



COURSE CATALOG



**MILL SPRINGS
ACADEMY**

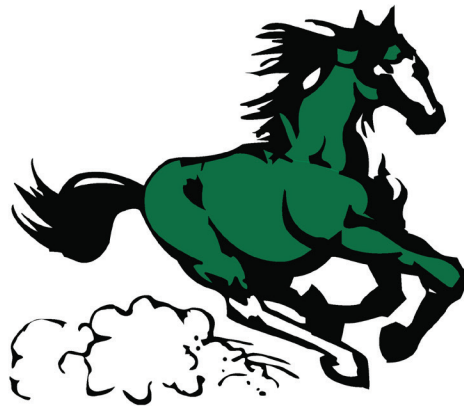
Grades K-12

MISSION

Mill Springs Academy is a values-based educational community dedicated to the academic, physical, and social growth of those students who have not realized their full potential in traditional classroom settings.

VISION

Mill Springs Academy will serve as an exemplar in educating and supporting students with learning differences. We strive to empower our students to maximize their individual potential to become courageous and compassionate leaders by providing an engaging, structured, and challenging learning environment that utilizes research-based intervention strategies, a rigorous individualized curriculum, and stimulating, thought-provoking learning experiences that values and maximizes each student's potential, so they are well-equipped for success in school and success in life.



Mill Springs Academy is an equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The School does not discriminate in the admission or hiring of qualified individuals on the basis of age, race (actual or perceived), color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, (dis)ability, national or ethnic origin, or any other characteristic protected by law. This policy applies to admissions, access, financial aid, educational policies, and other school administered student and employee programs and activities.

This publication is solely for communication of school related matters by and among members of the school community - students, parents, and faculty. Its use for any other purpose is improper and unauthorized.

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GRADES K-5

The Lower School (which comprises grades kindergarten through fifth) is a warm, nurturing environment of small classes and experienced, dedicated teachers. The small, structured classes allow individualized instruction for students who are either not achieving their potential within a traditional setting or who need additional challenges in their areas of strength. Academics incorporate a multi-sensory, “hands-on” approach where activities are woven into the instructional mastery process. The goal of the Lower School is for students to master basic academic and social skills that will be the foundation for all future learning. A major focus is to convey a love of reading that will inspire them to read about subjects of interest to them and for building the knowledge required to succeed academically. Equally important, students work on making friends and learning appropriate social interactions, which are critical life skills.

Lower School teaches core academic subjects of phonemic awareness, word study, reading, language arts, and math in the morning when students are rested and can concentrate better. Higher-interest subjects such as science, social studies, art, mindfulness/values, and musical theater are taught in the afternoon.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Voyages in English This course will guide students to build skills to eventually master the written and spoken word. Grammar and the mechanics of writing are reinforced to equip students with powerful communication skills. There is a focus on building students’ confidence to speak and write with clarity, correctness, and purpose, empowering students to become dynamic young communicators. Students will learn to understand sentences and sentence structure. They will learn to correctly use the parts of speech, including adjectives, adverbs, nouns, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns, and verbs. Mechanics development will include correct capitalization, end punctuation, use of apostrophes and commas, and quotation marks. Writing activities will also enhance word usage and spelling of high-frequency words.	Grade: 1-2	Vocabulary Workshop Published by Sadlier-Oxford, Vocabulary Workshop is a series of consumable workbooks designed to help students improve their vocabulary through leveled passages, an assortment of practice activities and exercises, reviews, word studies and more. Each workbook in Vocabulary Workshop is designed to cover about a year’s worth of learning in vocabulary, with around 14-18 units per book. Each book’s units or lessons follow a structure that is not too uncommon with vocabulary programs, with students reading a passage and then completing various exercises based on a selection of words. Each unit in Vocabulary Workshop starts out with a passage of some kind that students read and that serves to introduce that unit’s word list, whose words are highlighted in bold lettering. The passages are grade-leveled in terms of complexity and difficulty, and they are varied, exposing students to a variety of writing styles.	Grade: K-5
Voyages in English This course prepares students to become literate masters of the written and spoken word. They will be better writers, readers, listeners, and speakers. Students expand their understanding of sentence structure to include complete and compound predicates and subjects. They correctly incorporate the parts of speech in their writing, including irregular forms of adjectives, compound adjectives, subordinating conjunctions, personal and possessive pronouns, singular and plural verbs, and helping verbs. Mechanics continue to develop by incorporating appropriate use of abbreviations, numbers in writing, and beginning the use of colons, hyphens, and parentheses. Writing activities continue to enhance word usage, develop high-frequency word spelling, and begin to incorporate irregular spelling rules.	Grade: 3-5	Written Expression The Written Expression writing program is integrated into all subject areas. The writing activities include daily journal writing, brainstorming, book reports, subject matter reports, essays, and creative writing (poetry, holiday writing, and fictional stories). There are teacher-guided writing exercises based on sentence completion activities or a specific topic. Students build their own personal dictionaries to aid in the spelling of commonly used words. Teachers address a step-by-step approach giving students practical strategies for writing or typing paragraphs, stories, and essays. Students learn to create a topic sentence, brainstorm for supportive ideas, write a concluding sentence, and expand paragraphs into longer compositions.	Grade: K-5

MATHEMATICS

Math K

This course is designed to meet the needs of individual students, build students' appreciation of mathematics, promote confidence in math concepts, develop mathematical reasoning, encourage participation in cooperative learning, and learn Touch Point strategy.

Math 1

This course provides instruction utilizing manipulatives to explore concepts of number and number operations, geometry, measurement, and the relationship between numbers and geometric shapes. Language is used to explore problem-solving through story situations. An introduction to math as a language. Emphasis is placed on the concepts of numbers 0-99, place value (tens and ones), addition and subtraction, strategies, recall of fact sums to 18, time to the half-hour, money, length (inch/centimeter), pattern recognition, simple bar and picture graphs, addition and subtraction (2-digit numbers), and regrouping.

Math 2

Emphasis is placed on the concepts of numbers (0-999), place value (hundreds, tens, and ones), addition and subtraction (mental computations and estimation strategies), skip counting, time to 5 minutes, money to \$1, estimation of quantities and length, and simple bar and picture graphs. Manipulatives are used to explore addition and subtraction of up to 2 digits; numerical, geometric, and quantity relationships; fractions; multiplication readiness; and measurement. Problem-solving strategies are expanded.

Math 3

Concepts of number and place value are extended to thousands, comparing and ordering to 999, addition and subtraction through 3-digit symbolic procedures, and fractions using both regions and sets. Emphasis is placed on multiplication and division (concepts, strategies, and basic facts to 10×10), simple mental computation and estimation strategies, hands-on geometry (relations, transformations, line symmetry), and measurement. Equivalent fractions, comparing fractions, decimals, probability, and relations are introduced using manipulatives. Problem-solving strategies are applied.

Grade: K Math 4

The concepts of number and place value are extended to millions. Emphasis is placed on making geometric models and using them to sort, classify, and determine relations; measuring; organizing and interpreting data; and using manipulatives, then symbolic procedures to multiply and divide (up to 3-digits by 2-digits). Manipulatives are used to determine the perimeter, area, and volume; add and subtract fractions; compare fractions and decimals; and identify equivalent fractions. Additional strategies are used in mental computation, estimation of numbers and measurement, and problem-solving. Students are introduced to basic algebraic concepts.

Math 5

Emphasis is placed on making geometric models and using them to sort, classify, and determine relations; measuring; organizing and interpreting data; and using manipulatives, then symbolic procedures to multiply and divide decimals and fractions. Manipulatives are used to determine the perimeter, area, and volume; add and subtract fractions; compare fractions and decimals; and identify equivalent fractions. Additional strategies are used in mental computation, estimation of numbers and measurement, and problem-solving. Introduction to basic algebraic concepts, percent, ratio, statistics, and probability.

Grade: 4

Grade: 5



PHONICS

Foundations®

Foundations® is an adaptation of the Wilson Reading System®, a remedial program based on the principals of Orton-Gillingham Methodology. It is a systematic, sequential, multi-sensory method of teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, reading, writing skills, and spelling. The principals of the program are explicit instruction, systematic instruction (sequential and cumulative), motor-memory learning (sky-writing and tapping), repetition, and feedback. Students have multiple opportunities to develop quick and automatic word recognition. The student will be able to segment and blend up to six sounds in a syllable. As new sounds are introduced, they are manipulated into words. Students are explicitly taught how to blend sounds into words. Students are explicitly taught how to blend sounds into words. This is systematically done following the six basic syllable types. The teacher directly teaches all skills to students through modeling and active learning. The students blend and segment sounds with a finger-tapping procedure and use magnetized letters to form words. Students will learn to segment and spell words in correspondence to decoding patterns.

Grade: K-3

Just Words®

Just Words® is an appropriate intervention in daily small group or class instruction. Just Words® is highly effective for those students with gaps in their decoding and spelling. It is a concentrated word study program with an emphasis on phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, and word study. It is a highly explicit, multi-sensory, systematic, repetitious decoding and spelling program. Mastery of automatic word recognition has a significant positive effect on all other areas of reading. To achieve this goal with students, the Just Words® curriculum systematically and thoroughly teaches students about spelling structure of English words. Instruction consists of a variety of very interactive and multi-sensory activities that thoroughly teach English word patterns, including the six syllable types, prefixes, base words, and suffixes. Although not its primary focus, Just Words® includes vocabulary development, fluency practice with studied word structure, and comprehension at the sentence and paragraph levels.

Grade: 4

READING

Reading K-1

The first-grade reading, phonics, and language-enriched program is a strong multi-sensory, linguistically, and visually based program. This curriculum is integrated, and all skills learned are used in all subject areas. This method reinforces and enhances learning new skills, and skills are more quickly internalized, making mastery easier. Music is also a vital component of this program because children are naturally inspired by rhythm, rhyming, and songs. It also incorporates the Foundations® Program (Level 1), an adaptation to the Wilson Reading System®, a remedial program based on the principles of the Orton-Gillingham Methodology. Through all, active teaching and learning by doing are the key elements. This curriculum is logical, sequential, and orderly, as well as multi-sensory and very interactive. It covers phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading, writing skills, spelling, fluency, and comprehension, providing the foundation for life-long literacy.

Grade: K-1

Reading 2

The second-grade reading program also focuses on phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Utilizing literature-based chapter books which enhance comprehension, vocabulary skills, literary skills, writing skills, cross-curricular activities, and selected word study skills. The reading level of the books is individualized by the student and normally ranges from grades 1-5. Students may also use Foundations® (Level 2) and Multiple Skills Series for independent reading and comprehension.

Grade: 2

Reading 3

This course is designed to focus on the following principles: explicit instruction, systematic instruction, motor-memory learning, repetition, and feedback. Third-grade students increase their abilities to read aloud with fluency and comprehension, reading more thoughtfully, discussing details, and extracting deeper meaning from what they read. Most of the novels selected are a part of a literature-based reading program called Novel-Ties®.

Grade: 3

Reading 4

This course is designed to focus on the following principles: explicit instruction, systematic instruction, motor-memory learning, repetition, and feedback. The fourth-grade program uses Just Words® which is a highly explicit, multi-sensory decoding and spelling program. Students will also continue with Novel-Ties® reading chapter books that enhance comprehension, vocabulary skills, literary skills, writing skills, cross-curricular activities, and selected word study skills.

Grade: 4

Effective oral and written usage of the parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling will be incorporated into daily activities. Important reading comprehension strategies will be learned for answering questions and finding the main ideas and important details. Using context clues and reference materials, the student will learn to order information chronologically. Methods such as the Orton-Gillingham approach may be implemented to teach pattern sounds. Through weekly trips to the library, students will learn to use a variety of resources and select age-appropriate books. Book report assignments will be completed through a variety of formats, such as written, oral, and visual.

Language Arts/Reading 5**Grade: 5**

The primary focus of this course will be to allow the student to gain confidence while improving their writing skills using the writing process. Written assignments will be built by using the brainstorming web/mapping process. The student will be encouraged to write creatively with appropriate vocabulary usage. Identifying and demonstrating the use of different sentence structures will be emphasized.

SCIENCE

Science**Grade: K-5**

In this course, students in grades K-2 begin to develop an understanding of the Five Senses, food and nutrition, weather and seasons, Earth, Sun, Moon, the Solar System, and the environment. Grades 3-5 learn about plant and animal life cycles, ecosystems, weather and climate, Earth science, forces and motion, electricity and magnetism, and the human body. Each year students build on the previous year's skills to deepen their understanding of essential science concepts and apply their knowledge to design solutions for engineering problems. This integration of science and engineering practice with content reflects how scientists and engineers work in the real world and provides deeper, more meaningful experiences.

Generation Genius**Grade: 4-5**

Generation Genius presents some of the most exciting, professionally produced, video-based science lessons that can be found. These were created in partnership with the National Science Teachers Association and align with Next Generation Science Standards. The lesson plans are designed to engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate (the 5E's). There are DIY activities, vocabulary, reading material with discussion questions, and even Kahoot online quiz games.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies**Grade: K-5**

This course is intended to promote civic competence through the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities. The primary purpose of Social Studies is to help students develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. Grades K-2 will be exposed to United States history through the study of selected figures and where they lived.

They will also cover important American holidays and symbols and explore important geographic concepts. Grades 3-5 will follow the four strands of United States history, including history, geography, civics/government, and economics. Students will learn about the rights of citizens contained within the Constitution and how changes have been made over time to protect the rights of citizens.

ENRICHMENT

Art

Students are given the freedom to create within a structured framework. The primary goals are increased self-confidence and self-expression, gaining an understanding of the elements of art and art history, and for students to create original work, improve fine motor skills, and explore. A wide range of art mediums are used, including markers, pastels, acrylic paint, colored pencils, as well as many materials such as balsa wood, cardboard, found objects, yarn, clay, and play-doh, allowing the creation of three-dimensional forms. Students help create props for their spring performance. Each student utilizes a sketchbook throughout the year for planning ideas and free drawing. All K-5 students participate in Art class; they meet weekly throughout the entire year.

Grade: K-5

The emphasis in class is to learn by exploring all parts of music and theater in creative ways. The music and theater class works cooperatively with the art department, often creating the props and set pieces used in their productions. All K-5 students participate in Music and Theater classes.

Mindfulness and Values

This course is designed to teach elementary students the tools they need to build confidence, cope with stress, and relate to uncomfortable or challenging moments. That includes breathing, visualization techniques, and yoga poses which promote focus, less stress, and general well-being.

Grade: K-5

Music and Theater

Students learn about composers and instruments, play simple percussion instruments, and play musical games that teach skills such as conducting and learning how to practically apply terms such as tempo, dynamics, and pitch. Students will learn how to create music together with at least one singing performance per year, usually in a combined event with theater. Students will learn kinesthetically by getting up and moving as they learn basic improv, scene work, and musical theater skills. They will learn basic stage directions, how to speak on stage, and standard basic dance moves. A short performance for family and friends is presented in the spring for family and friends.

Grade: K-5

Phonemic Awareness Support

Grade: K-5

The Lower School provides extra support during the afternoon to help students who struggle with reading. Strong reading skills are critical for success across the curriculum so struggling readers are provided instruction that is systematic and cumulative. Systematic instruction is carefully thought out, builds upon prior learning, builds from simple to complex, and is designed before activities and lessons are planned. Cumulative instruction provides multiple opportunities to practice both previously and newly acquired skills, addressing issues of retention and automaticity.

Physical Education

Grade: K-5

The Lower School Physical Education program is an integral part of the total education process. The purpose of the program is to provide all students with active participation and cooperative, expressive, and success-oriented activities leading to a lifetime of increased physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. The PE class is designed to meet the needs and interests of the students. The teaching strategies employed in the course are both group and individual, attempting to provide each student the opportunity for instruction in skills, rules, and strategies in a variety of activities, including games, team and individual sports, as well as fitness activities.



GRADES 6–8

The goal of grades 6-8 is to help students learn academic and social strategies that will assist students in the way they learn best. A major focus is to allow the students the opportunity to learn what works for them in the social, academic, and study skill areas. Students learn where their strengths and emerging skills lie as well as how to best advocate for their learning needs and strengths. It is our wish for our students to be successful lifelong learners.

The Middle School curriculum offers math, science, social studies, language arts, and reading. These are taught in a block format schedule. Regardless of whether students are in the Middle School or the Communication Arts School, the course selections are the same.

Discipline	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Language Arts	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 7	Language Arts 8
Math	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8
Science	Earth & Space Science	Life Science	Physical Science
Social Studies	World Cultures 6	World Cultures 7	World Cultures 8
Electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One (1) elective of Performing Arts - either Band or Musical• One (1) elective (Reading may be one required elective based on student need)	Two (2) Electives (Reading may be one (1) of the required electives based on student need)	Two (2) Electives (Reading may be one (1) of the required electives based on student need)

Please note: All course offerings are contingent upon staffing, enrollment, and student interest.

Student Placement – Student placement in English, Math, Science, and History is a function of current testing (both educational/psychological and academic achievement assessments) and other criteria related to the student’s ability, potential, and college/career goals. In addition, the various individual psychological processes, teacher recommendation, student performance, and conversations with the student regarding their perspective are considered when determining placement.

Levels of Instruction

Concept Level Class – A class focusing primarily on concept development, including literacy, mathematics, and the physical and social sciences. The course meets the Georgia standards, expectations of scope, and difficulty for mastery of the content. The pace is designed to meet the individual needs of the students.

On-Level Class – A class focusing primarily on grade-level content, including literacy, mathematics, and the physical and social sciences. The course meets the Georgia standards, expectations of scope, and difficulty for mastery of the content.

Honors Level Class - A class focusing primarily on grade-level content, including literacy, mathematics, and the physical and social sciences. The course meets the Georgia standards, expectations of scope, and difficulty for mastery of the content. These courses are designed for those students who have higher than average ability and achievement, high motivation, and a strong work ethic. The courses provide enrichment in the content area with an emphasis on abstract, critical, and independent thinking designed to encourage students to make connections across multiple topics. The pace is accelerated and designed to meet the individual needs of the students. Honors classes begin in the eighth grade.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6

The primary focus of this course will be to allow students to gain confidence while improving their writing skills using the writing process. Written assignments will be built by using the brainstorming web/mapping process. Students will be encouraged to write creatively with appropriate vocabulary usage. Identifying and demonstrating the use of different sentence structures will be emphasized. Effective oral and written usage of the parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling will be incorporated into daily activities. Important reading comprehension strategies will be learned for answering questions and finding the main ideas and important details. Using context clues and reference materials, students will learn to order information chronologically.

Grade: 6 They will identify and analyze the theme or author's purpose within and across the different works of literature, of view, bias, and propaganda in literature and relate literature to setting or context, or cultural values. Students will learn to produce coherent writing with appropriate organizational structure and length, context, language, grammar, and mechanics for a variety of genres. They will utilize technology to support writing and use the MLA format for all formal research papers.

Language Arts 7

This course focuses on the elements of grammar, composition, and literature. Information is presented through class discussion, handouts, video/audio, etc. Students will be able to recognize the use of writing strategies (foreshadowing, flashback, suspense, dialogue, dialect, tone, mood, character traits, etc.) in literature. They will identify the characteristics of various genres. Students will discover fables, mythology, tall tales, legends, and non-fictional reading like never before. They will identify and

Grade: 7 This course works to aid students in their ability to produce coherent writing with proper and appropriate organizational structure, grammar, syntax, and mechanics for a variety of genres. The course takes a constructivist approach to analyze various literary styles to reinforce both written expression and reading comprehension/fluency. It also employs various assistive technologies to support the writing process, allowing students to individually develop their own voice within their writing. Through these approaches, students develop a comprehensive ability to recognize the characteristics of various literary genres and develop the confidence to write effectively across such styles of literature. Periodic grammar reviews and exercises will also help students polish their composition skills. Students will learn basic literary terms, their meanings, and their application to the study of literature.

Language Arts 8

Grade: 8

This course works to aid students in their ability to produce coherent writing with proper and appropriate organizational structure, grammar, syntax, and mechanics for a variety of genres. The course takes a constructivist approach to analyze various literary styles to reinforce both written expression and reading comprehension/fluency. It also employs various assistive technologies to support the writing process, allowing students to individually develop their own voice within their writing. Through these approaches, students develop a comprehensive ability to recognize the characteristics of various literary genres and develop the confidence to write effectively across such styles of literature. Periodic grammar reviews and exercises will also help students polish their composition skills. Students will learn basic literary terms, their meanings, and their application to the study of literature.

READING

Reading I

This course is designed for students who need continued support in the area of reading. Using the Read 180® program, students participate in whole group instruction focused on reading, writing, and vocabulary, as well as receive individual instruction via the Read 180® app providing individual instruction tailored to the student's specific needs.

Grade: 6-8

Reading II

This course is designed for students who have mild to moderate gaps in decoding and spelling proficiency. The instruction is a highly explicit, multi-sensory and decoding program. The word study emphasizes phonemic awareness, phonics, word study and spelling. Students are placed into this course based on individual assessments.

Grade: 6-8

MATHEMATICS

Math 6

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will continue to practice applying previously mastered skills to relevant word problems and equations. This course is designed for students to master the concepts of multiplication,

Grade: 6 long division, decimals, fractions, geometry, mental math, and estimation. More complex concepts will be introduced. The relevance of math to everyday use will be integrated. Students will utilize technology whenever possible throughout the course.

Pre-Algebra Math 8*Prerequisite: None*

In this course, students will be prepared for Algebra courses and will be focused on mastering skills associated with Algebra. Students will work to develop a better understanding of concepts such as algebraic expressions and equations, graphing on a coordinate plane, solving problems with integers, solving one- and two-step equations, inequalities, decimals, factors, and exponents.

Grade: 8 Math 7*Prerequisite: None*

To allow for a successful transition to pre-algebra, students will build new skills based on concepts they have previously learned while making connections between arithmetic and algebraic skills. Topics studied include variables and expressions, properties, solving inequalities, integers and absolute value, comparing and ordering integers, operations with integers, factors and monomials, solving equations with fractions, solving equations with decimals metric/standard system conversions, mean, median, and mode, applying algebra to geometry, and probability.

Grade: 7

SCIENCES

Earth Science 6*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to develop the skills to be able to think like a scientist. Thinking like a scientist involves asking questions to understand, clarify, quantify, and qualify curiosity. First semester topics include our expanding universe, galaxies, stars, black holes, and planets, and developing an appreciation for the science of our own planet, Earth. The second semester will continue the study of space with our own solar system: Earth and how it is unique; growing an understanding of our moon and why we have the day, night, and seasons; the water cycle and Earth's changing landscape; the differences between weather and climate; and taking better care of our planet. All content will be presented in a variety of ways: teacher lectures, class discussions, online work (both guided and independent), outdoor and group activities, videos, and current events.

Grade: 6

semester. In the second semester, cell structure six kingdoms of life will be the emphasis for the first and function, as well as heredity, will be covered. Information will be presented via teacher lectures, class discussions, labs, group activities, videos, and current events. Evaluation will be through teacher observation, student demonstration, project assignments, tests/quizzes, and daily guided practice through a variety of assignments.

Life Science 7*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to help develop the skills to be able to think like a scientist. The focus will be on learning more about what is alive around us and developing an appreciation for the importance of our environment. The classification of living things and the

Grade: 7**Physical Science 8***Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to help develop the ability to think like a scientist. The focus will be on the study of introductory physics and chemistry concepts. Physics is the branch of science that studies how matter and energy interact, while chemistry is a branch of natural science that deals principally with the properties of substances, the changes they undergo, and the natural laws that describe these changes. Topics covered include forces and motion and simple machines. States of matter and the periodic table. There is a small math component in each unit because physicists have found that many of the complicated things in nature can be understood in relatively simple mathematical relationships. The presentation of material and evaluation will be similar to Life Science 7.

Grade: 8

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Cultures & Geography 6

This is a course on the cultural, historical, and physical characteristics of many different geographical areas around the world. Topics will include the world regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, South America, and Europe.

Grade: 6

The focus will be on the physical, historical, cultural, government and economics, and health characteristics of each region. This course introduces the five themes of geography and the tools of geography.

World Cultures & Geography 7**Grade: 7**

This is a course on the cultural, historical, and physical characteristics of many different geographical areas around the world. Topics will include the world regions of Sub-Saharan Africa, Southwest Asia & North Africa, and South Asia. The focus will be on the physical, historical, cultural, government and economics, and health characteristics of each region. Re-acquainting students with the five themes of geography, the tools of geography, and an introduction to maps.

World Cultures & Geography 8**Grade: 8**

This is a course on the cultural, historical, and physical characteristics of many different geographical areas around the world. Topics will include the world regions of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Australia & Pacific Realm. The focus will be on the physical, historical, cultural, government and economics, and health characteristics of each region. An introduction to various aspects of global physical and human geography will be presented.

ELECTIVES

Advanced Band**Grade: 7-8**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. At least one year of prior ensemble experience and/or private lessons.

This year-long elective follows the same format as Fine Arts – Band. Students will be asked to prepare a short solo or excerpt that showcases their skills for the band director for seating.

Band**Grade: 7-8**

Prerequisite: None

Band is a year-long elective. Band students will select their top two instruments from the following: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba/baritone, percussion, guitar, or keyboard. In this course, band students learn to understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts, to understand music in relation to history and culture, develop an appreciation of the music of multiple styles and genres, develop the aptitude to analyze and describe music in its fundamental terms, develop the proficiency to evaluate music and music performances. Students will improve their ability through reading and notating music, improvising melodies, arranging music within specified guidelines, building sight reading proficiency, advance the technical facility on their instrument. Regular assessments of music performance will be done throughout the term. Assessment will be achieved through sectionals and frequent in-class instrumental demonstrations in addition to scheduled, required performances and concerts.

Beginner Brass/ Woodwind Ensemble**Grade: 6**

Prerequisite: 6th Grade

Beginner Brass/Woodwind is a year-long elective course required in the 6th grade. This course is designed to provide the fundamentals of music-making. Students choose either the brass or woodwind ensemble.

They will select a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument and learn the rudiments of their instrument of choice: assembling & disassembling, proper maintenance and placement/posture, how to read music, basic notation, the first sounds, how to follow the conductor – all leading up to their first songs. As the year progresses, the repertoire will advance, reflecting the development of the ensemble. These musical selections represent several styles and genres. While participating in this group, private lessons are strongly encouraged. Students will have individual and sectional performance assessments. Concerts are scheduled throughout the semester.

Ceramics**Grade: 6-8**

Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee

Ceramic students will participate in teacher-directed projects and independent personal projects. The teacher-directed projects will focus on the goal of having each student build the specific skills required for working with clay using a wide variety of tools and techniques. The goals may differ for each level of student to allow further growth for the more advanced students. The students then move into independent projects using all the techniques listed on the project checklist. Each student will have individualized goals to achieve. Each project leaves room for creativity and exploration yet follows specific required curriculum needs. Students create pinch pots, coil pottery, slab-built pottery, pottery that combines various techniques, and wheel-thrown pots. They also work with clay to create utilitarian pieces. Students are introduced to the drying process, clay recycling, glaze application, texturing surfaces, proper handling of greenware and bisque ware, loading the kiln, etc. Students also learn to find positive characteristics of others' work and their own. Sketchbooks will be utilized throughout the semester for research and preliminary sketch work.

Creative Writing

Prerequisite: None

Creative Writing is designed to help inspire and develop the student's writing skills. The aim is to help them enjoy writing and tap into imagination, creativity, and inspiration. Whether this is the student's first time trying to write creatively or the student is a seasoned veteran, this course will help the student hone their craft as the material takes a broad survey of different genres and approaches in creative writing skills.

Creativity

Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee

Creative thinking is the new standard. Problem-solving, effective communication, and an open outlook are all part of creativity and its use. This course will challenge the students with what they think is good, what they think is the best way to communicate, and what they think is even possible while using a range of modalities. Students will experiment with painting, drawing, mixed media sculpture, writing poetry and short stories, and creating dialogue through movement and sound. This is a semester-long course.

Improvisation

Prerequisite: None

This semester-based elective is for students who love to be active and creative. Students learn to work together as they play improv theater games that build confidence and presentation skills. At the end of the semester, students will perform a comedy show with their newfound improvisational skills, either for their peers or for an audience. Students are encouraged to repeat this class to build their improvisational acting skills.

Junior Theater Festival (JTF)

Prerequisite: Audition, additional fee

In this semester-long course, students will be preparing 15 minutes of a current musical to perform for the JTF in January! Students will learn dancing, acting, and singing skills and how to work as a team. An audition is required, but all students that complete the audition will be assigned a part. The festival will be held annually in January and is required as part of this class. The JTF is the largest festival dedicated to young people and musical theater and brings students, teachers, and Broadway professionals together to celebrate musical theater in an educational environment. Over 5,000 students from around the world participate in this festival.

Grade: 8 Physical Education

Grade: 6-8

Students play developmentally appropriate games and activities to foster skill development and increased levels of fitness. These activities are selected to provide students with maximum opportunities for skill improvement, participation, and fitness level enhancement. An emphasis is placed on having fun, teaching rules and strategies of games, participation, and increasing fitness levels while working on sportsmanship and good citizenship. A primary focus is to use games, skill drills, and activities that involve students at all skill levels. This allows the student to increase self-improvement and self-confidence with an emphasis on cooperation rather than competition. Participation includes warm-ups, skill-building activities in a specific area of study, and gameplay. The course is designed with activities that will lead to the healthy maintenance of leisure activities.

Robotics

Grade: 7-8

Prerequisite: none

This course is designed to provide hands-on experiences with programming and designing. VEX IQ is based on plastic, snap-together pieces specifically designed to build highly functional robots. This system doesn't require any prior knowledge of robotics. A first robot is easily built, and the wide variety of additional parts means that anything imagined can be built as learning continues. Each kit includes a hand tool that makes assembly and disassembly easy. As participation in activities shows how to build and program a robot, coding becomes alive as STEM skills are applied to a physical robot. Mini competitions will be a part of learning.

Musical Theater

Grade: 6-8

Prerequisite: None

This semester-long course will allow students to explore acting through theater improvisational games, acting exercises, and performances while also learning basic singing, dancing, and general music skills. At the end of the semester, students will put on a performance with a fun and engaging theme. Students should be interested in acting and/or singing but only need to sing solo if they choose to do so. There are opportunities within this class for learning about filming, costume design, set design, makeup design, and directing. Students are encouraged to repeat this class, as the final performance will vary every semester. Most recent performances include "Charlie Brown Christmas," "Willy Wonka," "Mulan Jr," and "School House Rock."

Stage Movement & Speaking**Grade: 6-8***Prerequisite: None*

This semester-long elective is designed to introduce techniques for the effective use of speaking voice and the body on the stage. Classes in breathing, the release of tension, voice placement, and elimination of regionalism are designed to free the natural sound and develop an awareness of the voice as a creative, expressive instrument. Through in-class projects, this course explores the tenets of public speaking as well as the assessment of literary aesthetics and performative form. The movement training is designed to produce flexible, strong, well-coordinated bodies that respond easily and readily to the creative demands of acting. Specific topics include theater movement, period/style, mask, mime, physical comedy, basic stage combat, light gymnastics, and modern dance.

Stagecraft I**Grade: 6-8***Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee*

This course is designed to teach students the how and why of theater, from stage directions to theater history and costuming to set construction. Students will paint, hammer, and build several projects that will be featured on the Stallings Theater stage and/or the MSA Amphitheater stage. All students in this class will use hand tools and learn about shop safety. Students are required to provide and wear work clothes during class, and students must be prepared to follow safety directions. This is a semester-long course.

Stagecraft II**Grade: 6-8***Prerequisite: Stagecraft I, \$60.00 supply fee*

This course is designed to introduce students to projection and crew leadership positions. Students build and paint several projects that will be featured on stage in a school production. All students will use hand tools and limited power tools as well as learn about shop safety. Students will be required to hold tech crew positions at MSA events. Students are required to provide and wear work clothes during class and should be prepared to always follow safety directions. This is a semester-long course.

Studio Art**Grade: 6-8***Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee*

Students will participate in teacher-directed projects and independent personal projects. Teacher-directed projects will focus on the goal of building the specific skills required for art-making using a wide variety of tools and techniques. The goals may differ for each level of student to allow further growth for the more advanced students. The students will then move into independent projects using all the techniques listed on the project checklist. Each student will have individualized goals to achieve. Each project leaves room for creativity and exploration yet follows specific required curriculum needs. Students will explore value, color, and other elements and principles in two and three-dimensional works, as well as in art history, block printing, collage, and visual communication. Sketchbooks will be utilized throughout the semester for planning, research, preliminary sketch work, recording of process, and collecting references. Students will reflect upon work in written form for each project and photograph their work for their online portfolio.

Yoga and Mindfulness**Grade: 6-8***Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed for students who want to learn through active participation in yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, and other various exercise activities to help reduce stress and enhance overall health. Students will learn to take better care of themselves by exploring and understanding the relationship between mind and body. Through participation, students may help boost their immune system, improve sleep, decrease anxiety, and improve their overall quality of life.



GRADES 9 – 12

Students and parents are encouraged to use this guide as a reference for course selections and planning. This guide is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur after publication. Students and parents should check with their advisor if they have questions.

This guide is designed to acquaint students and parents with the program offerings, course descriptions, and prerequisites of the subjects taught at Mill Springs Academy. This guide will give students an understanding of the courses available. Please be advised that all offerings are contingent upon student interest, staffing, and enrollment. Students should consult with their advisor if there are any questions about the academic courses offered, their prerequisites, possible sequences, credits necessary for graduation, and post-high school plans.

Academic Definitions

Credits – Credits (also known as Carnegie Units) are the units by which academic progress is measured. Students are required to have 24 credits for graduation from Mill Springs Academy, which will satisfy the Georgia Dept of Education requirements. The standard Carnegie Unit is defined as 120 hours of contact time with an instructor.

Grade Point Average (GPA) – Grade Point Average is computed on a 4-point scale.

Percentage	Grade	Grade Point
90-100%	A	4.0
80-89%	B	3.0
75-79%	C	2.0
70-74%	D	1.0
69% or below	No Credit	0.0

Extra points are awarded to advanced courses as follows to calculate weighted numerical grade average:

- Honors Courses: 5 points are added to the numerical grade
- AP® Courses: 7 points are added to the numerical grade
- Dual Enrollment: 10 points are added to the numerical grade.

Class Attendance – Regular attendance and punctuality are critical lifelong skills that are emphasized at MSA. Because performance in class through collaborative activities is an essential element of student learning and assessment and because students must be present to achieve these outcomes, student absences must be minimized.

Student Placement – Student placement in English, Math, Science, and History is a function of current testing (both educational/psychological and academic achievement assessments) and other criteria related to the student's ability, potential, and college/career goals. In addition, the various individual psychological processes, teacher recommendation, student performance, and conversations with the student regarding their perspective are considered when determining placement.

Levels of Instruction

Concept Level Class – A class focusing primarily on concept development, including literacy, mathematics, and the physical and social sciences. The course meets the Georgia standards, expectations of scope, and difficulty for mastery of the content. The pace is designed to meet the individual needs of the students.

On-Level Class – A class focusing primarily on grade-level content, including literacy, mathematics, and the physical and social sciences. The course meets the Georgia standards, expectations of scope, and difficulty for mastery of the content.

Honors Level Class - A class focusing primarily on grade-level content, including literacy, mathematics, and the physical and social sciences. The course meets the Georgia standards, expectations of scope, and difficulty for mastery of the content. These courses are designed for those students who have higher than average ability and achievement, high motivation, and a strong work ethic. The courses provide enrichment in the content area with an emphasis on abstract, critical, and independent thinking designed to encourage students to make connections across multiple topics. The pace is accelerated and designed to meet the individual needs of the students. Honors classes begin in the eighth grade.

Advanced Placement® (AP) Courses - The AP® Program, administered by The College Board, has two basic parts: (1) coursework and (2) the examination. Some Advanced Placement® courses are available at MSA and are taught by specially trained members of our faculty. Advanced Placement® exams are created by The College Board and provided to us for student testing. These courses are designed to be credit-bearing in postsecondary institutions.

MSA will always provide advance notice of the exam dates (the date varies each year), but the exams are always given during the month of May. The cost for each exam is \$110.00. Students who pass the exam with a score of 3 or better may receive college credit at many colleges and universities across the country that give credit for AP® exams.

The following AP® Courses may be offered at MSA (depending on student enrollment and requests):

• AP Calculus AB	• AP Environmental Sciences	• AP Psychology
• AP Computer Sciences Principles	• AP Human Geography	• AP US Government & Politics

Students are placed in AP® Courses or Honors Classes based on their ability, motivation, and work ethic.

For further information about the Advanced Placement® program from The College Board, please visit <https://ap.collegeboard.org/?navId=gf-ap>.

[Trademark® or Trademark™] is a trademark [registered / owned] by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, this [product/site].

Dual Enrollment - Dual Enrollment is a dual credit enrollment program for students wishing to earn high school and college credit simultaneously for postsecondary coursework. Dual Enrollment provides students with the opportunity to take college courses while still in high school. Typically, Dual Enrollment students take a college course (or courses) on the campus of a college or university in or near their community. Students participating in dual enrollment are limited to enrolling in classes that are not offered at Mill Springs Academy. Each University System of Georgia (USG) school has established requirements and deadlines for students to participate in their dual enrollment program.

Dual Enrollment funding is available during the fall, winter, spring, and summer terms of the school year. Dual Enrollment funding may cover the cost of standard undergraduate tuition, but may not cover mandatory fees, or a book allowance for a maximum of 15 semester or 12 quarter hours per term.

Students interested in Dual Enrollment should speak with the Dean of Students to find out what the requirements are and to obtain the Dual Enrollment Checklist. It is also advised that they contact the Dual Enrollment coordinator at their USG college or university of interest to discuss their dual enrollment options. Students should have these conversations as early as possible as there are important deadlines that must be met.

Much more information can be found regarding eligibility, funding, participating colleges/universities, application procedures and deadlines can be found at the following website: <https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/scholarships-grants/dual-enrollment>.

Graduation Requirements

A student who successfully completes all the requirements for graduation and who is in good disciplinary standing may participate in commencement exercises. A minimum total of 24 credits are required to graduate, based on the following discipline breakdown:

Language Arts	4.0 Credits	Mathematics	4.0 Credits
Science	4.0 Credits	World Languages	2.0 Credits
Social Studies	3.0 Credits	Jr. Transitions	0.5 Credits
Physical Education	0.5 Credits	Sr. Transitions	0.5 Credits
Health	0.5 Credits	Electives	5.0 Credits

College and Career Counseling

Choosing a post-secondary program is a complex endeavor and involves the whole family. The Mill Springs Academy staff is committed to supporting students and families throughout the entire decision-making process. MSA encourages students to explore all post-secondary options, and while most of our students attend college, some choose post-secondary alternatives. In Junior and Senior transitions class, students explore college and career options and are taught the fundamentals of the search, application, and selection process. Through a wide variety of activities, including interest inventories, exploring career options, visits, and parent input, students and their families are guided into making the best and most informed decisions.

Transcripts - Mill Springs Academy uses Parchment for all transcript requests for any purpose. Students should create an account at www.parchment.com using their full name so the system can match them to their transcript. Students should be sure to utilize their personal email address (not their school email address) when they set up their account with Parchment.

Sequence of Learning

<u>Discipline</u>	<u>9th Grade</u>	<u>10th Grade</u>	<u>11th Grade</u>	<u>12th Grade</u>
Language Arts	Lit/Comp	Amer Lit	Brit Lit	Sr Lit/Comp
Mathematics	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	PreCalc Adv Dec Making
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Forensics Anatomy AP Comp Sci	Physical Sci Physics
Social Studies	World His	Amer His	Poli Sci Economics	

Where there is more than one class listed (i.e.: 11th Grade Science) the student has a choice between those classes listed.

Four - Year Planning Worksheet

The worksheet on the following page is available for students and parents to map out required and elective courses throughout their four years in Upper School, along with the credits needed for graduation.

Grad. Yr:

Success in School ... Success in Life 19

Course Descriptions

Please Note: All offerings are contingent upon staffing, enrollment, and student interest.

FINE ARTS - PERFORMING ARTS

Acting Styles

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: none

This course is designed to focus on the dramatic and performance styles of several different periods in history and is intended to be an advanced-level acting course. Students will be introduced to the culture of each period and the theatrical practices of the day. Students will perform individually and in groups, and scene work is drawn from each style. Periods covered will include ancient Greece, Italian Commedia dell'arte, French Neoclassicism, Elizabethan England (Shakespeare), and contemporary. Some basic historical research and analytical writing will be required. In addition to the historical background of each time period and the tools to perform each style properly, students will be equipped with at least two contrasting monologues suitable for auditions at the end of the semester.

Band

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This is a year-long elective. Band students will select their top two instruments from the following: flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba/baritone, percussion, guitar, or keyboard. Upon approval from the band director, instruments will be assigned. Please keep in mind that we strive to build a balanced ensemble and need musicians on every instrument (rather than a band of just trumpets or percussionists). Every effort will be made to designate the preferred instrument. No prior music experience is necessary: beginners are welcome. Those who have experience will develop greater proficiency in their current instrument. Band members will study and perform all music styles: pop, rock, jazz, and classical. Students will also compose their own melodies. Time must be devoted to individual practice on specified instruments. Private music lessons are strongly encouraged.

In this course, band students will learn to understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts, learn to understand music in relation to history and culture, learn an appreciation of the music of multiple styles and genres, develop the aptitude to analyze and describe music in its fundamental terms, develop the proficiency to evaluate music and music performances. Students will improve their ability through reading and notating

music, improvising melodies, arranging music within specified guidelines, building sight reading proficiency, advance the technical facility on their instrument. Regular assessments of music performance will be done throughout the term. Assessment will be achieved through sectionals and frequent in-class instrumental demonstrations in addition to scheduled, required performances and concerts.

Advanced Band

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. At least one year of prior ensemble experience and/or private lessons.

This year-long elective follows the same format as Fine Arts – Band. Students will be asked to prepare a short solo or excerpt that showcases their skills for the band director for seating.

Chorus/Performing Arts

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to teach students how to make music together by learning correct singing posture, breathing technique, and vocal production. Students also learn that singing is acting through music and thus explore the basics of acting as well. In theater, students play improvisational games, learn monologues, and complete acting exercises. All styles of music are studied, from classical to folk music, but often musical theater is the medium for which the students perform much of their final project, and past concert chorus themes have included 1940's music, pop music, music from "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" the musical, and "Seussical the Musical." Students perform a concert at the end of the semester and may make a professional recording of their music with a local recording studio. Students are encouraged to repeat this class to build their vocal musicianship skills.

Improvisation

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This semester-based elective is for students who love to be active and creative. Students learn to work together as they play improv theater games that build confidence and presentation skills. At the end of the semester, students will perform a comedy show with their newfound improvisational skills, either for their peers or for an audience. Students are encouraged to repeat this class to build their improvisational acting skills.

Jr Theater Festival (JTF) Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Audition, additional fee

In this course, students will work with Middle School students in a mentoring environment to put together selections from a major musical to perform at the Junior Theater Festival in January! JTF is the largest musical theater festival in the world and is put on by Disney, MTI, and iTheatrics. It is a chance for students to learn from Broadway adjudicators and participate in a weekend full of activities with thousands of other musical theater students from across the country. As students prepare for this weekend, they will spend a semester building their music, dance, acting, and mentoring skills. The festival will be held annually in January and is required as part of this class.

Movement & Speaking for Stage Gr: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This elective is designed to introduce techniques for the effective use of speaking voice and the body on the stage. Classes in breathing, the release of tension, voice placement, and elimination of regionalism are designed to free the natural sound and develop an awareness of the voice as a creative, expressive instrument. Through in-class projects, this course explores the tenets of public speaking as well as the assessment of literary aesthetics and performative form. The movement training is designed to produce flexible, strong, well-coordinated bodies which will respond easily and readily to the creative demands of acting. Specific topics include theater movement, period/style, mask, mime, physical comedy, basic stage combat, light gymnastics, and modern dance.

Music History Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course traces the history of Western music from its first extant traces (liturgical chant) to the music of the 20th century. The course investigates many of the significant music-historical developments over this extensive period, focusing on key composers and repertoire. Along with the traditional history of genres and styles, students learn about the historical and cultural context of music and music-making at various times and places. This course is not only to introduce students to the earlier history of their own artistic tradition but also to extend their conceptions of the nature and purpose of music itself by exposing them to less familiar music and cultures.

Music Leadership Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Students will assist Lower/Middle students in a production and may also act as a narrator or other special performers in the younger student's projects. Music leaders are expected to be able to help lead class by leading vocal warm-ups, helping students learn vocal parts, demonstrating proper vocal technique, as well as modeling appropriate behavior for younger students. Those who are chosen to be music leaders will learn valuable skills in teacher education. Leaders are also required to work on independent projects with the instructor to further their musical and/or teaching knowledge. These may include piano study, vocal lessons, college audition preparation, and vocal solo and/or choral competition preparation.

Music Theater Production Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Audition

This course produces a full-scale musical during the spring semester. Students must audition and be cast in the musical and will work closely with a director, musical director, and choreographer to learn the music, dance, and develop their characters. After-school rehearsals are required. Students gain a well-rounded theatrical stage experience. Recent productions include *SpongeBob the Musical*, *The Star Wars Musical Radio Show*, *Shrek*, and *Singing in the Rain*. Students are encouraged to repeat this course to build their musical theater skills in many different shows.

Play Adaptation Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This class explores why someone would adapt a literary work into a play. Students will discover how to create relevant living theater by taking the old and making it new. They will watch some examples of good adaptations, such as "Sherlock," "Forbidden Planet," and "Westside Story." They will choose a literary work and collaborate as a team to write their own adaptation of their selection. This 20-minute play will have a staged reading for an audience. Students do not have to be writers; they must have good ideas and a willingness to collaborate.

Playwriting & Songwriting <i>Prerequisite: None</i>	Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5	Theater Design I-VIII <i>Prerequisite: \$60 supply fee</i>	Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5
<p>This course will teach students about theater and the music industry from a whole new perspective by choosing a track- either playwriting or songwriting – and collaborating with classmates on opposite tracks to put together scenes with music for their final projects. The playwriting track covers types of plays, different theater spaces, story structure, story development, playwriting format, stage directions, dialogue, lyrics, transitions, and submitting work. The songwriting track will instruct the anatomy of a song, expression vs. communication, semantic parameters, prosodic parameters, phonetic parameters, collaboration, and submitting work.</p>		<p>Students learn theatrical set, lighting, costuming, and sound design in this course. The approach is hands-on, so being artistic and thinking “outside the box” is a must! Students will do physical projects such as collages, sculptures, and drawings. The sound unit will involve basic acting and movement. Students will begin building their own design kits. The final project for this class is to create a design for a show, which may be utilized in an MSA production. Students may choose between set, costuming, lighting, or sound for their final project. Students may repeat this class for greater responsibilities given with each successive class.</p>	
Stage Makeup Design <i>Prerequisite: \$60 supply fee</i>	Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5	Theater, Film, and Culture <i>Prerequisite: None</i>	Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5
<p>This course provides hands-on learning of makeup design and application. Techniques and applications of performing stage illusion/magic are studied in class. Students will learn to design and apply all their skills. The course culminates with a final project for the direct application of makeup or special effects for a current MSA production. Students may repeat this class for greater responsibilities given with each successive course.</p>		<p>This course analyzes the essential differences between theatrical and cinematic approaches to drama and the cultural impact each approach can have. Through selected play/film combinations, the course looks at how the director uses actors and the visual languages of the stage and screen to guide and stimulate the audience’s responses. Students will also explore the principles of theater and film appreciation and analysis through readings, directed class discussions, and viewing of films and film excerpts. Plays and films discussed will all have a cultural and social component that will be a point of intense focus. Students will act out and film scenes on their own.</p>	
Technical Theater I <i>Prerequisite: \$60 supply fee</i>	Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5	Theater Production I-VIII <i>Prerequisite: Audition</i>	Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5
<p>Students will work on construction, sound, and lighting projects for MSA events in this course. These projects will be complex in nature and require students to lift heavy objects. Students will be required to take on tech crew positions for MSA productions that include, but are not limited to, sound board operator, light board operator, running crew, props master, etc. Students are required to provide and wear work clothes during class. Students must be prepared to follow safety directions.</p>		<p>This course produces a full-scale play during the fall semester. Students audition within class time and will work closely with a director to learn basic acting skills and develop their characters. After-school rehearsals may be required. Students gain a well-rounded theatrical stage experience. Most recent productions include Art, The Laramie Project, and Harvey. Students are encouraged to repeat this course to build their theater skills in many different shows.</p>	
Technical Theater II <i>Prerequisite: Technical Theater I, \$60 supply fee</i>	Grade: 9-12 Credit 0.5		
<p>Students will work on construction, sound, and lighting projects for MSA events in this course. These projects will be complex in nature and require students to lift heavy objects. Students will be required to take on tech crew positions for MSA productions that include, but are not limited to, stage manager, assistant stage manager, assistant director, special effects charge, etc. Students are required to provide and wear work clothes during class. Students must be prepared to follow safety directions.</p>			

FINE ARTS - VISUAL ARTS

Animation

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee

This class is designed to introduce the student to the basics of animation. Students will learn how to use drawing techniques, storytelling, and animation principles to create different forms of animation through various media. The class will look briefly at the history of animation and the tools and techniques used by professionals today. Students will start by working on simple traditional hand methods of animation by learning how to create original characters that show emotion and simple storyboarding. They will advance to animating original stories through stop motion and 2D digital processes. The class will consist of demonstrations, viewing related works, hands-on experimentation, group work, and critique.

American Crafts

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee

This is an art class based primarily on discovering the types of art that can be categorized as American Crafts. Students will be introduced to various craft mediums, including ceramics, glass art, jewelry, weaving, and fiber art. They will learn the required techniques to work with these different mediums and create their own art through guided projects. After learning the basics of each, the students will be allowed to further explore their medium of choice. Sketchbooks will be utilized throughout the semester for research and preliminary sketch work. Work will be exhibited around campus, at various functions, and at the annual Studio Arts Gallery.

Ceramics I-IV

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee

Ceramic students will participate in teacher-directed projects and independent personal projects. The teacher-directed projects will focus on the goal of having each student build the specific skills required for working with clay using a wide variety of tools and techniques. The goals may differ for each level of student to allow further growth for the more advanced students. The students will then move into independent projects using all the techniques listed on the project checklist. Each student will have individualized goals to achieve. Each project leaves room for creativity and exploration yet follows specific required curriculum needs. Students create pinch pots, coil pottery, slab-built pottery, pottery that combines various techniques, and wheel-thrown pots.

They also work with clay to create utilitarian pieces. Students are introduced to the drying process, clay recycling, glaze application, texturing surfaces, proper handling of greenware and bisque ware, loading the kiln, etc. Students also learn to find positive characteristics of others' work and their own. Sketchbooks will be utilized throughout the semester for research and preliminary sketch work.

Digital Photography

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee

This course is designed to be an introduction to the digital camera as an art-making tool. Students will be instructed on how to use photography to learn and apply the basic elements of art and the principles of design. They will learn about photographic equipment, materials, and methods. They will be able to enhance their visual problem-solving skills through multiple projects. Students will work collaboratively in small groups to assist each other with these projects and reflect on their accomplishments as well as their peers. The students will learn the technical skills to edit and manipulate photographs through programs such as Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Illustrator to enhance their ability for creative expression and communication. Shared school equipment such as DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) cameras and school iPads will be used throughout the course; however, if students have access to their own equipment, these can also be used with permission.

Graphic Design

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, \$60.00 supply fee

This course is designed primarily to help students discover how to recognize and produce the type of visual art that surrounds us every day, art that fits into the category of graphic design. Students will be instructed on how to create practical application art for use in flyers, posters, and t-shirts to advertise MSA Fine Arts musical and drama performances, art shows, and more. Students will also be given specific visual tasks creating graphics or photo enhancements with defined deadlines for completion of the work. Students will research and sketch multiple ideas, then create the final designs using traditional art mediums, computer-generated graphics, and screen printing. Students will have the opportunity to work in programs within the Adobe Creative Suite, including Illustrator and Photoshop.

Studio Art I-VIII**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: \$60.00 supply fee*

Students will participate in teacher-directed projects and independent personal projects. Teacher-directed projects will focus on the goal of building the specific skills required for art-making using a wide variety of tools and techniques. The goals may differ for each level of student to allow further growth for the more advanced students. The students will then move into independent projects using all the techniques listed on the project checklist. Each student will have individualized goals to achieve. Each project leaves room for creativity and exploration yet follows specific required curriculum needs. Students will explore value, color, and other elements and principles in two and three-dimensional works, as well as in art history, block printing, collage, and visual communication. Sketchbooks will be utilized throughout the semester for planning, research, preliminary sketch work, recording of process, and collecting references. Students will reflect upon work in written form for each project and photograph their work for their online portfolio.

**ENGLISH****9th Grade Lit & Composition****Grade: 9 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course is a study of developing writing/composition skills in multiple formats through various drafting/editing stages, as well as for the purpose of composing for an audience. Class work will include analytical and creative journal entries, discussions, a 5-paragraph research essay tied with reading a nonfiction work, as well as analyses of World Literature short stories, poetry, and a novel/memoir. In conjunction, the students will also develop and employ strategies for vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension. At the end of the year, the student will develop a portfolio of self-selected works, including self-reflections about the works.

American Literature**Grade: 10 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course will survey selected American authors representing the major periods, schools, and traditions in American literary history. Our texts will span the pre-colonial eras (before European colonization in the 1600s) to our contemporary era, including multiple genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama). Attention will also be given to the historical/cultural contexts of the literary periods. There will be an additional emphasis on increasing vocabulary and improving writing skills.

British Literature**Grade: 11 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course chiefly involves reading and discussing selected British Literature works with an additional emphasis on increasing vocabulary and improving writing skills. Students will become familiar with the major events and movements that have influenced British Literature. It traces historical, social, and cultural forces that have shaped British Literature from the Anglo-Saxons and Beowulf to the romantic poets and Victorian writers as well as the modern era. The focus will be on literacy merit and Shakespearean dramas, and romantic poetry will be closely examined.

Senior Composition**Grade: 12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

Students will study quality literature, learn to question assumptions, and argue a premise, learn to dissect difficult materials, learn to mark their textbooks in a meaningful way, take responsibility for developing a support network built on writing skills and strategies already mastered, and polish research skills. Students will sharpen their skills in (a) reading fiction, nonfiction, research, and efficient use of websites; (b) rhetorical writing to explain, persuade, compare, and contrast; (c) response writing to literature selections of varied types; (d) public speaking, using talking software, if it benefits student; (e) note-taking from lectures and from written materials, and textbooks; (f) citing sources in MLA form and avoiding plagiarism; (g) using human proofreaders on a regular basis; (h) honoring strict deadlines and experiencing logical consequences. Students will research an author online or in the textbook and learn about the style, and story summary before a book/written work is read. Students will analyze, compare, contrast, and critique the works of various authors.

Reading**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: None*

This course is based on the Read 180 program, a comprehensive learning program for the ongoing development of reading skills, an elective course offered to students at any instructional level. These learners may need continued support in the area(s) of spelling, vocabulary, reading, and/or writing. Use of the Read 180 program offers learners opportunities to develop essential skills as they participate in whole group, small group, and individual instruction, focused specifically on the various fundamentals of reading and writing.

World Lit & Composition**Grade: 9 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course is a study of developing writing/ composition skills in multiple formats through various drafting/editing stages, as well as for the purpose of composing for an audience. Class work will include analytical and creative journal entries, discussions, a 5-paragraph research essay tied with reading a nonfiction work, as well as analyses of World Literature short stories, poetry, and a novel/ memoir. In conjunction, the students will also develop and employ strategies for vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension. At the end of the year, the student will develop a portfolio of self-selected works, including self-reflections about the works.

Yrbk/Digital Journalism**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5/1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course can either be a semester or a year-long elective. Students will plan, develop, publish, and distribute the school annually. With the guidance of the yearbook advisor, students will participate in all aspects of yearbook development and publication. Students will have the opportunity to work individually and in small groups to learn a wide variety of skill sets, such as planning a book ladder and page layouts, brainstorming, collecting, and creating section content, organization of photo opportunities for students, school clubs, and organizations, digital photography and graphic editing, setting and meeting deadlines, and planning and following through with distribution. Successful yearbook staff members are encouraged to participate in the Yearbook class for consecutive years.



MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Grade: 9 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

This course concentrates on problem-solving. Algebra I will include solving equations, word problems, reasoning skills, the language of algebra, patterns, and functions, the real number system, integers, rational numbers, and inequalities. Students begin the year learning about expressions and using the number properties. They will then review the use of exponent and begin to use logical arguments to justify the steps to a word problem. Students will solve multi-step inequalities. The teaching strategies employed in this course are both group and individual, attempting to provide each student the opportunity for instruction and for the solution of everyday problems. Each student will be given many opportunities to master the material presented.

Geometry

Grade: 10 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Geometry involves working with inductive reasoning and identifying and drawing models of points, lines, and planes. Students will apply the properties of real numbers to the measure of segments, name and identify parts of an angle, and identify and use complementary and supplementary angles. Students will explore triangles, quadrilaterals, and midpoints and the properties of parallel lines. They will work with the slope of a line and identify congruent triangles. The teaching strategies employed in this course are both group and individual, attempting to provide each student the opportunity for instruction and for the solution of everyday problems. Each student will be given many opportunities to master the material presented, and special emphasis will be given to developing and reviewing the material learned in Algebra I.

Algebra II

Grade: 11 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Geometry

This course is designed to provide a review, and deeper study of the concepts covered in Algebra I and covers the more advanced algebraic concepts required to progress through the high school mathematics curriculum and succeed in college. The course incorporates the use of the TI-83 (or higher) graphing calculator for discovery, problem-solving, and modeling. Emphasis on methods for simplifying expressions, solving equations and functions, and graphing are taught before using the calculator to “get the answers” to ensure students’ basic understanding of algebra.

Calculus

Grade: 12 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

In this course, students will utilize deductive reasoning and algebraic tools to expand their knowledge of Algebra and Trigonometry. The major topics of the course are differentiation and its application, integration, differentiation, and integration of transcendental functions, applications of integration, and integration techniques. This course will mix procedural knowledge (calculation, measurement, formulas, and data) and conceptual knowledge (algebraic functions, problem-solving strategies, reasoning, and number sense). They will also work to make connections to real-life applications.

Advanced Decision-Making Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This course will give students further experiences with statistical information and summaries, methods of designing and conducting statistical studies, an opportunity to analyze various voting processes, modeling of data, basic financial decisions, and use network models for making informed decisions



Pre-Calculus**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Algebra II*

The goals of Pre-Calculus are 1) to further students' algebraic abilities and to prepare them for calculus, finite mathematics, and other advanced mathematics courses; 2) to show how algebra and trigonometry can model and solve authentic, real-world problems; and 3) to continue to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The course will address all learning styles and will utilize all methods of presentation, including lecture, TI-83 (or higher) graphing calculator, laptops, electronic whiteboard notes, and the internet.

AP® Calculus AB**Grade: 12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Algebra, Geometry*

This course is designed to be roughly the equivalent of a first-semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. It will cover topics including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and to make connections among these representations. Students will learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. A graphing calculator is an integral part of the course.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Personal Finance**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing*

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the skills they will need to have a successful financial life, beginning with their first relatively independent period of life: graduating from high school and moving on to college or getting a job. Students are taught that learning and applying the basics of how to correctly handle their money from the start of their financial lives will ensure that they will be able to live comfortably, provide for their families, and be able to retire at the end of their working careers relatively financially secure no matter what level of income they achieve and despite almost any of the bumps in their financial roads that will occur.

Study Management**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: None*

This course is highly individualized, based on the student's needs, focusing on Executive Functioning Skills and the organization of the student and their environment. Emphasis will be placed on organizing lockers, notebooks, book bags, and assignments, as well as advocating for oneself regarding teachers, assignments, and grades. In addition, students will learn how to analyze their grades in each class utilizing their information within the student information system (FACTS).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: None*

This course will seek to expand the student's level of knowledge and understanding in the areas of health and wellness. Topics include focus, nutrition, stress, disease and disorders, personal fitness and exercise, substance/alcohol abuse, and human sexuality.

Personal Fitness**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: None*

The intent of this class is for students to learn the foundational pillars of fitness, nutrition, flexibility, cardiovascular & muscular strength. Students learn to practically apply patterns of regular participation in meaningful physical activity. Students will learn the importance and fundamentals of developing an active, healthy lifestyle that could help prevent a variety of potential health problems. Understanding develops from an initial awareness of the cause-and-effect relationships between activity and its immediate and identifiable effects on the body to an increased understanding of the role of physical activity and nutrition on the physical and psychological health of the body.

Physical Education (PE)**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: None*

The PE curriculum at the high school level focuses on the teaching of skills, acquisition of knowledge, and development of attitudes through human movement. Strategies employed in the course provide a balance of activities grouped as teams and individual sports, lifetime sports, and strength/aerobic conditioning to display good sportsmanship and to work productively with a partner or team. Students are expected to demonstrate responsible decision-making skills and to have fun. This program is designed and conducted to meet the needs and interests of each student.

Yoga and Mindfulness**Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed for students who want to learn through active participation in yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, and other various exercise activities to help reduce stress and enhance overall health. Students will learn to take better care of themselves by exploring and understanding the relationship between mind and body. Through participation, students may help boost their immune system, improve sleep, decrease anxiety, and improve their overall quality of life.

SCIENCE

Biology**Grade: 9-10 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to continue the investigations of the life sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide the necessary skills to be proficient in biology by focusing on identifying patterns, processes, and relationships of living organisms. Areas of study include the interdependence of organisms, the relationship of matter, energy, and organization in living systems, the behavior of organisms, and biological evolution. A fundamental understanding of the role of bio-macromolecules, cellular structure, and the role these structures play in living cells, genetics, and heredity; cladograms and phylogenetic trees to determine relationships among major groups of organisms; the theory of evolution will be developed. Investigation of biological concepts through virtual simulations and experiences in laboratories will take place by using the process of inquiry.

Chemistry**Grade: 10-11 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Biology*

This course offers a solid understanding of the fundamental concepts. Students will study the properties of matter, elements, chemical reactions, and the periodic table. Concepts and skills are reinforced by a strong emphasis on hands-on laboratory experiences and the integration of other branches of science. Students will develop an understanding and competence in topics such as stoichiometry, chemical reactions and bonding, reaction kinetics, thermochemistry, oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, nuclear chemistry, solutions, and introductory organic chemistry.

Anatomy & Physiology**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry*

In this course, the study of structures and functions of the human body and a focus will be on the essential requirements for life. Areas of study include organization of the body; protection, support, and movement; providing internal coordination and regulation; processing and transporting; and reproduction, growth, and development. Lab investigations, virtual simulations, case study evaluations, research and discussion of disorders with real-life applications, careers related to medicine, and modern medical technology will all be a part of this course.

Forensic Science**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry*

This course is designed to apply science concepts from previous courses to the investigation of crime scenes. The scientific protocols for analyzing a crime scene, chemical and physical separation methods to isolate and identify materials, how to analyze biological evidence, and the use of tools, including fingerprinting, hair and fibers, impressions from firearms, tool marks, arson, and explosive evidence, will be learned. Investigations will be done in labs, virtual simulations, evidence arguments, investigation of mock crime scenes, and analysis of real case studies.

Oceanography**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry*

This course is designed to emphasize the interconnectedness of multiple science disciplines. It is a hands-on course and includes investigations, data collection, and observation analysis. Studies will show that the ocean is a dynamic system reflecting interactions among organisms, ecosystems, chemical cycles, and physical and geological processes, on land, in the air, and the oceans. Concepts will be learned and investigated through experience in the Coral lab, virtual simulations, and fieldwork using the processes of inquiry.

Physical Science**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces the general principles of physics and chemistry. Topics include measurement, motion, Newton's laws of motion, momentum, energy, work, power, heat, thermodynamics, waves, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and chemical principles. Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the physical environment and apply the scientific principles to observations experienced.

Physics**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Algebra*

This course is designed to continue the student investigations of the physical sciences that began in grades K-8 and provide the necessary skills to be proficient in physics. Topics covered will include interactions of matter and energy, velocity, acceleration, force, energy, momentum, properties, and interactions of matter, nuclear decay processes, electromagnetic and mechanical waves, electricity, magnetism, and their interactions. Physics concepts will be investigated through experiences in the lab and virtual simulations using the good practices of asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

STEAM**Grade: 9 -12 Credit: 0.5***Prerequisite: None*

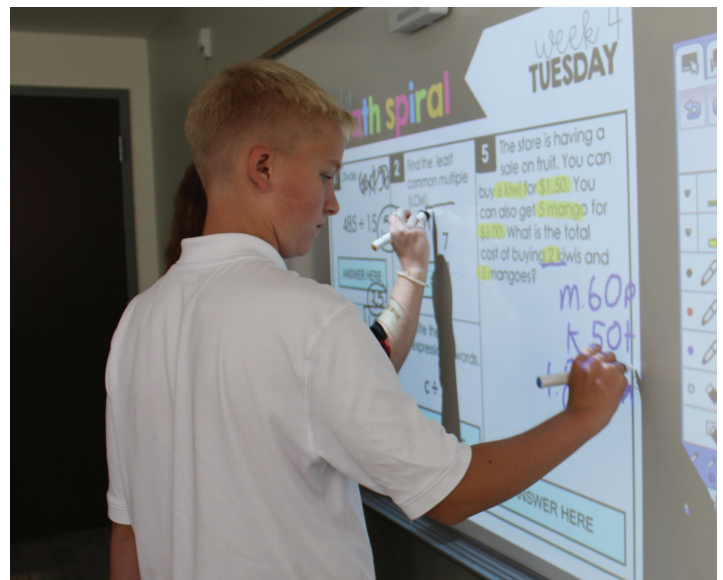
This course will introduce a disciplined approach to problem-solving methods and algorithm development; introduce procedural and data abstraction; teach program design, coding, debugging, testing, and documentation using good programming style; to provide a familiarity with the evolution of computer hardware and software technology; to teach a high-level programming language; to provide a foundation for further studies in computer science. (STEAM – science, technology, engineering, art, and math)

AP® Computer Sci Princ**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Algebra I*

This course introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will also explain how computing innovations and computing systems, including the internet work, explore their potential impacts and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

AP® Environmental Sci**Grade: 10-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry*

This course will require students to identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.



SOCIAL STUDIES

World History

Grade: 9 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course surveys the history of the world from Early Civilizations to the world today. The course moves progressively along a timeline from the emergence of early humans to the present day. World History links chronology, themes, and geography within the units of study. Each unit emphasizes themes such as urbanization, religion, or trade, and students learn to use themes to analyze historical events and to develop a grasp of the chronology of human development. Geographically, the entire globe is covered, although specific topics place greater emphasis on specific regions.

American History

Grade: 10 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course will cover pre-colonial America through the time of expansion and the Spanish/US War to present-day America. The course will focus on the principles that are the basis of American society, culture and government, and fiscal and international policy. Students will examine direct and indirect causation of major events, such as colonization, the struggle for American independence and the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, Reconstruction/Industrialization, the World Wars, the economic boom and bust of the 1920s-1940s, the role of the United States during the Cold War, and topics that cover the modern era. This class will also examine how these events correlate with societal roles, specifically religion, education, and race relations.

Civics

Grade: 11 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course surveys the government of the United States from early America to the present. Students will cover topics such as the origins of the American government, the Constitution, the federal system, congress, the presidency, federal bureaucracy, and the political party system. Students will sharpen their skills in reading (nonfiction through textbooks and websites); research (recognizing hidden agendas, spotting opinions, organizing data); rhetorical writing to explain, persuade, compare, and contrast; responsive writing to opinion questions in sections of the textbook; long-range research paper planning; note-taking practice (from lecture and written materials) and honoring strict deadlines and experiencing logical consequences.

Economics

Grade: 11 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to demonstrate an understanding of basic economic concepts. Students become familiar with the United States's economic system and how it operates. They also explore the roles of various components of our economic system. Students will examine their roles as consumers, workers, investors, and voting citizens. Topics of discussion include the stock market, comparative economic systems, and the impact of political and social decisions on the economy regarding macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Global Citizenship

Grade: 9-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course centers on contemporary global issues, with a focus on Global Citizenship. This course is designed to enhance the student competencies of empathy, mindfulness, compassion, and critical inquiry, alongside their understanding of global citizenship themes and earning a Global Citizenship Certification at the end of the semester from UNESCO.

AP® Human Geography

Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards. The course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography.

AP® Psychology**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to investigate the scientific study of human and animal behavior. Students will be asked to connect readings to practical life situations and current events. The purpose of psychology is to help better understand the world in which we live. This introductory course seeks to introduce students to psychological terminology and to help them to ask and potentially begin to answer questions about human and animal thought and behavior. The topics covered in this course will be history, theories, biological bases of behavior, sensation, and perception, consciousness, learning and cognition, development, personality, motivation and emotion, disorders and treatment, and social psychology.

AP® US Gov't & Politics**Grade: 11-12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to familiarize students with a spectrum of knowledge about the American Political process, from the whys of the Articles of Confederation to the modern hows to Federalism. This class will require students to analyze documents ranging from the U.S. Constitution to Supreme Court cases to Civil Rights era speeches. They will be asked to write complex, well-thought-out, timed essays. They will engage in civil, reasoned debate with their peers. AP Government & Politics is an intensive class with weekly homework. The goal of the course is to instill an appreciation and deep understanding of government.

WORLD LANGUAGES

American Sign Language I**Grade: 9 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course is an introduction to basic knowledge about sign communication and deafness. Emphasis is placed upon the acquisition of comprehension and production skills, knowledge of the deaf community, and the development of cultural awareness.

American Sign Language II**Grade: 10 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: American Sign Language I*

This course will enhance ASL I skills and continues to develop receptive and expressive signing skills. Components include the study of communication, deaf culture, connections with other disciplines, comparisons with the student's first language, and potential for involvement in the deaf community.

American Sign Language III**Grade: 11 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: American Sign Language I, II*

This course enhances ASL II skills. This course is designed to increase receptive and expressive sign language skills. Expands all ASL II concepts and understanding of the complexities within the language.

Chinese I**Grade: 9 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

The focus of Chinese I is to build and develop students' skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing the Chinese language, and delving deeper into their culture.

Chinese II**Grade: 10 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Chinese I*

Chinese II will continue developing the skills gained during Chinese I, with a focus on building more extensive listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. During this course, students will continue to improve and expand their Chinese language survival skills in order to be prepared for possible travel to and to China.

Chinese III**Grade: 11 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Chinese I, II*

This course will continue developing the skills gained during Chinese II, with a focus on building more extensive listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. During this course, students will continue to improve and expand their Chinese skills and be prepared for conversations with Chinese Language speakers in the U.S., for possible travel to China, and for taking the Chinese placement tests, as well as Chinese courses in college.

Chinese IV**Grade: 12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Chinese I, II, III*

This course is designed for advanced Chinese students. The focus is to bring students even closer to conversational fluency. There is a greater focus on conversational Chinese. By the end of this course, students will have a command of over 600 Chinese words and characters.

Spanish I**Grade: 9 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. It will help students to speak and to understand Spanish. The culture and the customs of the people of the many nations who speak Spanish will be explored. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary and conjugation of the present tense of verbs.

Spanish II**Grade: 10 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Spanish I*

Spanish II is designed to give the intermediate student continued exposure to the Spanish language through the emphasis on the development of vocabulary, conversation skills, grammar, written comprehension and expression, and verbal proficiency.

Spanish III**Grade: 11 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Spanish I, II*

This course will give the advanced student a continuing development of vocabulary, conversation skills, grammar, written comprehension and expression, and verbal proficiency.

Spanish IV**Grade: 12 Credit: 1.0***Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, III*

This course will give the advanced student a continuing development of vocabulary, conversation skills, grammar, written comprehension and expression, and verbal proficiency.





MILL SPRINGS ACADEMY

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