, homelessness, social/emotional)

In addition, any student who has completed three years of high school and has been accepted to an institution of higher learning but who has not completed their requirements for graduation, with the approval of his/her parents, may request that the review committee accept the successful completion of the first year of post secondary study as the equivalent of the fourth year of high school. The diploma will be awarded at that time.

## MCAS Statement

The Massachusetts Education Reform Law of 1993 mandated a statewide program, the ***Massachusetts Comprehension Assessment System (MCAS)***, designed to measure the performance of students, schools, and districts on the academic learning standards contained in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The Education Reform Law also requires students to pass the state's MCAS grade 10 tests, in addition to meeting local graduation requirements, as a condition of receiving a high school diploma.

Results of the MCAS tests are used to identify strengths and weaknesses in curriculum and instruction, and to determine the needs of individual students in order to serve them more effectively. Teachers and administrators use the released MCAS questions to develop and implement instructional strategies.

Students in the **class of 2009 or after** must meet or exceed the **Needs Improvement scaled score of 220** on English Language Arts and Mathematics. Beginning with the **class of 2010**, students must also pass one of four Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS tests by earning a scaled score of 220. ***Students are given multiple opportunities, if necessary, to pass these tests.***

Beginning with the class of 2010, students who score between 220 and 240 in English Language Arts/Mathematics MCAS will have an **Educational Proficiency Plan, (EPP)** for each content area in which he or she did not score at least 240. The MCAS program holds schools and districts accountable, on a yearly basis, for the progress they have made toward meeting their goal set by the ***No Child Left Behind Law of Proficiency*** (240 and above) in reading and mathematics for all students by 2014.

## ***Educational Proficiency Plans (EPP)***

An Educational Proficiency Plan is a summary of a student's academic achievement in Math and English. This plan outlines the strengths and weaknesses of the student in a given subject area, assessing student progress with courses taking in the junior and senior academic year. The purpose is to increase the likelihood that a student graduating from high school will have the academic skills required for success in college or a career pathway.

### ***MCAS Appeals***

MCAS appeals are filed with the Assessment Center for seniors who have not passed all portions of the MCAS test. An appeal to waive the state mandated MCAS requirement for a high school diploma **must show that the student is eligible** by meeting the following criteria:

1. Taken the MCAS test in the subject of the appeal **at least (3) times**.
2. **Maintained a 95% attendance rate** for both their junior and senior years.
3. **Successfully participated in tutoring** or other academic support services made available or approved by the school.
4. Attained a **GPA of at least 1.0** in the subject of the appeal.
5. Achieved a **GPA higher than the GPA of at least 6 students** who have passed the MCAS and have taken the same sequence of courses in the subject of the appeals.

## **English Language Arts Course Descriptions**

### **English I: College Prep**

#### **1 Credit**

Academic English I is a yearlong course designed to prepare students as they gain a command of English and literacy skills that will prepare them for college and career pathways. Through a rigorous curriculum, freshman will be exposed to reading, writing, and oral communication through a variety of literature. Within writing, students will engage in persuasive, narrative and expository text structures. Grammar usage and vocabulary are covered through compositions and the interpretations of various genres, such as short fictions, non-fiction, drama, poetry and novels. The goal is to prepare students for a diverse 21<sup>st</sup> century society in either an academic or career setting.

### **English II: College Prep**

#### **1 Credit**

Academic English II is a standards based yearlong course designed to expose students to the academic and career pathways of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Through an enriched curriculum, sophomores enrolled in English undertake a study of expository as well as creative writing and begin to consider their style in writing. Vocabulary, grammar, and usage are integrated as part of the study of both literature and composition; reading and writing exercises similar to those on the MCAS test taken in the sophomore year are included within the curriculum. The overall emphasis is to establish a connection between World Literature and our modern society.

### **English III: College Prep**

#### **1 Credit**

Academic English III is a yearlong course designed primarily for juniors who plan to continue their studies in an academic setting. This course is designed to prepare the student for the 21<sup>st</sup> century society with a focus on writing and technical skills he/she will need to function successfully in a competitive school and career. The goal of the course is to instill an understanding and appreciation of American Literature.

## **English IV: College Prep**

### **1 Credit**

Senior Contemporary Literature is a yearlong course designed primarily for seniors who plan to continue their studies in an academic or career pathway. The course objective is to expose students to the impact of global author on literary scope and achievement. In addition, current articles inclusive of vocabulary and subject matter geared toward building an awareness of the issues and themes of authors in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are considered. Oral communication, written responses, and interpretation of the readings will be the main forms of assessment.

## **Humanities I**

### **1 Credit**

This course explores the relationships among art, music, literature, history, and popular culture within the theme of “generations.” Students begin the trimester investigating their own generation and then look back at our recent American culture through the generations of the 40’s to the 80’s. Each student will take part in an oral history project that will gather interviews from older people reflecting on their teenage years. Art history and art projects will include collage, abstract expressionism, and pop art. Students’ understanding of literature, music, and visual arts will be enhanced through film/video, and performances. (Full year course)

## **Humanities II**

### **2 Credits**

This course focuses on creativity and the artist through the exploration of literature, art, music, film, and social history. Students will explore various writers, visual artists, musicians, and filmmakers by investigating what, how, when, and why they were created. Students will explore their own creativity through group and individual projects. Library, internet research, formal and creative writing assignments, and film analysis. (Full year course)

## **Creative Writing**

### **.5 Credits**

This course will help students become more creative, develop an individual writing style, and develop facility in written communication. Many writing assignments stimulate students to observe the world around them and to incorporate their impressions and ideas into their writing. Students will be asked to write poems, journals, short stories and plays. Good writing skills are a prerequisite for this course. (Trimester course)

## **Journalism**

### **.5 Credits**

Students will learn the skills necessary to publish and print electronic media. Various styles of writing, editing, layout, advertising, photography, and desktop publishing are covered throughout the course. The course has many advantages for students interested in college and/or career pathways. The course expands students writing and editing skills, connects students to society, and advances their knowledge of technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The skills learned can lead directly to college writing, journalism, or communication majors, as well as internships or jobs in the media industry. (Trimester Course)

## **Writer’s Workshop**

### **Credits**

**.5**

This course will introduce the student to the fundamentals of yearbook production. Topics covered are writing, digital photography, editing, design, advertising, public relations, and ethics. The course is designed to teach the skills necessary to produce a published anthology, as well as gain useful real world skills in time management, marketing, and teamwork for students interested in college and/or career pathways. The course expands student writing and editing skills, advances their knowledge of technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and introduces areas of future study that often go undiscovered until students have been exposed to them. (Trimester Course)

### **Business English Credits**

**.5**

This course is designed for the preparation of students for the world of work, either immediately after high school or after college. Students will learn job-getting skills, such as cover letters, resumes and interviewing techniques as well as skills needed on the job, such as technical reading and writing and the use of spreadsheets, business letters and memos. (Trimester course)

### **English Literacy .5 Credits**

English Literacy is a standards-based course for the student who has evidenced through testing to be in need of remediation of reading skills. The English Literacy curriculum is focused on accelerating the reading comprehension ability of students who enter the high school below grade level. The course is researched-based and provides instruction to facilitate the advancement of students toward reading fluency. Students enrolled in this course receive extended class instruction. (Trimester course)

### **MCAS English .5 Credits**

This course helps students who have not passed or are in danger of not passing the MCAS, an exam all students must pass to graduate. Students learn skills that will help them not only pass the exam, but also improve their general English education. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, mechanics, writing and grammar. (Trimester course)

## **Social Sciences Course Descriptions**

### **US/World I 1 Credit**

United States History I is a required course for all students and must be passed for graduation. This course includes the History of the United States from 1763 to 1865. The course is based on the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework Standards U.S. I.1-41. Topics include the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras and the basic concepts and structure of our American government. Students also study America's westward expansion, the establishment of political parties, and economic and social change. Finally, students learn about the growth of sectional conflict, how this conflict led to the Civil War, and the consequences of the Civil War. College Prep level courses are for the student who intends to attend college and still wants a rigorous course. Students will read and write in history and practice basic research techniques.

### **US/World II 1 Credit**

This is a required course for students, which must be passed to meet graduation requirements. The course continues the study of United States History begun in U.S. History I, beginning with the Period of Reconstruction and continuing to the present day. Students will analyze the causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, America's role in diplomatic relations, and the accomplishments of the Progressive movement and the New Deal. They will also learn about the factors that led to America's entry into World War II as well as causes of the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement and recent events and trends in America.

### **US/World III**

#### **1 Credit**

This required course is designed to give students a better understanding of the rise of nations in Europe, revolutions in France, Latin America, and Russia. It will examine the political, economic, and social roots of the modern world. Students will study the origins and impact of the agricultural and industrial revolution, political reform in Western Europe and New Imperialism in Africa, Asia and South America. Students will also study the causes and effects of great military and economic events such as World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War era and other events of the 20th century.

### **American Pop**

#### **.5 credits**

American Pop is meant to help students learn to think critically and historically about the mass-produced culture that surrounds us every day. The course looks at how pop culture both shapes and reflects American society. Songs, novels, films, and television, are analyzed and viewed within historical context. Thinking critically is what takes this course a step away from a superficial discussion about movies, music etc. and moves toward the question of why the issue of popular culture so important. We will investigate what roles past persons or events in popular culture played, and what kind of needs that pop culture filled and continues to fill decade-by-decade from the 1920's to the present.

### **Current Events**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course focuses on current world events. Students in this class will be guided in examining and researching major topics occurring around us. Daily newspapers, television news broadcasts and internet reports will form the basis of available reading and information. Themes that will be investigated include: politics, government, social issues, and economic concerns in our region, state, country or the world. All students in this course will be required to examine current topics, and report on them in class as well as write reaction papers to the events under study. Daily journals and participation will be expected.

### **Introduction to Psychology**

#### **.5 Credits**

This is an introductory course in the scientific study of human behavior that includes the aims and methods of psychology, the physiological functions of the brain, and the principles of learning, memory, emotions, motivation, and personality. Emphasis is placed on the role of experimentation, writing assignments, and the application of psychology in the lives of the students. Students should expect to make a commitment to significant reading and writing. (Trimester course)

### **Introduction to Sociology**

### **.5 Credits**

This course helps students develop an understanding of group life and the influences of heredity and environment. It emphasizes the forces of social cooperation versus the forces of social conflict. Areas of study include: culture, crowd behavior, mass media, propaganda, marriage, the family, race, class structure, education, and religion. Through the study of sociology, students will develop a broader perspective of how people relate in the world with an emphasis on critical thinking. Requirements include outside readings and a research project. (Trimester course)

### **Introduction to Child Psychology**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course is designed for students in Grade 11 and 12 who are especially interested in studying child development. A passing grade in Introduction to Psychology is a prerequisite. It covers all areas of child development including biological beginnings, prenatal development, physical development in infancy and childhood, language and emotional development as well as families, peers and schools. This rigorous elective is especially suited for students seeking a post secondary education in a number of fields including, education, medical, social work or any other in which knowledge of child development is an asset. Students should expect to make a commitment to significant reading and writing. (Trimester course)

### **Introduction to Adolescent Psychology**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course presents a critical and technical view of theories pertaining to the intellectual and social development of adolescents. Students should expect to make a commitment to significant reading and writing. The topics covered are historical view of adolescence, adolescent transition, biological and cognitive development, social, emotional and personality development, gender and sexuality and adolescent mental health and illness issues. (Trimester course)

### **Practical Law**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course focuses on the revolution of law in the United States. A major emphasis of this course will be to explain the rights and responsibilities of students and juveniles under our legal system. Other areas to be covered include introduction to law, trial procedure, criminal versus civil law, and the Bill of Rights. (Trimester course).

## **Mathematics Course Descriptions**

### **Integrated Math I**

#### **1 Credit**

This year-long standards based course is intended to assist students in acquiring competencies necessary for future success in mathematics. It is a research-based approach that enables students to refine their mathematical skills and address their weaknesses.

### **Integrated Math II**

#### **1 Credit**

This year-long standards based course will cover material outlined in the Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks. Students will receive additional instruction in the skills of problem solving, communicating, reasoning, and connecting to explore, develop, investigate, and comprehend topics of algebra and geometry. The algebra included in this course will involve learning to solve algebraic equations in multiple steps, write linear equations using multiple forms, solve simultaneous equations, and factor polynomials. The geometry is integrated with the algebra as students use the algebraic properties to calculate the area of two dimensional figures, apply the rules for similarity and congruence to two and three dimensional figures, and calculate the surface area and volume of three dimensional figures.

### **Integrated Math III**

#### **1 Credit**

This year-long standards based course will cover material outlined in the Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks. The main objective of this course is to review the Algebra I and Geometry standards taught in Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II and build upon the foundation needed for students to follow a traditional math curriculum. More complexity of the Algebra and Geometry is taught as students begin to study the relationships between different types of algebraic functions, polynomial equations, and applying right triangle trigonometry.

### **Algebra I**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a year-long standards based Algebra 1 course with emphasis on the structure of Algebra. The acquisition of skills and the understanding of concepts are brought about by the study of such topics as formulas and their usage, signed and literal numbers, equations, fractions, factors, etc. By the end of the course, students will be exposed to factor polynomials and solving basic equations involving polynomials.

### **Plane Geometry**

#### **Credit**

**1**

This standards-based year long course stresses the formal structure of geometry with arithmetic, algebra, and numerical trigonometry. It also emphasizes critical thinking involving relationships, their proofs, and skill in applying the inductive method to mathematical situations. Topics of study include relationships between congruent polygons, similar polygons, right triangle trigonometry, calculating the area of two-dimensional figures, and calculating the surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures. A graphing calculator is recommended.

### **Algebra II**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based year long course that an extension of algebraic principles with concepts more abstract in nature. Emphasis is directed towards understanding and applying algebraic concepts and skills. Selected topics included the study of rational equations and functions, polynomial functions, and the study of logarithms and exponential growth. A graphing calculator is required.

### **Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry**

#### **Credit**

**1**

This course uses algebraic expressions and forms for studying functions. Graphing is emphasized and Geometry is applied. Topics include inverses, square roots, cube roots: exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. This course will also include descriptive and inferential statistics, function analysis, combinatorial and probability.

## **Mathematics**

### **Elective Course Descriptions**

#### **SAT Prep**

**.5 Credits**

This course is designed to provide students with strategies in both Math and English that should result in increased success on college entrance examinations. The course will be presented in two parts. Math: numbers & operations, Algebra & Functions, Geometry & Measurements, and Statistics, data analysis & Probability English: Critical Reading, including sentence completion and reading comprehension: and Writing, including usage, sentence and paragraph correction and improvement, and the SAT essay. Each teacher will present equal instruction in their content area. Class size will be limited to 12 students so that individualized student strengths and weaknesses can be identified.

#### **Introductions to Statistics**

**.5 Credits**

Designed for college bound juniors and seniors, the trimester long course introduces students to the rigorous analysis of data. It includes the four major themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and producing models using probability, simulation, and statistical inference. Extensive use of technology is included.

*Prerequisite: A passing grade in Algebra I and Geometry is required.*

#### **Mathematics Enrichment I**

**.5 Credits**

This trimester long course is to be taken in addition to the Integrated Math II class or any other appropriate math course the student is scheduled to take. Students will focus on preparation for the Grade 10 MCAS exam. The curriculum is in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Education frameworks and the emphasis of study is on Algebra I and Geometry concepts. This is a pass/fail course.

#### **Mathematics Enrichment II**

**.5 Credits**

This trimester long course is for any junior or senior who wants review topics that are tested on the MCAS exam. It is strongly recommended for any student who needs additional support to pass the MCAS exam. Students will focus on preparation for the Grade 10 MCAS exam. The curriculum is in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Education frameworks and the emphasis of study is on Algebra I and Geometry concepts. This is a pass/fail course.

#### **Mathematics Enrichment III**

**.5 Credits**

This is a trimester long course for any junior or senior that needs Algebra II support. In addition, these students will need Algebra remediation in order to be properly prepared for Algebra II. Topics covered will include solving multi-step equations and inequalities, analyzing linear equations through graphing and written form, solving simultaneous equations through algebra and graphing, studying polynomial relationships, and factoring polynomial expressions. In addition, students who need MCAS remediation will benefit from the differentiated instruction that will



be offered. This is a pass/fail course.

## **Science Course Descriptions**

### **Freshman Science**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based, integrated course which incorporates the Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks. Coursework in this college prep level class moves at a challenging pace. Units in this class cover Biology, Chemistry, and experimentation. The class work is student-oriented and will stress the practical applications of science.

### **Biology**

#### **1 Credit**

This course is a standards based course, which incorporates the Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks. Coursework in this college prep level class moves at a challenging pace. Topics include: structure and composition of organic molecules, structure and function of cells, hydrolysis, dehydration synthesis, protein synthesis, genetics, human anatomy and physiology, evolution and biodiversity, taxonomy; and ecology. The class work is student-oriented, and inquiry based laboratory investigations form a major portion of the courses.

### **Marine Biology**

#### **1 Credit**

This course is a standards based course, which incorporates the Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks. Coursework will include lecture, assessments, and hands on activities. Additionally, the course will include discussions around the properties of water, the oceans of the world, geology, weather, and animal life. The course begins with microscopic life, invertebrates, fish, sharks, and marine mammals. Exploration in conservation and marine science careers and opportunities will be discussed.

### **Intro to Chemistry**

#### **1.5 Credits**

College Chemistry is a standards based course incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for chemistry. This is a systematic overview of chemistry that includes the properties of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, the gas laws, solutions, acids and bases, equilibrium, and thermo-chemistry. This is a laboratory-oriented course that will require the exercise of moderate mathematical skills. Coursework in this college prep level class moves at a challenging pace.

### **Physics**

#### **1.5 Credits**

College physics is a standards based course which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for physics. It is an algebra-based-course covering linear motion, dynamics, work-energy-momentum, heat, wave motion, and electromagnetism. In addition to problem solving, students will work in groups in the laboratory and in preparation of multimedia presentations.

## **College Technology and Engineering**

### **1 Credit**

This course is a standards based course, which incorporates the Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks. Topics include a conceptual study of motion, forces, energy, momentum, heat and heat transfer, waves, electromagnetism, and electromagnetic radiation with a focus on the basic principles of physics. Students should have the mathematical skills necessary to deal with the quantitative measurements.

## **Science**

### **Elective Course Descriptions**

#### **Environmental Science**

##### **1 Credit**

This standards based elective is designed to give all students an elective in the freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year that is challenging and relevant. Topics covered include earth's systems, ecosystem function and energy flow, land and water use, pollution, energy resources, and global change. (Trimester Course)

#### **The Biology of Human Reproduction**

##### **.5 Credits**

This elective course will focus on the biological aspects of human reproduction. Topics include reproductive hormones, anatomy and physiology, development, childbirth, genetic disorders, infertility, birth control, and sexually transmitted diseases. (Trimester Course)

## **Technical Engineering & Computer Science**

#### **Audio Recording Technology I**

##### **.5 Credits**

This course is intended for those students who want to study audio engineering. Students will earn the fundamental concepts of analog recordings as well as computer-based recording techniques and will have hands-on training in these areas.

#### **Audio Recording Technology II**

##### **.5 Credits**

This course is intended for those students who want to continue their study of audio engineering. Students will learn the fundamental concepts of analog recordings as well as computer-based recording techniques and will have hands-on training in these areas.

#### **Graphic Design**

##### **.5 Credits**

This course is designed for students who plan to pursue a post secondary education in graphic design or visual communications. Students will learn the process and art of combining text and graphics to communicate an effective message in the design of logos, graphics, brochures, newsletters, posters, signs and any other type of visual

communication.

## **Practical & Fine Arts**

### **Art I**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course is designed to foster individual creativity based upon studio experiences in art while using the elements and principles of design. It is a rigorous course in which students are challenged. Various concepts in art will be explored and analyzed, providing a structure and framework needed in the creation of original works of art. This course will also allow students numerous hands-on experiences in which they will be able to explore various drawing and painting materials, techniques, concepts and subjects matter as well as collage, printmaking and clay modeling. As students develop a more comprehensive vocabulary in art, they will be able to effectively communicate their thoughts and ideas about and through the arts. (Trimester Course)

### **Art II**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course is a continuation of Art I and is designed for students who are interested in continuing their education in the visual arts. This course will instill a comprehensive view of the visual arts through hands-on activities related to investigation and experimentation, Students will participate in class discussions and critiques. (Trimester Course)

### **Guitar/Songwriting**

#### **.5 Credits**

This trimester course is for the beginning and advanced guitar students. This course is also for instrumental students interested in composition. Content includes theory, chord progressions and instrumental technique. Students will write lyrics and create instrumental parts in the music lab. Students will learn to copyright their works and records a demo. Student performance for a live audience is required. (Trimester Course)

### **Foods I**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course is designed to develop basic skills and techniques in cooking, along with comprehension of basic nutritional needs. (Trimester Course)

### **Foods II**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course expands upon the basic skills learned in Foods I, and includes more advanced methods of cooking and baking techniques, along with a more in-depth study of nutrition and its role in good overall health. Also the skills learned in Foods I will be applied to sound techniques of food preparation. (Trimester Course)

### **Family Living**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course is designed to help the student assume adult responsibilities and offer practical recommendations for avoiding such teenage problems as early marriage, drug abuse and poor use of personal time. It will also offer insights

into the area of child development. (Trimester Course)

### **Photography I** **.5 Credits**

Introduction to Photography is designed to teach the basics of black and white photography. Students will learn how to operate 35mm cameras. Students will be introduced to the design concepts of line, shape, value, and form. (Trimester Course)

### **Photography II** **.5 Credits**

Intermediate Photography requires that students know how to use a 35mm camera. Students will develop skills in aesthetics and art criticism through self-assessment and class critiques. Students will begin to formulate their own projects using the vocabulary of contemporary photography. (Trimester Course)

### **Introduction to Business** **.5 Credits**

This course is designed to give students a comprehensive introduction to the business world. Units to be covered will include sections on the following topics: our economic system, our role in business as a consumer, banking and financial services, credit, insurance, and labor issues. (Trimester Course)

### **Principles of Marketing** **.5 Credits**

Students learn the functions of retailing and merchandising in this career-oriented course. Units of study include: marketing in our economy, the changing retail scene, retail selling, promotion through visual merchandising, advertising and sales promotion, pricing for profit, and career planning. Case studies, hands-on training, and group activity projects are included. (Trimester Course)

### **Life Skills** **.5 Credits**

This course is designed to provide students with information about a wide range of subjects to assist them in becoming a wise consumer and productive adults. Topics discussed will include goal-setting, decision-making, and setting priorities, money and time management, relationships, and the development of the self. In addition, topics such as insurance, taxation, and consumer protection may also be covered. (Trimester Course)

### **Independent Study** **.5 Credits**

This program provides students with the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the curriculum in any academic or occupational discipline to include alternate forms of research, college course work, shadowing, etc.,. Students who decide to participate should consult first with a faculty member who agrees to serve as an advisor with the approval of an administrator. There are two types of Independent Study. IS Project, which requires a final presentation of a product on a designated January date (trimester 1) and a designated May date (trimester 2) and IS Curriculum, which requires a paper documenting the course work. Each student will design an Independent Study program and submit an

application detailing learning objectives, methodologies, proposed activities, timelines, evaluation rubric, and the final project to be submitted. Students are required to confer with their advisor four times per trimester. A grade will be given and 0.5 credits awarded for successful completion of each trimester-long independent study. (Trimester Course)

### **Clerical Experience**

#### **.5 Credits**

Students will be assigned to a teacher or office clerk where they will assist in clerical duties. This may include filing, mail sorting, distribution, mailings, copying class materials, etc. Students will have the opportunity to use Microsoft Office products including; Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. (Trimester Course)

### **Career and College Readiness (CCR)**

#### **.5 Credits**

Students will explore a variety of career paths and will research requirements for admission into various colleges and universities. Students will also complete a career interest inventory, identify job opportunities within that field, and identify the skills needed to obtain their goals. Students will write college essays and be introduced to the FAFSA form. In addition they will prepare for the PSAT and SATs. Students will tour a college campus. (Trimester Course)

### **BCC Placeholder**

#### **1 Credit**

This is used as a placeholder for students who are enrolled at BCC. The course name, credit and grade will be posted to the students transcript upon receipt of the BCC transcript.

### **Advisory**

#### **1 Credit**

The Advisory Class is a course in which there is a genuine focus on the teacher building a lasting relationship with the students in the class. The Advisory class will meet four days a week, where lessons on Perseverance, Attitude, Character and Knowledge in and out of school will be addressed; as well as lessons on specific study habits and skills to help the student succeed in school. One day a week will be devoted to participation around school improvement at RPA. Finally, our Advisory curriculum will focus on individual student academic success and with this, will provide a quiet place for students to work on and get help with classes that they need help in; as well as reward those students that are keeping their academic grades above a "C".

## **Physical Education & Health Course Descriptions**

### **Physical Education**

#### **.5 Credit per Trimester**

This course will include walking, aerobic activity, team sports, individual sports and outdoor pursuits. Grading will be based upon attendance, active participation, and attaining a level of proficiency that is proportional to each student's individual potential. (Trimester Course)

### **Fitness Concepts & Weight Management**

#### **.5 Credits**

This course is designed for those students that are serious about learning and engaging in physical activity and weight management. The intent of the program is for students to understand the need to be physically fit and to maintain a healthy weight by developing their own fitness plan. Students will be assessed on classroom and all fitness activities. (Trimester Course)

## **Health**

### **.5 Credit per Trimester**

This course is designed to provide basic health concepts necessary for making good decisions to enhance optimal health. Topics discussed will include nutrition, weight management concepts, mental health, substance abuse, reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, disease prevention, and maintain healthy body systems. (Trimester Course)

## **CPR and First Aid**

### **.5 Credits**

This course will provide students with an opportunity to become certified in CPR, First Aid, First Responder, and Automatic External Defibrillators.

## **School to Career Program**

### **School to Career Internship**

#### **1.5 Credits**

This course will provide the opportunity for students to apply their academics to the real world of work. Students will be required to attend one class a week which will focus on work readiness skills including resume writing, cover letters, filling out applications, interviewing techniques and other skills necessary to be successful in the world of work. Students may have the opportunity to perform their internship within workforce development tracks offered in the community engagement center. Internships may be paid or unpaid experiences.

## **Credit Recovery**

The Resiliency Preparatory Academy Credit Recovery program consists of trimester courses that run in 12- week intervals, which are designed to assist students who are looking for a variety of options to fulfill their graduations requirements. The courses are designed to meet the standards outlined in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The platform for these classes can be offered online, partially online with a face-to-face component, or strictly face-to-face. The courses run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and students are allowed to leave the building after their courses are completed for the day. The eligibility requirements are listed as follows, and students must meet one or more of these criteria.

- Student is over-aged and under-credited.
- Student needs the coursework for “grade recovery”
- Student has social/emotional issues that don’t allow them to be successful in the mainstream.
- Student is employed and/or taking care of a family member, which requires him/her to have a flexible schedule.

- Student is enrolled in a variety of programs (BCC, DHS, Gateway to College, etc.)

## **Credit Recovery Trimester Course Descriptions**

### **English I 1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course, designed for students who are entering high school. This course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on paragraph development, grammar usage, vocabulary, narration and summary writing. In writing students will learn the process of planning, drafting, editing, conferring and sharing as well as write for a variety of purposes. Reading and writing exercises are studied similar to those on the MCAS test.

### **English II 1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course designed for individuals who wish to continue their academic studies. Through a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on creative writing, vocabulary, grammar, and usage are integrated as part of the study of both literature and composition. Reading and writing exercises are studied similar to those on the MCAS test are emphasized within the curriculum.

### **English III 1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course primarily designed for those students who wish to continue their academic studies. Through a rigorous curriculum this course seeks to instill an understanding and appreciation of British and World Literature. Grammar is reviewed in conjunction with composition through which unity and coherence is stressed. Composition work is designed to help the student improve their writing skills.

### **English IV 1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course designed for those students who wish to continue their academic studies. Through a rigorous curriculum this course engages students to become critical thinkers and readers. The course objective is to introduce students to selected works of contemporary World Literature. Independent readings will be analyzed and discussed bringing awareness of issues and themes from authors of the 20th century.

### **Algebra I 1 Credit**

A standards' based 12-week course, designed for students who are entering a first year high school math course. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on understanding the concepts brought about by the studying of formulas and their usage, signed and literal numbers, equations, fractions and factors. By the end of this course students will be able to graph quadratic functions and solve quadratic equations. Math exercises studied are similar to those on the MCAS test. A graphing calculator is recommended for this course.

## **Geometry**

### **1 Credit**

A standards' based 12-week course, designed for students who wish to continue their academic studies. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the formal structure of geometry with arithmetic, algebra and numerical trigonometry. It also emphasizes critical thinking involving relationships, their proofs, and skill in applying the inductive method to mathematical situations. Topics of study include relationships between congruent polygons, similar polygons, and right-triangle trigonometry. Math exercises studied are similar to those on the MCAS test.

## **Algebra II**

### **1 Credit**

A standards' based 12-week course, designed for students who wish to continue their academic studies. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the extension of algebraic principles with concepts more abstract in nature. Emphasis is directed towards understanding and applying algebraic concepts and skills. Topics include the study of rational equations and functions, polynomial functions, and the study of logarithms and exponential growth. A graphing calculator is recommended for this course.

## **Statistics**

### **1 Credit**

This standards based 12-week course introduces students to the rigorous analysis of data. It includes the four major themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and producing models using probability, simulation, and statistical inference. This is a basic course in statistics, which introduces the student to the art of collecting and analyzing data and making inferences from the data.

## **Integrated Math I**

### **1 Credit**

This standards based 12 week course will cover material outlined in the Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks. The main objective of this course is to review the Algebra I and Geometry standards taught in Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II and build upon the foundation needed for students to follow a traditional math curriculum. More complexity of Algebra and Geometry is taught as students begin to study the relationships between different types of algebraic functions, polynomial equations, and applying right triangle trigonometry.

## **Integrated Math II**

### **1 Credit**

This standards based 12 week course will cover material outlined in the Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks. Students will receive additional instruction in the skills of problem solving, communicating, reasoning, and connecting to explore, develop, investigate and comprehend topics of algebra and geometry. The algebra included in this course will involve learning to solve algebraic equations in multiple steps, write linear equations using multiple forms, solve simultaneous equations, and factor polynomials. The geometry is integrated with the algebra as students use the algebraic properties to calculate the area of two dimensional figures, apply the rules for similarity and congruence to two and three dimensional figures, and calculate the surface area and volume of three dimensional figures.

## **Integrated Math III**

### **1 Credit**



This standards based 12 week course will cover material outlined in the Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks. The main objective of this course is to review the Algebra I and Geometry standards taught in Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II and build upon the foundation needed for students to follow a traditional math curriculum. More complexity of Algebra and Geometry is taught as students begin to study the relationships between different types of algebraic functions, polynomial equations, and applying right triangle trigonometry.

### **Biology I**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course, designed for students who are entering a first year high school science course. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on understanding the concepts of structure and composition of organic molecules, structure and function of cells, hydrolysis, dehydration synthesis, protein synthesis, genetics, human anatomy and physiology, evolution and biodiversity. Biology topics studied are reflective to those areas covered on the MCAS test.

### **Marine Biology**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course which incorporates the Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks. Coursework will include lecture, assessments, and hands on activities. Topics around how ocean impacts everyday life is explored. Additionally, the course will include discussions around the properties of water, the oceans of the world, geology, weather, and animal life. The course begins with the study of microscopic life, invertebrates, fish, sharks, and marine mammals. Exploration in conservation and marine science careers and opportunities will be discussed.

### **Physics**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12 week course which incorporates the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for physics. Coursework in this college prep level class moves at a challenging pace. It is an algebra based course covering linear motion, dynamics, work-energy-momentum, heat, wave motion, and electromagnetism. In addition to problem solving, students will work in groups in the laboratory and in preparation of multimedia presentations.

### **College Chemistry**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course, designed for students who are registering for a high school lab science course. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on a more in-depth study of chemistry that includes the properties of matter, atomic structure and periodicity, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, gas laws, solutions, acids and bases, equilibrium, electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Chemistry topics studied are reflective to those areas covered on the MCAS test.

### **College Technology and Engineering**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course, designed for students who are registering for a high school lab science course. Topics include a conceptual study of motion, force, energy, momentum, heat and heat transfer, waves, electromagnetism, and electromagnetic radiation with a focus on the basic principles of physics. Students should have

the mathematical skills necessary to deal with quantitative measurements.

### **US/World I**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course, designed for students who are entering a first year high school social science course. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the history of the United States from 1763 to 1865. Topics include the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras and the basic concepts and structure of our American government. Students will learn about events that took place leading up to the Civil War and the consequences of the Civil War.

### **US/World II**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course, designed for students who wish to continue their academic studies in the area of social sciences. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the history of the United States continuing from US History 1, beginning with the Reconstruction Period and continuing to present day. Students will analyze the causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, America's role in diplomatic relations, and the accomplishments of the Progressive movement and the New Deal. Students will also analyze some of the factors that led to America's entry into World War II as well as the causes of the Cold War.

### **US/World III**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course, designed for students who wish to continue their academic studies. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the rise of nations in Europe, revolutions in France, Latin America and Russia. This course examines the political, economical and social roots of the modern world. It also examines the origins and impact of the industrial revolution, and political reform in Western Europe and Imperialism in Africa, Asia and South America. Students will also study the economic impact caused by such events as World War I, The Great Depression, World War II and The Cold War.

### **Practical Law**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course built to measure knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts Curriculum. The course will focus on the evolution of law in the United States. A major emphasis of this course will be to explain the rights and responsibilities of students and juveniles under our legal system. Other areas to be covered include introduction to law, trial procedure, criminal versus civil law, and the Bill of Rights.

### **Current Events**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course built to measure knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts Curriculum. This course focuses on current world events. Students in this class will be guided in examining and researching major topics occurring around us. Daily newspapers, television news broadcasts and internet reports will form the basis of available reading and information. Themes that will be investigated include: politics, government, social issues, and economic concerns in our region, state, country or the world. All students in this course will be required to examine current topics, and report on them in class as well as write reaction papers to the events under study. Daily journals and

participation will be expected.

### **Intro to Psychology**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course designed for students who wish to continue their academic studies. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with a main focus on studying human development through the lifespan, biological influences on behavior, personality formation, intelligence, perceptions and sensation, frustration and stress and mental health/illness. This course is based on student research and analytical writings based on case studies.

### **Intro to Sociology**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards 12-week course designed for students who wish to continue their academic studies. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with a main focus on the study of human relationships. The emphasis in this course is on race, minority groups, gender roles, social mobility and stratification, crime, world population and man's adaptation to social changes. Through the study of sociology, students will develop a broader perspective of how people relate in the world with an emphasis on critical thinking.

### **Intro to Business**

#### **1 Credit**

A standards based 12-week course designed for students who wish to continue their academic studies. The course follows a rigorous curriculum, which focuses on several key business principles; Introduction to Business Law, Computer Applications, Introduction to Business and Business Communication, Resume Writing, and Interviewing Techniques. Students will be able to integrate their personal work experiences along with the classroom experiences.

### **Physical Education**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based 12-week course which will include aerobic activity, team sports, individual sports and outdoor pursuits. Grading will be based upon attendance, active participation, and attaining a level of proficiency that is proportional to each student's individual potential.

### **Advisory 1 Credit**

The advisory class is a course in which there is a genuine focus on the teacher building a lasting relationship with the students in the class- relationships where the students feel as if they belong to something, where the students feel that someone is always there for them and where the students have some guidance with academic and social successes. The advisory class will meet four days a week, where lessons on Perseverance, Attitude, Character and Knowledge in and out of school will be addressed, as well as lessons on specific study habits and skills to help the student succeed in school. One day a week will be devoted to participation around school improvement at RPA. Finally, our advisory curriculum will focus on individual student academic success and with this, will provide a quiet place for students to work on and get help with classes that they need help in; as well as reward those students that are keeping their academic grades above a "C".

### **Health**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based 12-week course which will address health issues adolescents currently face as well as those they will begin to experience as they enter later adolescence. Information assessing, decision-making, self-management and advocacy skills will be incorporated in the course. Topics will include weight management programs and nutritional supplements, stress and anger management, conflict development and resolution, consumer health and resource management, and mental illness.

## **Art I**

### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based 12-week course built to measure knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts curriculum. This course is designed to foster individual creativity based upon studio experiences in art while using the elements and principles of design. It is a rigorous course in which students are challenged. Various concepts in art will be explored and analyzed, providing a structure and framework needed in the creation of original works of art. This course will also allow students numerous hands-on experiences in which they will be able to explore various drawing and painting materials, techniques, concepts and subjects matter as well as collage, printmaking and clay modeling. As students develop a more comprehensive vocabulary in art, they will be able to effectively communicate their thoughts and ideas about and through the arts.

## **Art II**

### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based 12-week course built to measure knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts curriculum. This course is a continuation of Art I and is designed for students who are interested in continuing their education in the visual arts. This course will instill a comprehensive view of the visual arts through hands-on activities related to investigation and experimentation. Students will participate in class discussions and critiques.

## **Graphic Design**

### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based 12-week course built to measure knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts curriculum. The course is designed for students who plan to pursue a post-secondary education in graphic design or visual communications. Students will learn the process and art of combining text and graphics to communicate an effective plan in the design of logos, graphics, brochures, newsletters, posters, signs and any other type of visual communication.

## **Audio Recording Technology I**

### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based 12-week course built to measure knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts curriculum. This course is intended for those students who want to study audio engineering. Students will earn the fundamental concepts of analog recordings as well as computer-based recording techniques and will have hands-on training in these areas.

## **Audio Recording Technology II**

### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based 12-week course built to measure knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts curriculum. This course is intended for those students who want to continue their study of audio engineering. Students will learn the fundamental concepts of analog recordings as well as computer-based recording techniques and will have hands-on training in these areas.

### **Culinary**

#### **1 Credit**

These courses are designed to train students in a sequence of activities for kitchen and bakery laboratory and dining room experiences, including menu planning, ordering, and inventory control as well as baking fundamentals including pastries, breads and special occasion cakes.

## **Online Course Descriptions**

### **English I**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course using the Massachusetts standards. The course is designed to help students strengthen the skills developed in middle school language arts. It also provides a foundation for the courses that are to follow. Students are taught the rules of grammar and usage, and will be expected to write clearly, concisely, and correctly. Students will learn literary terms and will learn to apply these terms. They will develop their vocabularies and will improve their reading skills while becoming acquainted with a variety of literary genres, including: the short story, the novella, the epic poem, and various myths, legends, and folktales. Students who select this course should have a solid background in reading and writing.

### **English II**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course using the Massachusetts curriculum standards. The emphasis is on creative writing, vocabulary, grammar and usage integrated as a part of the study of both literature and composition. Reading and writing persuasive exercises are studied similar to those on the MCAS test and emphasized within the curriculum.

### **English III**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure students' knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. This course is designed to prepare the student in the writing and technical skills he/she will need to function successfully in post-secondary education and/or career. Both classic and contemporary American Literature will be reviewed and analyzed within the context of its literary/historical period. Composition work is designed to aid the student in the improvement of writing skills through analysis of prose.

### **English IV**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure students' knowledge and understanding of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Independent reading of selected works of contemporary world literature will be utilized to analyze the impact of diverse cultures on literary scope and achievement. In addition, current articles inclusive of

vocabulary and subject matter geared toward building an awareness of the issues and themes of twenty first century authors are considered. Students will write critical essays throughout the course to complete a portfolio for presentation.

### **Intro to Biology I**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Coursework in this college prep level class moves at a challenging pace. Topics include: structure and composition of organic molecules, structure and function of cells, and genetics. The class work is student-oriented, and inquiry based laboratory investigations form a major portion of the coursework.

### **Biology I**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Coursework in this college prep level class moves at a challenging pace. Topics include: human anatomy and physiology, evolution and biodiversity, taxonomy; and ecology. The class work is student oriented, and inquiry based laboratory investigations form a major portion of the courses.

### **US History I**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the history of the United States from 1763-1865. Topics include the historical and intellectual origins of the United States during the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras and the basic concepts and structure of our American government. Students will learn about what events that took place leading to the Civil War and the consequences of the Civil War.

### **US History II**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the history continuing from US History I, beginning with the Reconstruction Period and continuing to present day. Students will analyze the cause and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, America's role in diplomatic relations, and the accomplishments of the Progressive movement and the New Deal. Students will also analyze some of the factors that led to America's entry into World War 11 as well as the causes of the Cold War.

### **World History I**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the rise of nations in Europe, revolutions in France, Latin America and Russia. This course examines the political, economical and social roots of the modern world. It also examines the origins and impact of the industrial revolution, and political reform in Western Europe and Imperialism in Africa, Asia and South America. Students will also study the economic impact caused by such events as World War 1, The Great Depression, World War 11 and The Cold War.

**Algebra I**  
**1 Credit**

This is a standards based course designed for students who are entering a first year high school math course. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on understanding the concepts brought about by the studying of formulas and their usage, signed and literal numbers, equations, fractions and factors. By the end of this course students will be able to graph quadratic functions and solve quadratic equations. Math exercises studied are similar to those on the MCAS test. A graphing calculator is recommended for this course.

**Geometry**  
**1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the formal structure of geometry with arithmetic, algebra and numerical trigonometry. It also emphasizes critical thinking involving relationships, their proofs, and skill in applying the inductive method to mathematical situations. Topics of study include relationships between congruent polygons, similar polygons, and right-triangle trigonometry. Math exercises studied are similar to those on the MCAS test.

**Algebra II**  
**1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on the extension of algebraic principles with concepts more abstract in nature. Emphasis is directed towards understanding and applying algebraic concepts and skills. Topics include the study of rational equations and functions, polynomial functions, and the study of logarithms and exponential growth. A graphing calculator is recommended for this course.

**Integrated Math I**  
**1 Credit**

This is a standard based course developed to assist students to acquire competencies necessary for future success in mathematics. It is a research-based approach that enables students to refine their skills on mathematical skills and weaknesses.

**Integrated Math II**  
**1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The course follows a rigorous curriculum with emphasis on concepts more abstract in nature. Emphasis is directed towards understanding and applying algebraic concepts and skills. Selected topics include the study of rational equations and functions, polynomial functions, and the study of logarithms and exponential growth.

**Integrated Math III**  
**1 Credit**

This is a standards based course built to measure the students' knowledge of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The main objective of this course is to review the Algebra I and Geometry standards taught in Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II and build upon the foundation needed for students to follow a traditional math curriculum. More complexity of the Algebra and Geometry is built as students begin to study the relationships between different types of algebraic functions, specifically the graphing of quadratic functions, solving polynomial equations, and applying right triangle trigonometry.

### **Statistics**

#### **1 Credit**

This is a course which introduces students to the rigorous analysis of data. It includes the four major themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and producing models using probability, simulation, and statistical inference. This is a basic course in statistics, which introduces the student to the art of collecting and analyzing data and making inferences from the data.

### **Pre-Calculus**

#### **1 Credit**

This is an online standards based course will study functions including real world situations and how they are modeled algebraically, numerically, and graphically. This course will demonstrate how algebra and trigonometry can be used to model real world problems. Students will demonstrate an understanding of trigonometric functions and formulas for sine and cosine. Students will relate the slope of a tangent line at a specific point on a curve to the instantaneous rate of change.

### **Personal Finance**

#### **1 Credit**

This course prepares students to navigate personal finance with confidence. The course opens with a study of what it means to be financially responsible, engaging students in budgeting, planning, and being a smart consumer. Students learn about the relationship between education, employment, income, and net worth, and they plan for the cost of college. Students then broaden their study to include banking, spending, investing, and other money management concepts before exploring credit and debt. In the final unit of the course, students study microeconomics and entrepreneurship, with an overview of economic systems, supply and demand, consumer behavior and incentives, and profit principles. The course concludes with an in-depth case study about starting a business.

### **Healthy Living**

#### **1 Credit**

This course is designed to provide basic health concepts necessary for making good decisions to enhance optimal health. Topics discussed will include nutrition, weight management concepts, mental health, substance abuse, reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, disease prevention, and maintain healthy body systems.

### **Lifetime Fitness**

#### **1 Credit**

Exploring fitness topics such as safe exercise and injury prevention, nutrition and weight management, consumer product evaluation, and stress management, Lifetime Fitness equips high school students with the skills they need to



achieve lifetime fitness. Throughout this one-trimester course, students assess individual fitness levels according to the five components of physical fitness: cardiovascular health, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Personal fitness assessments encourage students to design fitness programs to meet their individual fitness goals.

## **Foundations of Personal Wellness**

### **1 Credit**

Exploring a combination of health and fitness concepts, Foundations of Personal Wellness is a comprehensive and cohesive course that explores all aspects of wellness. Offered as a trimester course designed for high school students, this course uses pedagogical planning to ensure that students explore fitness and physical health and encourages students to learn about the nature of social interactions and how to plan a healthy lifestyle.

## **Workforce Development Online Electives**

### **Health Science Concepts**

#### **1 Credit**

This yearlong course introduces high school students to the fundamental concepts of anatomy and physiology, including the organization of the body, cellular functions, and the chemistry of life. As they progress through each unit, students will learn about the major body systems, common diseases and disorders, and the career specialties associated with each system. Students will investigate basic medical terminology as well as human reproduction and development. Students are introduced to these fundamental health science concepts through direct instruction, interactive tasks, and practice assignments. This course is intended to provide students with a strong base of core knowledge and skills that can be used in a variety of health science career pathways.

### **Pharmacy Technician**

#### **1 Credit**

This trimester course prepares students for employment in the pharmacy technician field. Through direct instruction, interactive skills demonstrations, and practice assignments, students learn the basics of pharmacy assisting, including various pharmacy calculations and measurements, pharmacy law, pharmacology, medical terminology and abbreviations, medicinal drugs, sterile techniques, maintenance of inventory, patient record systems, data processing automation in the pharmacy, and employability skills. Successful completion of this course prepares the student for national certification for employment as a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT).

### **Nursing Assistant**

#### **1 Credit**

This trimester course prepares students to provide and assist with all aspects of activities of daily living and nursing care for the adult patient in hospital, long-term care, and home settings. Through direct instruction, interactive skills demonstrations, and practice assignments, students are taught the basics of nurse assisting, including interpersonal skills, medical terminology, care procedures, legal and ethical responsibilities, safe and efficient work, gerontology, nutrition, emergency skills, and employability skills. Successful completion of this

course from an approved program prepares the student for state certification for employment as a Nursing Assistant.

## **Medical Terminology**

### **1 Credit**

This yearlong course introduces students to the structure of medical terms, including prefixes, suffixes, word roots, combining forms, and singular and plural forms, plus medical abbreviations and acronyms. The course allows students to achieve comprehension of medical vocabulary appropriate to healthcare settings, medical procedures, pharmacology, human anatomy and physiology, and pathology. The knowledge and skills gained in this course will provide students entering the healthcare field with a deeper understanding of the application of the language of health and medicine. Students are introduced to these skills through direct instruction, interactive tasks, and practice assignments.

## **Microsoft Office Specialist**

### **1 credit**

This trimester course introduces students to the features and functionalities of Microsoft® Office® 2010 while preparing them for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification program. Through video instruction, interactive skills demonstrations, practice assignments, and unit-level assessments, students become proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and Outlook. By the end of the course, students are prepared to take one or more MOS certification exams.

## **Introduction to Business**

### **1 Credit**

In this trimester introductory course, students will learn the principles of business using real-world examples—learning what it takes to plan and launch a product or service in today’s fast-paced business environment. This course covers an introduction to economic basics, costs and profit, and different business types; techniques for managing money, personally and as a business, and taxes and credit; the basics of financing a business; how a business relates to society both locally and globally; how to identify a business opportunity; and techniques for planning, executing, and marketing a business to respond to that opportunity.

## **Intro to Entrepreneurship**

### **1 Credit**

The Introduction to Entrepreneurship course teaches the skills and key business concepts students need to know to plan and launch a business, whether they are interested in creating a money-making business or a nonprofit to help others. Students learn about real-life teen entrepreneurs; characteristics of successful entrepreneurs; pros and cons of self-employment; sales stages, opportunities and strategies; planning and budgeting; and interpersonal communication in the workplace. Students also learn how to generate business ideas; create a business plan, mission, and vision; promote and market a company; attract investors; manage expenses; and set personal visions and goals. Topics include exploring factors of business success and failure; core business concepts; economic systems; competition; production; the global economy; financing a business; costs, pricing, and accounting; bookkeeping and financial reporting; the role of the government in business; regulations and laws; working with others; and successfully managing employees.

