



# **KENTS HILL SCHOOL**

**2021-2022 CURRICULUM GUIDE**

Dear Students,

What a fascinating time to be a member of the Kents Hill community! As many of you know, our school recently initiated a process of curriculum redesign aimed at readying students for the challenges of the twenty-first century. To that end, we not only rebalanced many of our traditional classes to emphasize skills, character, and reflection, but added a variety of new courses that explore twenty-first-century topics. However, over the past two years, our attempts to create a forward-looking program have been overtaken by events, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic that has altered the shape of our academic day and the flow of our school year. Suddenly, it no longer feels accurate to define the Kents Hill experience as preparation for the future; the present demands our attention and challenges us as never before to not only consider the world we will inherit, but understand the one we inhabit.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I present the **2021-2022 Curriculum Guide**. This document provides descriptions of next year's courses, and a careful reader will notice that many of those courses will allow students to engage with today's world in all of its complexity. Several new Science classes will explore issues connected to public health and the global environment, while a pair of Social Studies classes, Comparative Government and Politics and A Global History of the UN, will give students the conceptual frameworks with which to imagine solutions to these and other problems. A number of new courses add range to our Visual and Performing Arts options, allowing aspiring artists, actors, and musicians to practice their craft in a supportive environment.

I encourage you to read and discuss this Curriculum Guide with your family, friends, and advisor in the coming weeks and to let me know if you have questions. I truly believe there is something here for everyone, and I hope you find our evolving academic program as interesting, as innovative, and as relevant to this unique moment as I do.

Best of luck as you continue your Kents Hill journey,

Dr. Benjamin Priest  
Dean of Academics

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# ACADEMIC GUIDELINES

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## Academic Philosophy

In a rigorous yet supportive academic community where self-discovery and ethical scholarship are highly prized, we prepare each student to appreciate and value the joys and responsibilities of life-long learning; the creative wonder of the arts; the beauty and fragility of our shared environment; and the importance of diversity of thought and experience.

## Credits

Kents Hill School awards 1 credit for each successfully completed yearlong course and 1/2 credit for each semester course. Successful completion of each yearlong course entails earning two semester grades that, when averaged together, result in a passing grade for the year. Students may receive 1/2 credit by earning a passing grade for one semester but failing the course for the year.

Kents Hill School also awards 1/2 credit to students who enroll for part of a school year. Students joining Kents Hill prior to the end of the first quarter will be treated as full-year students and may earn credit accordingly; students who enroll after the first quarter concludes will be treated as midyear students and receive 1/2 credit for each successfully completed course. With the noteworthy exception of students participating in the academic exchange program, students who leave Kents Hill School before the end of the year will be awarded 1/2 credit for each successfully completed Semester 1 course.

## Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2022 and 2023

Students planning to graduate in 2022 or 2023 must fulfill the requirements below to receive a Kents Hill diploma. In exceptional circumstances, waivers may be granted for some requirements; all waivers must be approved by the Dean of Academics and the Director of College Counseling. Please note that students must be enrolled until graduation and may not graduate early.

### 4-Year Students

Arts	2 credits (1/2 credit must be in Visual Arts and 1/2 credit in Performing Arts)
English	4 credits (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times)
Environmental Studies	1/2 credit
Mathematics	3 credits (including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 or beyond)
Science	3 credits (2 of which must be in Biology and either Chemistry or Physics)
Social Studies	3 credits (including 1 credit of United States History)
World Languages	2 credits and completion of Level 2 in one language

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 20 (including additional coursework in any of the subjects listed above).

### 3-Year Students

Arts	2 credits (1/2 credit must be in Visual Arts and 1/2 credit in Performing Arts)
English	3 credits (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times and accrue 4 credits of English total in order to graduate from high school)
Environmental Studies	1/2 credit
Mathematics	2 credits (including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 or beyond)
Science	2 credits (including 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics and 1 credit of a Life Science if not previously taken)
Social Studies	2 credits (including 1 credit of United States History)
World Languages	1 credit and completion of Level 2 in one language

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 15 (including additional coursework in any of the subjects listed above).

### 2-Year Students

Arts	1/2 credit (which may be fulfilled by either Visual Arts or Performing Arts)
English	2 credits (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times and accrue 4 credits of English total in order to graduate from high school)
Environmental Studies	1/2 credit
Mathematics	1 credit (including Algebra 2 or beyond)
Science	1 credit (including 1 credit of a Life Science if not previously taken)
Social Studies	1 credits (including 1 credit of United States History if not previously taken)

World Languages 1 credit and completion of Level 2 in one language (if not previously taken)

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 10 (including additional coursework in any of the subjects listed above).

#### 1-Year Students

Arts 1/2 credit (which may be fulfilled by either Visual Arts or Performing Arts)  
English 1 credit (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times and accrue 4 credits of English total in order to graduate from high school)  
Mathematics 1 credit of Algebra 2 if not previously taken  
Science 1 credit of a Life Science if not previously taken  
Social Studies 1 credit of United States History if not previously taken  
World Languages 1 credit and completion of Level 2 in one language if not previously taken

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 5 (including additional coursework in any of the subjects listed above).

## **Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2024 and Beyond**

Students planning to graduate in 2024 or thereafter must fulfill the requirements below to receive a Kents Hill diploma. In exceptional circumstances, waivers may be granted for some requirements; all waivers must be approved by the Dean of Academics and the Director of College Counseling. Please note that students must be enrolled until graduation and may not graduate early.

#### 4-Year Students

Arts 3 credits (1 credit must be in Visual Arts and 1 credit in Performing Arts)  
English 4 credits (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times)  
Mathematics 3 credits (including Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 or beyond)  
Science 4 credits (including 1 credit of Biology, 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics, and 1 credit of Enviro Studies)  
Social Studies 4 credits (including 1 credit of United States History)  
World Languages 2 credits and completion of Level 2 in one language

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 20

#### 3-Year Students

Arts 2 credits (1 credit must be in Visual Arts and 1 credit in Performing Arts)  
English 3 credits (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times and accrue 4 credits of English total in order to graduate from high school)  
Mathematics 2 credits (including Geometry and Algebra 2 or beyond)  
Science 3 credits (including 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics and 1 credit of Enviro Studies)  
Social Studies 3 credits (including 1 credit of United States History)  
World Languages 2 credits and completion of Level 2 in one language

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 15

#### 2-Year Students

Arts 1 credit (which may be fulfilled by either Visual Arts or Performing Arts)  
English 2 credits (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times and accrue 4 credits of English total in order to graduate from high school)  
Mathematics 1 credit (including Algebra 2 or beyond)  
Science 2 credits (including 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics if not previously taken and 1 credit of Enviro Studies)  
Social Studies 2 credits (including 1 credit of United States History if not previously taken)  
World Languages 1 credit and completion of Level 2 in one language if not previously taken

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 10

#### 1-Year Students

Arts 1 credit (which may be fulfilled by either Visual Arts or Performing Arts)  
English 1 credit (each student must be enrolled in an English course at all times and accrue 4 credits of English total in order to graduate from high school)  
Mathematics 1 credit of Algebra 2 if not previously taken  
Science 1 credit (which must be Enviro Studies if not previously taken)

Social Studies	1 credit (which must be United States History if not previously taken)
World Languages	1 credit and completion of Level 2 in one language if not previously taken

Total Kents Hill credits required to graduate: 5

## Course Load

Students in grades 9-12 must be enrolled in 6 classes at all times. Exceptions to this policy are rare and must be approved by the Dean of Academics and, for students in Grades 11 and 12, the Director of College Counseling.

Students with sufficient credits, both aggregate and departmental, are promoted to the next grade level according to these guidelines:

10th grade:	5 credits, including 1 of English and 1 of mathematics
11th grade:	10 credits, including 2 of English, 2 of mathematics, 1 of social studies, and 1 of science
12th grade:	15 credits, including 3 of English, 2 of mathematics, 2 of social studies, 2 of science, and 1 in a world language
Postgraduate:	High School diploma

## Course Selections

Students are encouraged to carry challenging but manageable course loads. Schedules are finalized toward the end of July based on grades, teacher recommendations, enrollment numbers, scheduling conflicts, and departmental permissions. Every effort is made to provide the best schedule for each student, and the Dean of Academics, the College Counseling Office, and faculty advisors work closely to ensure that students have strong academic records to present to colleges.

## Course Changes

Course changes may be made during the first two weeks of the fall semester and the first week of the spring semester. Students must obtain permission from the Dean of Academics and, in the case of juniors, seniors, and postgraduates, their college counselors.

## Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement courses are rigorous classes that follow College Board syllabi and culminate in external exams each May. All Advanced Placement students are required to take AP exams and pay the requisite fees. Students who wish to enroll in AP courses must have strong academic backgrounds and obtain instructor permission. See course descriptions for offerings and prerequisites.

## Dual-Enrollment Programs

Kents Hill School partners with the University of Maine at Augusta and Thomas College to provide advanced students with opportunities to complete college coursework. Qualified Kents Hill instructors work with college professors to design and teach Dual-Enrollment courses in STEAM and the Humanities using approved college-level syllabi. Students who complete these courses earn high school credit, as well as college credit from the participating institution. See the course descriptions below for Dual-Enrollment offerings and prerequisites. Additional course fees apply.

## Independent Studies

Any student in Grade 11 or above who wishes to undertake a pass/fail independent study must work with a teacher to create a proposal using Kents Hill's [proposal template](#). (Students undertaking especially intensive Independent Studies may petition the Dean of Academics to earn letter grades for their experiences. Interested students should speak to the Dean of Academics directly.) The proposal must have the support of a faculty sponsor and department chair. Students should submit proposals for full-year or Semester 1 independent studies by Friday, May 21, 2021. Proposals for Semester 2 experiences are due Friday, December 3, 2021.

## Academic Grades

Letter Grade	Numerical	Grade Point Equivalent
A+	100 - 97	4.3
A	96 - 93	4.0
A-	92 - 90	3.7

B+	89 - 87	3.3
B	86 - 83	3.0
B-	82 - 80	2.7
C+	79 - 77	2.3
C	76 - 73	2.0
C-	72 - 70	1.7
D+	69 - 67	1.3
D	66 - 63	1.0
D-	62 - 60	0.7
F	59 - 0 (Fails to meet minimum course requirements)	
W/P	Withdrawn with a passing grade	
W/F	Withdrawn with a failing grade	
INC	Incomplete	
MW	Medical withdrawal	
P	Pass (Meets course requirements)	

Semester grades appear on the school transcript; cumulative GPA is recalculated at the end of each semester.

## Effort Grades

Effort grades assess areas such as class attendance, class preparation, homework, participation, initiative and motivation, and the degree of care exhibited in the work. The following effort grades are awarded:

1. **Excellent:** Identifies excellent effort, represented by active class participation, thorough study and preparation, and an eager attempt to master the material of the course.
2. **Satisfactory:** Indicates good class participation and adequate fulfillment of course assignments carefully prepared and submitted on time.
3. **Needs Improvement:** Represents little effort, reflected in occasional unexcused absences or lateness, lack of preparation for class or inattentiveness in class, some failure to submit work, poorly prepared work, and/or failure to seek help.
4. **Unacceptable:** Reflects a consistent failure to complete assignments, a lack of class participation, failure to seek extra help, consistent inability to participate in class when called upon, and lack of initiative in making up missed work.

Effort grades do not appear on the school transcript.

## Weighting

Kents Hill School weights Honors, AP, and Dual-Enrollment courses to reward students who challenge themselves academically. For each Honors course, 0.5 points are added to the student's GPA; that number is then multiplied by the number of credits earned and divided by the number of credits attempted. The same weighting formula is used for AP and Dual-Enrollment courses, except that students earn 0.75 additional points for AP classes and 1 additional point for Dual-Enrollment classes. **Please note that for the Class of 2025 and beyond, Kents Hill will use a slightly different formula.** Students taking Honors courses will receive an additional 0.25 points, while both AP and Dual-Enrollment students will receive an additional 0.5 points.

## School Reports

Kents Hill student grade reports are released through the school website at the end of each semester.

## Honors Recognition

At the end of each semester, Kents Hill School recognizes those students who have attained academic excellence and/or excellent effort in their studies at Convocation. The Honor Roll is defined as:

Honors with Distinction	An academic average of at least 4.0	No grade below A-
Honors	An academic average of at least 3.5	No grade below B-
Effort Honors	1's ("excellent" effort grades) and up to two 2's ("satisfactory" effort grades)	

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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## Learning Skills Program

Kents Hill School's Learning Skills Program provides academic and organizational support to students who would benefit from extra scaffolding around issues such as time and materials management, study skills, and confidence-building in the academic realm. The Learning Skills Program pairs students with Learning Specialists who are fully committed to ensuring that students thrive in all aspects of school life and are prepared to tackle college and beyond with self-confidence, self-determination, and self-advocacy.

To best fit the needs of individual students and their families, the Learning Skills Program offers two levels of support. Level 1 Support provides private, one-on-one sessions; three formal meetings with a Learning Specialist each week; and an individualized learning plan focused on strengths, opportunities, and feedback. Level 2 Support provides small-group sessions based on common learning profiles; three meetings with a Learning Specialist per week; and an individualized learning plan. Additional fees apply for both levels of the Learning Skills Program. Please consult the Admissions Office for specifics.

## English Language Support

English Language Support is available to students who do not speak English as their first language. Kents Hill offers two levels; in the first, students work one-on-one with a Learning Specialist for more comprehensive support. In the second, students receive support from a Learning Specialist in a small group setting that allows for instructional guidance with independence. While enrolled in the program, students strengthen their language abilities through academic content in transitional and mainstream classes.

## Global Programming

Kents Hill School offers several global learning opportunities throughout the academic year. Options include academic exchanges with international schools, cultural explorations, linguistic excursions, and domestic travel opportunities. International travel destinations have included France, Spain, South Africa, Australia, and various European countries. All students are encouraged to participate in these trips at any stage of their learning. Academic exchanges are offered to sophomores and juniors only; participants are chosen based on an application process and are vetted by the Dean of Academics. Please note that Global Programming for 2021-2022 is subject to change based on COVID-19 travel restrictions.

## College Counseling Program

The College Counseling Office works as a team to support each student and family through the college search, application, and enrollment process. College Counseling begins formal programming with students in the junior year. Through group workshops and individual appointments, college counselors introduce students to a variety of topics, including standardized test preparation and registration, course selection, how to research colleges, college affordability and financial aid, scholarship opportunities, athletic recruitment and the NCAA eligibility process, and preparation for art and music portfolios and auditions.

Over the course of their relationship, counselors listen as students voice their priorities, interests, and concerns and, using online and print resources as well as their own personal experience and knowledge, help students identify the best possible college fit.

## Postgraduate Studies Program

Kents Hill's Postgraduate Program invites high school graduates to spend a year living and learning in an inclusive, supportive, and vibrant community. Each postgraduate student partners with a faculty mentor to outline key goals and future plans; to find ways to broaden their perspectives and develop cultural competency; and to select the right combination of academic classes to develop the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college, the workplace, and beyond.

While Postgraduate experiences are highly individualized, all include five core components: **a practical component**, which entails completing one internship at Kents Hill and one outside of school; **an academic component**, which includes taking five classes (one of which must be an English course); **an athletic or activity component**, which means participating in a team sport or a student club; **a cultural component**, which entails traveling beyond the Kents Hill campus and partnering with students from an international school on a project-based learning unit; and **a community engagement component**, which includes participating in a number of community service projects and attending events at Colby College, Bates College, and Bowdoin College. In addition, students take advantage of college counseling, career preparation, and communication workshops based on their individual needs.



## Course Fees

Some courses require additional fees. See individual course descriptions for specifics.

## NEW COURSES

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The following courses were added to the Kents Hill curriculum during the 2020-2021 school year or are being offered for the first time in 2021-2022. Please see the course descriptions below for additional information.

VPA 242: Music Theory (page 12)

VPA 251: Sculptural Materials and Metalsmithing (page 11)

VPA 252: Introduction to Theater (page 13)

VPA 261: Woodworking and Design (page 11)

VPA 311: Community Design and Build (page 11)

SCI 331: Astrophysics (page 18)

SCI 341: Maine Field Studies (page 19)

SCI 361: Environmental Research and Design (page 19)

SCI 401: Biochemistry of Nutrition (page 19)

SCI 411: Global Public Health (page 19)

SCI 421: Global Environmental Learning (pages 19-20)

SCI 521: AP Chemistry (page 20)

SOC 401: Comparative Government and Politics (pages 21-22)

SOC 431: Contexts for Hip-Hop (page 22)

SOC 441: A Global History of the UN (page 22)

SOC 451: Introduction to Women's Studies (pages 22-23)

SOC 511: AP Psychology (page 23)

LAN 250: Francophone Culture (pages 25)

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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## THE ARTS

The Arts Department's mission is to provide all students with opportunities to develop their appreciation for the arts. Kents Hill offers variety, depth, and growth to every student and nurtures creative environments in which students feel safe, supported, and challenged. All students must complete two years of art (including 1/2 credit visual arts and 1/2 credit performing arts) to meet Kents Hill's graduation requirements. (For changes to Kents Hill's graduation requirements for the Class of 2024 and beyond, see above, pages 5-6.) Courses awarding visual and performing arts credits are specifically designated as such, as are interdisciplinary classes. The Arts Department offers courses at the 100-500 levels.

### ART FOUNDATIONS

#### 100-LEVEL COURSES

##### VPA 101: First-Year Arts Seminar

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

The First-Year Arts Seminar is designed to give students an opportunity to explore the visual and performing arts here at Kents Hill. The course is taught in multiple sections by different instructors, each focusing on a specific scope and topic. Students will be introduced to a variety of artistic media including Drawing and Painting, Ceramics, Woodworking, Music, and Theater. The course provides necessary background before students complete more specialized Arts courses. Additional course fees apply.

### VISUAL ARTS

#### 200-LEVEL COURSES

##### VPA 201: Ceramics

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

College Prep

This course is designed to introduce students to multiple methods of creating art with clay. Students will learn the four primary methods of construction, glazing techniques, and various clay bodies. Students will also learn more advanced techniques such as mold making and slip casting, as well as wheel throwing. Projects will range from creating sculptural pieces to functional wares while giving the students creative freedom to develop their artist voices. Additional course fees apply.

##### VPA 221: Digital Media

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

College Prep

This two-course series is intended for students who want to explore the ever-expanding world of commercial art, logo design, photo manipulation, and new media. Digital Media combines the principles of art and design with the digital tools of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. The basic elements of art and design such as color, composition, visual emphasis, typography and ligature, composition, line, and color are focal points in each project. In the first semester of this course, with the use of Photoshop, digital photographs are manipulated to create expressive artworks. In the second half of the course, Illustrator is used as a creative tool in order to design posters, logos, T-shirts, tri-folds, and other products. Additional course fees apply.

##### VPA 231: Drawing and Painting

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

College Prep

The first half of this course is designed to help students develop basic drawing skills. Using various mediums including pencil, pen, and charcoal, students will learn how to see as an artist sees and through a series of drawings, will become comfortable rendering from observation. Principles such as proportion, perspective, composition, negative/positive space relationships, value, and shading are all taught through various drawing projects. Upon completion of the first half of the course, students move into painting. Additional course fees apply.

##### VPA 241: Photography

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

### College Prep

This full-year course is an introduction to the art and science of taking photographs. Students will explore the history of photography and the technology artists have used over the past century to capture images on film. The class primarily focuses on the use of DSLR cameras, Adobe Photoshop, and Lightroom. This course introduces concepts relating to studio photography and different lighting techniques. Students will work at cultivating a personal voice through their photos and effectively communicating their ideas and stories visually. Additional course fees apply.

### VPA 251: Sculptural Materials and Metalsmithing

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

#### College Prep

This year-long course will introduce students to sculpture making processes and a variety of materials with an emphasis on metalsmithing. Students will explore concepts and processes associated with: form, volume, line, space, texture, casting, and fabrication. Students will be introduced to materials and processes including; clay, cardboard, wire, and found objects. The Metalsmithing portion of the course will introduce students to working with metal from a fine art and jewelry perspective. Students will work with copper and silver as they learn to design functional and sculptural work. Some of the skills they will learn will include using a jeweler's saw, soldering, riveting, sanding, the development of patinas, and stone setting. Additional course fees apply. **NEW COURSE!**

### VPA 261: Woodworking and Design

Full-year Course (1 credit visual art)

#### College Prep

This course will focus on fundamental design principles and woodworking techniques. Students will learn creative problem-solving skills through a variety of projects and construction methods. Students will be instructed on the safe and proper use of woodworking machines including the table saw, jointer, planer, band saw, chisels, and hand planes. Participants will learn how to transform sketches into technical drawings and scale models, then fabricate those ideas into finished pieces. Through slideshows, lectures, and field trips students will be introduced to the techniques and concepts of historical and contemporary furniture design. Additional course fees apply. **NEW COURSE!**

## 300-LEVEL COURSES

### VPA 301: Art of Short Film

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

#### College Prep

This full-year course is an investigation into the art of making short films. All aspects of filmmaking are covered including storyboarding, direction, camera usage and cinematography, editing, sound design, and post-production using Adobe Premiere software. Students create short films of different genres including suspense, action/chase, and documentary-style films. Video cameras are provided. Additional course fees apply.

### VPA 311: Community Design and Build

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

#### College Prep

This course will focus on the designing and building needs of the Kents Hill and neighboring communities. Students will identify instances where design can make a positive impact on our campus or community and work together to create project proposals. We will then work as a class to create one-of-a-kind objects of value that enrich the quality of life on campus. Projects will range from garden beds to boat building, office furniture, and furniture restoration. Additional course fees apply. **NEW COURSE!**

## 500-LEVEL COURSES

### VPA 501: AP Two-Dimensional Studio Art

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

#### Advanced Placement

This course is intended for juniors, seniors, and Academic Gap Year students who are serious about art and are considering a major or minor in art in college. Students will prepare an art portfolio for the AP 2-D or the Drawing Studio Art exam in May and as a supplement for their college applications. The goals of this course are to encourage creative as well as systemic investigation of formal and conceptual issues; to emphasize art as an ongoing process involving informed and critical decision-making; to develop technical skills and to familiarize students with the functions of the visual elements. Prerequisite: instructor permission. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee.

### VPA 511: AP Three-Dimensional Studio Art

Full-year course (1 credit visual art)

Advanced Placement

This course is intended for juniors, seniors, and Academic Gap Year students who are serious about art and are considering a major or minor in art in college. Students will prepare an art portfolio for the AP 2-D, 3-D or the Drawing Studio Art exam in May and as a supplement for their college applications. The goals of this course are to encourage creative as well as systemic investigation of formal and conceptual issues; to emphasize art as an ongoing process involving informed and critical decision-making; to develop technical skills and to familiarize students with the functions of the visual elements. Prerequisite: instructor permission. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee.

## PERFORMING ARTS

### 200-LEVEL COURSES

#### VPA 202: Intro to Electric Composition

Semester course (1/2 credit performing art): Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

College Prep

This semester-long course will focus on the fundamentals of music, notation, rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre, texture, and form. Students will take that musical knowledge and learn how to compose music in various electronic media. Using our recording studio, students will learn the nuance of recording, mixing, editing, sampling, and producing music. Students will create high-quality recordings and electronic compositions using a wide array of tools and techniques. No prior musical training is required.

#### VPA 212: Intro to Guitar

Semester course (1/2 credit performing art): Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

College Prep

Introduction to Guitar welcomes any level of guitar player. In this semester-long course, students will focus on the fundamentals of guitar, reading music notation, playing techniques, and literature. Students are not required to perform publicly as part of the course, but playing opportunities will be available within the Kents Hill community for those who would like them. No prior musical training needed.

#### VPA 222: Kents Hill Orchestra

Full-year course (1 credit performing art)

College Prep

Kents Hill Orchestra is an instrumental ensemble dedicated to the study and performance of traditional symphonic music including strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion. This is a full-year course open to all students who play an instrument and would like to perform as a group and enrich their instrumental music education. We will learn and review musical notation, symbols, and terminology so as to perform our selections with technical and expressive accuracy. This group will perform extensively throughout the year and participation in concerts and other scheduled events is required. Additional course fees apply.

#### VPA 232: Kents Hill Singers

Full-year course (1 credit performing art)

College Prep

Kents Hill Singers is a vocal ensemble dedicated to the study and performance of vocal music from a variety of genres and styles. This is a full-year course open to all students who want to sing together as a group and enrich their choral music education. We will learn and review musical notation, symbols, and terminology so as to perform our selections with technical and expressive accuracy. Learning to sing safely and correctly will also be emphasized. This group will perform extensively throughout the year and participation in concerts and other scheduled events is required. No prior singing experience necessary. Additional course fees apply.

#### VPA 242: Music Theory

Full-year course (1 Performing art credit)

College Prep

In this year-long course, students will develop the fundamental skills of Music Theory. They will learn the basics of music notation (clefs, pitch, note values, bar lines, time signatures, and key signatures) and be introduced to the history of composers. Students will practice composing by creating an original piece of music in the first semester. In the second half of the course, we will cover more complex scales, chords, rhythm, and harmonic and melodic concepts. Students will also work on *solfeggio* and learn how to sight-read written music and develop orchestrations for film and television. The second semester will culminate in students composing original pieces of recorded music scored to video. **NEW COURSE!**

### VPA 252: Introduction to Theater

Full-year course (1 Performing art credit)

College Prep

This course will teach the students the following: to use the body and voice expressively, to express character through movement and voice, to understand the formal elements and history of drama, to develop an appreciation of theatre as an art form. Students will get a more detailed understanding of performance and acting technique than in they currently do in rehearsal for a specific performance. The techniques covered in power point lectures, video, and practiced in this class will cross the curriculum to music performance as well as public speaking. Students will perform in front of their classmates, cooperate in teams to solve problems, and observe and critique one another's work. **NEW COURSE!**

## ENGLISH

Kents Hill's English program provides college-bound students with regular opportunities to develop proficiency in reading, speaking and listening, and writing. Our course sequence introduces students to literature from a range of authors, time periods, and literary forms, and all courses promote skill development through discussions, presentations, creative work, and traditional essay writing. In keeping with Kents Hill School's 4D curriculum, English classes also include extensive investigation of character-related issues and multiple opportunities for student reflection. Each student is enrolled in an English course at all times and is required to complete at least four credits of English in order to graduate. Kents Hill offers English courses at the 100-600 levels.

### 100-LEVEL COURSES

#### ENG 101/111/121: English Foundations

Full-year program (3 credits)

College Prep

This program offers a year of comprehensive English instruction to students who are still developing their proficiencies in reading, speaking and listening, and writing. Students enrolled in English Foundations acquire the knowledge and skills needed for further coursework by taking three interconnected classes: ENG 101: Scaffolding for Reading Comprehension, ENG 111: Complex Communication, and ENG 121: Writing Foundations. Like subsequent courses, Foundations explores one unifying topic each year, allowing students to engage with contemporary issues as they develop the competencies that will allow them to thrive at Kents Hill.

### 200-LEVEL COURSES

#### ENG 201: The Nature of Self

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

The Nature of Self is an entry-level English course designed to introduce students to several genres of literature and build their communication skills. Throughout the year, students will read essays, personal narratives, poetry, short fiction, and novels that explore the ways in which people construct their identities. They will also embark on their own journeys of self-discovery through the writing they produce, learning how to present their ideas, tell their stories, and form their arguments.

#### ENG 211: Honors The Nature of Self

Full-year course (1 credit)

Honors

The Honors version of The Nature of Self is a writing-intensive, seminar-style introduction to participating in the literary arts as a conscientious reader, writer, and conversationalist. Students will read deeply across genres and think critically about language as both artistic expression and practical tool for communication. Like the College Prep version of the class, the Honors course will also explore the ways in which works of literature represent and question constructions of identity. Freewriting, journal entries, creative assignments, and formal essays will improve students' communication skills and instill in them responsible habits for reading, writing, and thinking across academic disciplines.

### 300-LEVEL COURSES

#### ENG 301: Multicultural Literature

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

Multicultural Literature is a year-long course that introduces Kents Hill students to literature from around the world. The course examines work from a wide range of cultures and carefully considers each text's unique social and historical circumstances. Although specific reading assignments vary from year to year, students always encounter multiple genres and forms and grow familiar with

such foundational literary elements as character, setting, theme, and point of view. Multicultural Literature also builds upon the heavy skills focus of the 100- and 200-level English courses by continuing to emphasize the development of several skill areas, particularly reading, speaking and listening, and writing.

### ENG 311: Honors Multicultural Literature

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Honors

Multicultural Literature is a year-long course that introduces Kents Hill students to literature from around the world. The Honors version of this class examines work from a range of cultures and considers each text's historical contexts, but also features a heavier and more challenging reading load, including multiple college-level reading assignments. Like their peers, Honors students encounter a variety of genres and forms and study important literary elements. Multicultural Literature also builds upon the heavy skills focus of the 100- and 200-level English courses by continuing to emphasize the development of several skill areas, particularly reading, speaking and listening, and writing. Honors students complete activities to bolster reading comprehension and interpersonal communication skills, but also hone advanced skills by giving regular presentations and participating in graded seminar discussions.

## 400-LEVEL COURSES

### ENG 401: American Literature

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This course investigates American literature through critical and analytical lenses. Students will explore the diverse American literary experience through its correlation with historical influences and a selection of central themes. The primary goal of the class is to build solid interpretive reading skills and teach the process of analytical writing through intensive classroom discussion and regularly scheduled essays. Students should expect an introduction to a variety of American voices and perspectives through full-length texts, short stories, plays, and/or poetry. Featured authors may include but are not limited to Edith Wharton, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Frederick Douglass, Zora Neale Hurston, Eudora Welty, J.D. Salinger, Sylvia Plath, Jhumpa Lahiri, Ha Jin, and Junot Diaz.

### ENG 411: Global Voices, Global Perspectives

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

Global Voices, Global Perspectives is a year-long course that introduces students to writers, artists, and thought leaders from around the world who are speaking about contemporary issues that transcend geographical borders. Through a diverse range of perspectives, we will engage with these voices as mirrors to better understand our own experiences and as windows to investigate the world around us. The course focuses on developing critical skills of reading, writing, thinking, questioning, and engaging in dialogue; seeks to develop strong habits of learning and doing; and intersects with Kents Hill's focus on character. Through these competencies, students will hone their voices and agency so that they are empowered to think, act, and communicate for impact.

## 500-LEVEL COURSES

### ENG 501: Creative Writing

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

Creative Writing is designed to help students develop their creative expression through the written word. Students will explore the craft and art of creative writing, learn how to identify successful elements of creative writing, develop oral and written articulation skills by properly and thoughtfully giving and receiving feedback, experience the wonders and intellectual empowerment of a "writing community," and use writing as a tool for self-discovery and scholarly exploration. Students will compose their own creative writing portfolio and they will have the opportunity to broadly publish their work in *Juxtapose*, Kents Hill's literary magazine. Texts may include *The Art of Memoir* by Mary Karr, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott, *Creating the Story* by Rebecca Rule and Susan Wheeler, and *The Truth of the Matter* by Dinty Moore.

### ENG 521: AP English Literature and Composition

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Advanced Placement

Designed to mimic a college-level course, AP English explores a variety of literary genres in intensive, student led, daily discussions moderated by the instructor. In addition to regularly scheduled short papers and longer critical analyses, students prepare for the AP exam by writing weekly in-class essays from previous AP exams. Readings include but are not limited to novels, plays, and poems from authors such as Joseph Conrad, Robert Penn Warren, Toni Morrison, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Virginia Woolf, Leslie Marmon

Silko, Walt Whitman, Maya Angelou, Richard Wright, and Samuel Beckett. Prerequisite: instructor permission. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee.

## 600-LEVEL COURSES

### ENG 601: College Writing Seminar

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Dual-Enrollment

College Writing Seminar is a rigorous, year-long course that focuses on a variety of college-level essay genres. Students will draw on personal experiences, reading assignments, and original research as they explore a unifying course topic or theme; written assignments will include narratives, analyses, argumentative essays, and research papers about the same topic or theme. Prerequisites: instructor permission. Students who successfully complete this course will receive college credit. Additional course fees apply.

## MATHEMATICS

Students are required to complete at least three years of mathematics. The department, along with College Counseling, strongly recommends a fourth year and students should be aware that most selective colleges require four years of high school mathematics. All students are expected to complete two years of algebra, through Algebra 2, and one year of geometry. Unless otherwise stated, all students must have a TI-84 graphing calculator or equivalent. Math courses are offered at the 100-500 levels.

## 100-LEVEL COURSES

### MAT 101: Algebra 1

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This course includes the solution of linear equations and inequalities, graphing, factoring, rational expressions, real numbers, and higher degree polynomials. This course will culminate in an introduction to the Quadratic Equation. Throughout the course, students will gain knowledge and harness skills from a wide range of mathematical concepts, primarily the ones aforementioned, that will enable their success in the topics covered in this course and in their math courses ahead. Students will be given opportunities to display creativity by demonstrating different ways of reaching a solution, to develop collaboration skills by regularly working with classmates, to practice critical-thinking by taking what we learn and applying it outside of our classroom, and to communicate effectively by participating in class discussions and explaining one's thinking. Adversity is often a part of math, so each student's character will evolve as they will be expected to strengthen their resiliency. Students will also reflect on their learning through engagement self-assessments and post-test surveys about their study habits.

## 200-LEVEL COURSES

### MAT 201: Geometry

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

Geometry is a year-long course that introduces Kents Hill students to geometric reasoning as a process for problem-solving. In this course, students will explore the theorems and properties of geometric figures such as circles, triangles, lines, and many other polygons. While gaining knowledge of and speaking a new mathematical language, students will learn to think critically and rationally. While later adding trigonometry, material will become more visual and the course will explore problem-solving methods that are more formal and concept based. Prerequisite: MAT 101: Algebra 1.

### MAT 211: Honors Geometry

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Honors

Honors Geometry is a year-long course that delves more deeply, at an accelerated pace than topics covered in College Prep Geometry. This course introduces Kents Hill students to geometric reasoning as a process for problem solving. In this course, students will explore the theorems and properties of geometric figures such as circles, triangles, lines, and many other polygons. While gaining knowledge of and speaking a new mathematical language, students will learn to think critically and rationally. While later adding trigonometry, surface area, and volume, material will become more visual and the course will explore problem solving methods that are more formal and concept based. Prerequisite: MAT 101: Algebra 1.

## 300-LEVEL COURSES

### MAT 301: Algebra 2

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

This course includes the study of second-degree equations and inequalities, factoring, the quadratic formula, exponents, complex numbers, logarithms, functions, right triangle trigonometry and conic sections. Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Geometry. The first half of this course delves deeper into the concepts that were introduced in MAT 101. Students will continue to work collaborative work and explore alternative methods of solving problems. Discussions of core values and how they relate to academic work will be included. During the second half of the course, students will begin the exploration of higher-level math concepts. Developing the ability to communicate and reflect on one's solutions and the process used are practiced. Prerequisite: MAT 101: Algebra 1.

### MAT 311: Honors Algebra 2

Full-year course (1 credit)

Honors

Honors Algebra 2 is a rigorous course that includes the study of second-degree equations and inequalities, factoring, the quadratic formula, exponents, complex numbers, logarithms, functions, right triangle trigonometry and conic sections with a greater emphasis on functions and graphing than the college prep level course. Students will become proficient at using a graphing calculator and being able to explain the process they have used for problem solving. Through a project-based unit, students will also conduct research and apply their skills to design a small house that is accessible and affordable. Prerequisite: MAT 101: Algebra 1.

## 400-LEVEL COURSES

### MAT 411: Statistics and Probability

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

Statistics introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The four major components of the course are: describing data, finding ways to display and explain what one or more variable data means; collecting data, looking at how to gather data randomly and without bias to the extent that is possible; probability, looking at the mathematical rules that govern the behavior of random events; and those three culminate with the study of statistical inference, estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses. The pace of this course may vary and will allow for deeper investigation of topics that interest the class and will include a larger focus on utilizing technology. Prerequisites: MAT 201: Geometry and MAT 301: Algebra 2.

### MAT 421: Precalculus

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

Precalculus builds on the skills students have gained in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 as they increase their knowledge of graphing inverse, quadratic, and higher degree functions. Throughout the course, they will analyze exponential and logarithmic functions and culminate with a deep dive into the study of Trigonometry. In Precalculus students will work to communicate clearly through words, numbers, and graphs and think critically about where these topics will help them in the real world. Prerequisites: MAT 201: Geometry and MAT 301: Algebra 2.

### MAT 431: Honors Precalculus

Full-year course (1 credit)

Honors

In preparation to take AP Calculus, this honors-level Precalculus course is conducted at an accelerated pace compared with that of College-Prep Precalculus. There is an expectation that students will have previously mastered graphing of functions, polynomial functions, and transformations. Students will gain knowledge of exponential and logarithmic functions, Trigonometry, and Analytic Geometry while incorporating skills gained in prior math courses. The Honors course will cover additional topics over that of College-Prep, including Sequences, Series, & Probability and Limits & an Intro to Calculus. Throughout the course, students will work to communicate clearly through words, numbers, and graphs and think critically about where these topics will help them in the real world. Prerequisites: MAT 201 Geometry and MAT 311: Honors Algebra 2.

## 500-LEVEL COURSES

### MAT 501: Calculus

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep



This course is designed as an introduction to Calculus before entering higher-level math in college. Students will incorporate both skills and knowledge from Algebra 2 and Precalculus as they build connections with new mathematical topics of limits, derivatives, and integrals. Because this course is not driven by the external AP Curriculum, this class gives students great flexibility in depth and breadth of topics. Calculus will require students to make connections with the outside world and think critically about how each of the topics helps them to better understand the world around them. Prerequisite: MAT 421: Precalculus and Instructor permission.

#### **MAT 521: AP Calculus (AB)**

Full-year course (1 credit)

##### **Advanced Placement**

This course follows the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB syllabus, designed to prepare the students for the AP exam in May. Topics include limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students will learn to use these techniques for solving instantaneous rate of change, deepen understanding of exponential growth and decay, finding areas of regions, and volumes of solids. Students are required to sit the AP Exam in May. Prerequisites: MAT 431: Honors Precalculus. Instructor permission required.

#### **MAT 531: AP Calculus (BC)**

Full-year course (1 credit)

##### **Advanced Placement**

This course is a second year of Calculus for students who have completed the AB curriculum and received permission to continue. Topics include integrating using integration by parts, integration using linear partial fractions, evaluating improper integrals, approximating solutions to differential equations using Euler's method, logistic models with differential equations, arc length of a smooth, planar curve and distance traveled, parametric equations, and series and sequences. These topics are in addition to the AP Calculus (AB) curriculum. Knowledge from the Calculus (AB) curriculum is needed and applied throughout the BC curriculum, and it is assessed on the AP Calculus (BC) exam in May. Prerequisites: MAT 521: AP Calculus (AB). Instructor permission required.

#### **MAT 541: AP Statistics**

Full-year course (1 credit)

##### **Advanced Placement**

This course follows the Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics syllabus and introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The four major components of the course are: describing data, finding ways to display and explain what one or more variable data means; collecting data, looking at how to gather data randomly and without bias to the extent that is possible; probability, looking at the mathematical rules that govern the behavior of random events; and those three culminate with the study of statistical inference, estimating population parameters and testing hypothesis. A TI calculator is required. Students are required to sit the AP Exam in May. Prerequisites: MAT 301 Algebra 2. Instructor permission required.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Kents Hill's Science and Technology program provides college-bound students with the opportunities to grow as problem solvers, critical thinkers, and working scientists. The program offers these opportunities in a wide variety of courses. In these courses, students will be challenged to design products, complete traditional laboratory experiments, give course presentations, develop scientific writing skills, apply course content to real-world questions, and develop opinions regarding scientific ethics. Each student must take at least three credits of Science to graduate. Credits must include a Life Science course and at least one credit in the core laboratory courses of Chemistry and Physics. (For changes to Kents Hill's graduation requirements for the Class of 2024 and beyond, see above, pages 5-6.) Kents Hill offers Science courses at the 200-600 levels.

### **200-LEVEL COURSES**

#### **SCI 201: Biology**

Full-year course (1 credit)

##### **College Prep**

Biology is the study of life. In the first part of this laboratory course, students will learn about how chemistry is associated with life and the topic of cells. This includes learning about the criteria for the most basic living organisms, how cells form more complex organisms, and how normal cells become cancerous. The second major topic of this course focuses on genetic traits; specifically, students will learn how traits are inherited and the probability of inheriting particular traits. The last major topic focuses on evolution and ecology. In this unit, students will learn about the amazing diversity of species and how we distinguish species, how species change over time, how species impact each other and their environment.

### SCI 211: Honors Biology

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Honors

In the Honors version of this laboratory course, students will learn the same concepts but in greater depth and intensity. Students will learn about how chemistry is associated with life and the topic of cells. This includes learning about the criteria for the most basic living organisms, how cells form more complex organisms, and how normal cells become cancerous. The second major topic of this course focuses on genetic traits; specifically, students will learn how traits are inherited and the probability of inheriting particular traits. The last major topic focuses on evolution and ecology. In this unit, students will learn about the amazing diversity of species and how we distinguish species, how species change over time, and how species impact each other and their environments.

### SCI 221: Health and Wellness Seminar

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This pass/fail course provides essential information about physical and mental health, enabling Kents Hill students to make responsible decisions and enjoy lifelong wellness. Organized as a sequence of three modules, each with its own instructor, Health and Wellness Seminar covers the basics of nutrition and exercise science, human sexuality, and positive mental health. Students complete regular short readings, watch relevant videos, and participate in in-depth conversations about course content. Please note that Grade 10 students are automatically enrolled in Health and Wellness Seminar.

## 300-LEVEL COURSES

### SCI 301: Chemistry

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This course introduces students to the basic principles of chemistry. Students will learn about the scientific process, the development of the atomic structure, properties of elements, chemical bonding, reactions, thermodynamics, and properties of gasses. Experience in the laboratory is an important part of this course, and experiments are chosen to help students reinforce the course topics and learn good basic laboratory techniques. Prerequisite: Algebra 1.

### SCI 311: Honors Chemistry

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Honors

This laboratory course covers topics that will enable a student to enter a first-year college chemistry course. These include phases of matter, the scientific process, the development of atomic structure leading to the present quantum mechanical model, the properties of elements, chemical bonding, chemical equilibrium, reactions, and thermodynamics. Experience in the laboratory is an important part of this course, and experiments are chosen to help students reinforce the course topics and learn good basic laboratory techniques. Prerequisite: Algebra 1.

### SCI 321: Physics

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This course will explore the nature of the physical world and associated laws that apply to these phenomena. Students will be exposed to content associated with physics and engineering as they move through units focused on mechanics (velocity, acceleration, force, etc.) and electricity. Each unit will involve regular demonstrations, laboratory work, and design projects that will have students building products based on physics concepts. These design projects will include both design challenges and principles of engineering. Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra 2 (may be taken concurrently).

### SCI 331: Astrophysics

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This course is all about exploring the universe. Students will learn and apply conceptual physics while learning about what we know so far about space and what modern astrophysicists are curious about and concerned with. We will start by focusing on our solar system and learning about the objects that comprise our immediate surroundings. We will then focus on stars. Students will learn about stellar characteristics and evolution. Our study of the universe will broaden as students learn about an expanding universe in terms of Hubble's law and red-shifting. The course will wrap up by exploring dark energy, dark matter, and black holes. Prerequisite: Geometry (which may be taken concurrently). **NEW COURSE!**

### SCI 341: Maine Field Studies

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

Maine Field Studies is a place-based environmental studies course that focuses on understanding the complex relationships between humans and ecosystems in Maine. Students will learn about basic principles of ecology while exploring forests, lakes, mountains, and the Maine coast, and consider the ways in which Maine's ecosystems are affected by our changing climate. Working with community partners, students will develop an understanding of the unique needs of Maine's rural communities. Students will apply their knowledge by designing and implementing a climate action project that aims to increase the long-term resilience of our communities. Skills taught in this course include data collection, field research methods, communication, and community engagement. This class will have a strong field component. Students should be prepared to be outside in all weather conditions. **NEW COURSE!**

### SCI 351: Robotics

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

Robotics is based on a curriculum developed by Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Academy and uses both the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 and the VEX IQ platforms through the year. The course focuses on robotics technologies, math and science concepts including fundamentals in physics, mechanical design, circuit design, engineering and construction techniques, and programming skills. Students will learn how to construct robots and program them using various software and will complete challenges related to various sensors and coding functions. Students will also be introduced to other aspects of Engineering to include CAD design and 3D printing. Prerequisites: Algebra 1.

### SCI 361: Environmental Research and Design

Full-year course (1 credit Environmental Studies)

College Prep

In this Environmental Studies class, students will reimagine a sustainable world through nature-inspired design. The course will explore Maine's ecosystems from the forest to the sea and local institutions that focus on sustainability to understand the complex relationships between natural and cultural systems. In our maker's studio, students will develop skills in designing, creating, and making through the exploration of natural materials, forms, and systems in nature to inspire sustainable design processes. We will apply lessons learned from natural systems while focusing on how science and design can positively impact society and the environment. Over the course of the year, students will lead the way in determining why, how, and what sustainable project we choose to design and implement in the spring. Much of this course will take place outdoors, venturing on and off-campus to engage in a variety of experiential learning opportunities. Additional course fees apply. **NEW COURSE!**

## 400-LEVEL COURSES

### SCI 401: Biochemistry of Nutrition

Semester course (1/2 credit): Fall 2021

College Prep

In Biochemistry of Nutrition, students will develop an understanding of the human gastrointestinal system, how nutrition facts are calculated, and how diet impacts health. This class will emphasize the importance of food for energy and maintaining homeostasis within our bodies. In addition to dietary requirements, students will also learn about common dietary allergies, restrictions, and diseases. Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry. **NEW COURSE!**

### SCI 411: Global Public Health

Semester course (1/2 credit): Spring 2022

College Prep

Global Public Health will investigate real public health challenges facing the twenty-first-century world. Examples include infectious diseases, malnutrition, and pollution. The class will develop statistical analysis and complex system-thinking skills to research these issues and use scientific reasoning to explore their governmental, cultural, and geographical aspects. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify current public health problems, develop plans to address the problems, and present their proposals to classmates and other members of the Kents Hill community. Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra 2. **NEW COURSE!**

### SCI 421: Global Environmental Learning

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

Global Environmental Learning is an applied environmental studies course that focuses on field-based research to understand Earth systems. In this year-long course, students will follow protocols from [GLOBE](#) science, a global collaboration between NASA,

NOAA, the NSF, and the US Department of State. Students will explore basic principles of scientific inquiry and communication while learning about properties of the pedosphere, biosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere. The course will place a strong emphasis on designing and conducting authentic research, culminating in a student-driven research project. This course is best suited for students eager to transfer knowledge and skills from prior science courses into an applied context. **NEW COURSE!**

## 500-LEVEL COURSES

### SCI 501: AP Biology

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Advanced Placement

AP Biology is aligned with the College Board standards. Students will be expected to be familiar with fundamental content from their previous biology class. A greater emphasis is placed on laboratory procedures and reports. Students will dive deeper to learn how cells communicate with each other to maintain homeostasis in complex organisms, how cytoplasmic determinants help control development, the impact of single versus frameshift mutations, how genes are activated or deactivated, how enzymes regulate metabolism, impacts of selection on species evolution, how interspecific and intraspecific competitions affect species survival, and the complex connections between organisms with each other and their environments. Broad Topics that will be covered are: Chemistry of Life, Cell Structure and Function, Cellular Energetics, Cell Cycle and Communication, Heredity, Gene Expression and Regulation, Natural Selection, and Ecology. Prerequisites: Honors Biology and Chemistry. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee.

### SCI 511: AP Environmental Studies

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Advanced Placement

The goals of this interdisciplinary science course are to provide students with the skills and knowledge to understand the interrelationships of the natural world and to understand and analyze both natural and human-made environmental issues. This course integrates the disciplines of chemistry, biology, and physical sciences as they apply to understanding the interconnectedness of the natural world. Classes will consist of lectures and discussions as well as extended laboratory and field investigations. Topics will include the following concerns from a local and global perspective: interdependence of earth's systems, population dynamics, resource use, environmental quality, global changes, and the interactions of the environment and society. Students can expect a variety of written assessments plus a cumulative portfolio of their classroom, laboratory, and field work. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee.

### SCI 521: AP Chemistry

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Advanced Placement

The AP Chemistry course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations as they explore content such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee. Prerequisites: Honors Chemistry or Chemistry with a teacher recommendation.

**NEW COURSE!**

## 600-LEVEL COURSES

### SCI 601: Anatomy and Physiology

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Dual-Enrollment

A solid understanding of human anatomy and physiology is the foundation of every health-related career. Designed in collaboration with the University of Maine at Augusta, this Dual-Enrollment course offers students the opportunity to establish that foundation. After reviewing the basics of Biology and Chemistry, students will use labs, activities, and a variety of case studies to explore both traditional and contemporary topics, including such timely issues as medical ethics and the recent explosion of healthcare-related jobs. Students will also make use of local healthcare facilities to better understand the ways in which our course material is applied in the real world. Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry.

### SCI 611: College Physics 1

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Dual-Enrollment

This course is an introduction to the content, methods, and philosophy of science with an emphasis on the principles of physics and their application to topics in research and current issues in science. The course will focus on Mechanics (with specific attention to

motion, the forces that cause that motion and conservation principles in energy and momentum) and principles of Thermodynamics. This allows more in-depth study of the topics. Prerequisites: Precalculus (may be enrolled concurrently), instructor permission. Students who successfully complete this course will receive college credit. Additional course fees apply.

### SCI 621: College Physics 2

Full-year course (1 credit)

Dual-Enrollment

This course is a second-year physics class with an emphasis on the principles of physics and their application to topics in research and current issues in science. As an advanced course, the focus areas will include Wave Fundamentals (to include Sound and Light, Electricity and Magnetism, and Modern Physics (Quantum Mechanics and Nuclear Physics.) This will allow more in-depth study of the topics. Prerequisites: Successful completion of College Physics 1 or an Advanced Placement Physics Course, instructor permission. Students who successfully complete this course will receive college credit. Additional course fees apply.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

In addition to valuing the traditional curricular goals of content knowledge, all Social Studies courses emphasize skill development in critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication, as well as the exploration of character and reflection. Three years of Social Studies courses, including U.S. History, are required for graduation, but the department strongly recommends taking additional elective courses, particularly during junior and senior year. (For changes to Kents Hill's graduation requirements for the Class of 2024 and beyond, see above, pages 5-6.) The Social Studies Department offers courses in the 200-600 levels.

### 200-LEVEL COURSES

#### SOC 201: Global Studies Seminar

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

This course begins with a focus on some of the major political, economic, and social principles and systems that have shaped and organized the global community over time. Grounding their study in both history and current events, students will develop their own fictional country and form a global community in miniature, before exploring broad phenomena (conflict, migration, environmental change, cultural diffusion, epidemics, and disruptive technologies) that have challenged communities throughout history to react, adapt, and redefine themselves in relation to one another. Students will apply their knowledge and skills to creatively and collaboratively develop solutions to a series of complicated and contemporary global challenges.

### 300-LEVEL COURSES

#### SOC 301: United States History

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

Critical analysis of the entire breadth of the American experience is the theme of this college prep course. This course examines the social, political, and economic history of the United States from the Colonial Era through the nineteenth century. Students will learn to evaluate history, analyze the relationships between people and events, uncover the roots of present-day problems, evaluate the successes and failures of politicians, social reformers, business leaders, military strategists, and everyday people to define and maintain the liberties, rights, and responsibilities integral to the character and ideals of the nation.

#### SOC 311: Honors United States History

Full-year course (1 credit)

Honors

This course examines the social, political, and economic history of the United States from the Colonial Era through the nineteenth century and is recommended for students interested in taking AP U.S. History later on. Students will learn to evaluate history, analyze the relationships between people and events, and uncover the roots of present-day problems. They will also gain an understanding of how historians develop interpretations of the past through the use of primary sources and scholarly research. Prerequisite: instructor permission.

### 400-LEVEL COURSES

#### SOC 401: Comparative Government and Politics

Full-Year course (1 credit)

### College Prep

This course will introduce students to comparative politics emphasizing the study of the political institutions, identities, and organized interests in countries around the world. Students will learn to make meaningful comparisons between systems in countries with different histories, political systems, and from various regions. They will examine questions about democracies and democratization, electoral systems and political parties, authoritarian regimes, political mobilization and change, economic development and globalization, nationalism and identity politics, among other topics. The comparative method of the course offers a unique way for expanding student understanding of social and political phenomena. Prerequisite: U.S. History. **NEW COURSE!**

### SOC 411: Economics

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

The course introduces students to Economics through a focus on “classical” microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and principles, as well as the emerging field of behavioral economics. Students will explore the mechanics and ethics of individual and collective economic decision-making, navigate such economic challenges as inflation, unemployment, and poverty, and consider the government’s role in setting regulatory, fiscal, and monetary policies. Students will also be introduced to foundational principles of entrepreneurship, as well as the basics of investing and personal economic planning. Prerequisite: U.S. History (may be taken concurrently).

### SOC 421: Psychology

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This course offers an introductory approach to the study of the human mind and behavior. It covers much of the same content as the AP Psychology course, but in a less comprehensive fashion. Students will be introduced to topics such as the biological foundations of behavior, states of consciousness, learning and memory theories, lifespan development, theories of personality and emotion, abnormal psychology, and social psychology. The course will be taught through a combination of reading, discussion, writing and project-based work with the goal of increasing student understanding of the many aspects of human behavior. Prerequisite: U.S. History (may be taken concurrently).

### SOC 431: Contexts for Hip-Hop

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

In this yearlong course, students will explore the dynamics of hip-hop culture, surveying its historical development, political significance, and social influences. Students will learn about Black culture’s many inspirations by studying events, individuals, and artistic movements from 1619 to the present. They will also examine the connections between popular music and political change and consider the ways in which hip-hop artists from a variety of backgrounds borrow and learn from one another, both in the United States and around the world. Prerequisite: U.S. History (may be taken concurrently). **NEW COURSE!**

### SOC 441: A Global History of the UN

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

This course will examine the form and function of the United Nations through an historical lens and a study of current events, as well as through project-based learning in effective diplomacy. Founded in 1945 in the wake of World War II, the United Nations is an international organization built to address issues confronting the global community and provide a mechanism for international dialogue, negotiation, and collective action. Since its founding, it has navigated such historical events as The Cold War and the collapse of Communism, revolutions in Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East, and dramatic global economic and social movements. As the class addresses events and topics related to peace and security, climate change and sustainable development, human rights and gender equality, and humanitarian and health emergencies, students will prepare for and participate in the Maine Model United Nations Conference, where they will hone and test their skills in analysis, problem-solving, communication, and compromise. Prerequisite: U.S. History (may be taken concurrently). Additional course fees apply. **NEW COURSE!**

### SOC 451: Introduction to Women’s Studies

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### College Prep

Introduction to Women’s Studies is a year-long course that introduces students to the Women’s Liberation Movement in the United States through a chronological exploration of the four waves of feminism. Starting with the road to Women’s Suffrage and concluding with the modern-day fight for gender equity, students will explore the evolution of feminist consciousness throughout history, and critically analyze the successes and failures of each wave of American feminism. Utilizing both theoretical and historical lenses, students will be introduced to important authors and individuals within the women’s movement, including, but not limited to,

Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony, Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Bell Hooks, and Audre Lorde. Assignments will include a variety of readings plus regular class discussions, creative projects, and several traditional essays. Prerequisite: U.S. History (may be taken concurrently). Additional course fees apply. **NEW COURSE!**

## 500-LEVEL COURSES

### SOC 511: AP Psychology

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Advanced Placement

In this year-long course, students will cover the content of a college-level Introductory Psychology course. It is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. The course includes topics such as the historical roots of psychology, research design, the biological bases of behavior, memory and cognition, lifespan development, personality theory, states of consciousness, abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Prerequisites: U.S. History (may be taken concurrently) and instructor permission. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee. **NEW COURSE!**

### SOC 521: AP United States Government and Politics

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Advanced Placement

In this course, students will practice the skills used by political scientists by studying data, political writings from the founding era to the present, the structure of the government as established by the Constitution, and constitutional interpretations handed down by the Supreme Court. They will delve deeply into the three branches of federal and state governments while studying the election cycle, partisan politics and democracy as an institution. Students will show mastery of these skills on the exam through a variety of means, including concept application, data analysis, Supreme Court case comparisons, and writing political science arguments. Prerequisites: U.S. History and instructor permission. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee.

### SOC 531: AP United States History

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Advanced Placement

In this course, students will investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from 1491 to the present. They will develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course challenges students to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures. Prerequisite: instructor permission. Students are required to take the AP Exam and pay the accompanying fee.

## 600-LEVEL COURSES

### SOC 601: Principles of Entrepreneurship and Management

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Dual-Enrollment

Whether in college or in a rapidly changing global economy, our graduates will navigate a world of change and uncertainty, and entrepreneurship education will help them to develop a collaborative, problem-solving, growth mindset, and the skills associated with learning through setbacks and perseverance. This course will focus on the principles of entrepreneurship and the process of small business development. Prerequisites: U.S. History and instructor permission. Economics strongly recommended. Students who successfully complete this course will receive college credit. Additional course fees apply.

### SOC 611: Principles of Investment and Financial Planning

Full-year course (1 credit)

#### Dual-Enrollment

Demand for our students to be exposed to the topics of personal finance and planning is increasing each year. Many states are making it a requirement for graduation. This course will dive deep into topics such as retirement, tax planning, estate planning, risk management and investments along with budgeting, credit/debt, saving, spending, market trends, insurance, college loans, and more. This course will focus on all aspects of personal finance and how decisions regarding money throughout a person's life affects long-term investments, wealth building, and planning for the future. Students will acquire knowledge in the world of finance and develop

habits that will last through their lives. Prerequisites: U.S. History and instructor permission. Economics strongly recommended. Students who successfully complete this course will receive college credit. Additional course fees apply.

### **SOC 621: Principles of Leadership**

Full-year course (1 credit)

Dual-Enrollment

This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the principles of leadership across varied areas of application. While the goal of the course is to familiarize students with leadership theory and terminology, our discussions, activities, and projects will provide opportunities to apply what we learn in different environments. Students will examine leadership in business, athletics, the military, and the outdoors, and develop an understanding of the approaches that are specific to each group and task. We will use school groups, teams, and a backpacking trip to apply our learning. Prerequisites: U.S. History and instructor permission. Students who successfully complete this course will receive college credit. Additional course fees apply.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

The World Languages Department aims to develop competency in the four areas of language skill: listening, reading, speaking, and writing, and to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of cultures other than their own. Students acquire a working knowledge of essential grammatical structures and learn to speak and understand the language in the context of specific, real-world outcomes. In the upper levels, students also develop the ability to read, analyze, and discuss literary works, contemporary texts, and films. Note: the overarching goal of the World Languages Program is to promote bilingualism; as such, students arriving at Kents Hill already knowing multiple languages, or students who are English-language learners, may receive language waivers. World Language courses are offered at the 100-500 levels.

### **100-LEVEL COURSES**

#### **LAN 101: Beginner French**

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

An introductory course in the French language and culture, Beginner French seeks to build a strong foundation in the language, with equal emphasis placed on reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. A variety of methods are employed to help students develop proficiency in the language. These include, but are not limited to, textbook and workbook exercises, grammar lessons, reading comprehension activities, informal conversation, games, music, videos, and Internet research.

#### **LAN 111: Beginner Spanish**

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

An introductory course in the Spanish language and culture, Beginner Spanish seeks to build a strong foundation in the language, with equal emphasis placed on reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. A variety of methods are employed to help students develop proficiency in the language. These include, but are not limited to, textbook and workbook exercises, grammar lessons, reading comprehension activities, informal conversation, games, music, videos, and Internet research.

### **200-LEVEL COURSES**

#### **LAN 201: Advanced Beginner French**

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

This course begins with a review of the skills taught in Beginner French and then builds upon those skills throughout the school year. The same, multi-modal methods are used to help students continue to develop their ability to read, write, and speak French. Emphasis is placed on grammatical accuracy and conversational fluency. Prerequisite: Beginner French.

#### **LAN 211: Advanced Beginner Spanish**

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

This course begins with a review of the skills taught in Beginner Spanish and then builds upon those skills throughout the school year. The same, multi-modal methods are used to help students continue to develop their ability to read, write, and speak Spanish. Emphasis is placed on grammatical accuracy and conversational fluency. Prerequisite: Beginner Spanish.



### LAN 250: Francophone Culture

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

This course seeks to introduce variations of French and a variety of cultures in the Francophone world. Students are introduced to the concept of “Francophone,” its ideological and political meaning, as well as its cultural and literary expressions. This class will help improve your speaking skills while learning about cultural issues in French-speaking areas of the world. Through the study of films, comics, current events, and cultural comparisons, students will focus on essential communication skills such as comprehension, contemporary vocabulary use, and conversational practice. Students will gain greater fluency and confidence. They will also improve their oral communication skills by exploring contemporary issues and cultural differences between food, music, slang words, economic differences, in a political and historical context. This course aims to help students understand how to use the French language in varied communicative contexts and gain a deeper understanding of French and Francophone cultures.

Prerequisite: Advanced Beginner French, or the equivalent. **NEW COURSE!**

## 300-LEVEL COURSES

### LAN 301: Intermediate French

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

This course is designed for students who excelled in Advanced Beginner French and who wish to become more competent in the language and deepen their understanding of Francophone culture. The course begins with a rapid and comprehensive review of the language elements presented in earlier levels. Then students learn the remaining tenses while expanding their vocabulary through a variety of readings, films, and discussions in the target language. The course requires students to read, write, and speak extensively in French, demonstrating increasing fluidity and grammatical accuracy. Prerequisite: Advanced Beginner French.

### LAN 311: Intermediate Spanish

Full-year course (1 credit)

College Prep

This course is designed for students who excelled in Advanced Beginner Spanish and who wish to become more competent in the language and deepen their understanding of Hispanic culture. The course begins with a rapid and comprehensive review of the language elements presented in earlier levels. Next, students learn the remaining tenses while expanding their vocabulary through a variety of readings, films, and discussions in the target language. The course requires students to read, write, and speak extensively in Spanish, demonstrating increasing fluidity and grammatical accuracy. Prerequisite: Advanced Beginner Spanish.

## 500 LEVEL COURSES

### LAN 501: Advanced French

Full-year course (1 credit)

Honors

Advanced French is a rigorous course designed for students who have successfully completed Intermediate French. The course is almost fully conducted in French and students in Advanced French are expected to complete readings, watch and react to videos, converse and present fully in the target language. Students will review advanced grammatical structures as they gain in fluency and deepen their knowledge of Francophone culture, while preparing for upper-level language study at the university. Prerequisite: Intermediate French, or the equivalent of three years of high school French.

### LAN 511: Advanced Spanish

Full-year course (1 credit)

Honors

Advanced Spanish is a rigorous course designed for students who have successfully completed Intermediate Spanish. The course is almost fully conducted in Spanish and students in Advanced Spanish are expected to complete readings, watch and react to videos, converse and present fully in the target language. Students will review advanced grammatical structures and increase their knowledge of Hispanic culture, while gaining in fluency and preparing for upper-level language study at the university. Prerequisite: Intermediate Spanish, or the equivalent of three years of high school Spanish.

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