



Morton West Freshman Academy

Elective Options - Class of 2027

Course	Description
Auto Mechanics I	Beginning Automotive Service course emphasizes preventative auto maintenance and automobile troubleshooting. Course content typically includes tune-up, oil change, and lubrication skills; tire replacement, alignment, and balancing; and basic knowledge of brake, cooling, electrical, emission, fuel, ignition, steering, suspension, and transmission systems.
Intro to Engineering Design	Learn how to be a designer, architect, and engineer. Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) exposes students to design, digital communication, invention process, and technical documentation. This project-based course gives students the opportunity to develop skills in research and analysis, teamwork, technical writing, engineering graphics, and problem solving, while engaging in developing their own design concepts to solve real-world problems. Students use 3D solid modeling design software to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems and learn how to document their work and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community.
Beginning Welding	Beginning Welding course enables students to gain knowledge of the properties, uses, and applications of various metals, skills in various processes used to join and cut metals (such as oxyacetylene, shielded metal, metal inert gas, and tungsten arc processes), and experience in identifying, selecting, and rating appropriate techniques. Welding courses often include instruction in interpreting blueprints or other types of specifications.
Digital Literacy	This foundation-level course prepares students to use technology in a proficient and responsible manner in school, in the workforce, and in everyday life. The course contains skills for working in an Internet or networked environment and the knowledge of what it means to be a good digital citizen and the ability to use technology responsibly. Topics include the benefits and risks of sharing information online, and the possible consequences of inappropriate sharing (oversharing). Students explore the legal and ethical dimensions of respecting creative work. Technology use is a vital employability skill for entry-level and upper-level management positions. Students may be provided with the opportunity to seek industry-recognized digital literacy certifications.
Computer Programming/Gaming	In Computer Programming, students will learn the basics of Java in an interactive development gaming environment. Java is an object-oriented language and students will use this to create interactive computer games. Students will develop knowledge in designing, writing, testing, and running programs for computer games in a collaborative, student-centered environment. After creating their own games, students will compete in game tournaments with the games they developed. They will also work collaboratively with each other to develop fun, creative games by using Greenfoot, a game development platform. This class has no pre-requisite, is an elective available for all grades, and one semester course.
Tech Service Internship	The Tech Service Internship (TSI) class directly supports students, teachers, and administrators through the 1:1 program in the district. Students in TSI get experience working in a real life, tech support environment, rotating through stations, each station providing students the ability to develop and maintain necessary 21st Century workplace skills. Students also work to earn certifications in a variety of programs, including Microsoft and A+, ensuring that students will better their future, regardless if they pursue a career in technology or not. In this class, students will not only learn how to troubleshoot and fix technological devices, but they will learn how to be competitive professionals in a demanding and ever-changing workforce. It is preferred that students enrolled in this course take the summer boot camp.
AP Computer Science Principles	This course follows the Advanced Placement curriculum issued by the College Board. AP Computer Science emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with an emphasis on problem solving and algorithm development and is meant to be the equivalent of a first-semester course in computer science. This course utilizes Java and C++ to develop and run a variety of programs. It also includes the study of data structures and abstraction.
AP Computer Science A	AP Computer Science A introduces students to computer science through programming. Fundamental topics in this course include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. The course emphasizes <u>object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language</u> .
Culinary Arts I	This course provides terminology, culinary math, and practical experiences needed for the development of culinary competencies and workplace skills. Safety and sanitation instruction and classroom application will prepare students for an industry recognized sanitation exam. Classroom experiences will develop skills to work in the front of the house, back of the house, and workstations. Additional content may include event



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	planning, customer service and relations, food service styles, baking and pastry arts, hors d'oeuvres, and breakfast cookery. Students will be provided opportunity training experiences on commercial equipment.
Concert Choir	Concert Choir continues the development of basic vocal skills, music theory and music history taught in Choir. A wide variety of music will be experienced. Attendance and participation choral concerts, community performances, school assemblies are required. Placement in this choir is by audition only.
Beginning Instruments	Beginning Instruments is for students for student with no previous experience. The fundamentals of playing a musical instrument and accurate music reading are stressed. Individual attention is given to each student. This class includes different brass, percussion, woodwind, and string instruments. Required activities which take places outside of regular school hours may include attendance at all concerts. Some instruments will be available for rental; however, students will need to check with the instructor to reserve the rental instrument. If instruments are not available for rental, students will need to supply their own. Students enrolled in this course will perform in district concerts.
Guitar	This course is for the beginning student who has no prior musical experience. Students will learn the fundamentals of guitar. Students will be given specific instruction to tune a guitar, read music, play melody lines, play chords with various strums, and set cords to music. A variety of music will be explored, including folk, classical, rock, and Latin.
Guitar Ensemble	Guitar ensemble is a semester-long, repeatable course designed for the intermediate and advanced guitarist. Repertoire spans a variety of musical styles and cultures. Students are required to perform in scheduled concerts or other activities for the class. While guitars are provided for this course, personal guitars are recommended for at home practice.
Beginning Mariachi	Students will be introduced to Mariachi music. Students will be introduced to a variety of mariachi songs and genres including son jalisciense, corrido, cancion, ranchera, bolera, polka, vals, etc. They learn the basic technique of playing an instrument, vocal technique, and how to properly maintain an instrument. Students will begin to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to perform mariachi music in a variety of genres with technical accuracy and stylistic correctness.
Mariachi II/Performance	Students will develop the skills and attributes necessary for a successful career in mariachi music. Educational opportunities as related to mariachi music will be explored. Students will be able relate aspects of the study of mariachi music to other fields and endeavors. As part of this course, students will learn to perform mariachi songs from various genres including son jalisciense, corrido, cancion, ranchera, bolera, polka, vals, while refining the skills necessary to perform mariachi music with technical accuracy and stylistic correctness.
Digital Music	Semester-long class where students will learn the fundamentals of producing and recording digital music using music editing software. Topics include production of beats, tone mixing, soundboard mastery, live room recording, and microphone techniques.
Piano I	Class Piano is designed for the beginning pianist who has no prior musical experience. Basic note reading, fingering, music theory and piano literature will be taught. This course is taught on an electronic keyboard. Students will learn through group lessons and supervised practice. Students do not need to own a piano since all practice is done in class.
Orchestra	In the Morton High School Orchestra course, students will focus on developing technical skills in bowing and left-hand facility, as well as in music literacy and sight-reading. Emphasis is placed on the development of musicianship through progressive technical studies and advanced modern and classical orchestra literature. Musical skills as well as aesthetic critique are assessed each quarter. In orchestra, students will grow in their performance abilities on their individual instruments symphonic string instruments as well as improve their aural skills, musical terminology, and music symbol identification.
Concert Band	Concert band is open to all students who have successfully completed the Beginning Band Course or have at least two years of experience in a middle school band program. Students improve their musicianship while performing a variety of musical styles. Musical development will take place in tone production, intonation, breathing and music theory. All students will participate in Marching Band, Basketball Band, Formal Concerts and Contest. Private lessons are recommended but are not required. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is required.
Wind Ensemble	Wind Ensemble is open through yearly auditions to advanced performers in wind and percussion instruments. This course is designed for advanced players. Repertoire includes marches, overtures, and a variety of classical and popular music. All students will participate in Marching Band,



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	Basketball Band, Formal Concerts and Contests. Private lessons are recommended but not required. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals are required.
Symphonic Strings	Symphonic Strings is offered to students with previous string experience. Its purpose is to study and perform standard string and limited full orchestra literature of varying styles. An advanced proficiency level is necessary to prepare literature. Periodically there are special events, rehearsals, or concerts during non-school hours. Participation in such activities is an essential extension of the course and will be considered in grading process. Selected members of the Wind ensemble will join Symphonic strings to provide students with a full orchestral experience.
Introduction to Theatre	Theatre Arts Performance is an introductory course and may be selected by any student. Students explore elements of drama, through improvisation, theatre games, and scenes from contemporary plays as well as learning how to create the “magic of theatre” from behind the scenes As part of the course, students examine scripts, explore acting techniques, develop character, and experience the dynamics of rehearsal discipline as used in the live and electronic theatre arts. Additionally, students will explore principles of theatrical design and the jobs that are required to produce successful production in all media. Theatre Arts is a “hands on minds on” course offers students the opportunity to act, design, and produce a production from the ground up. There is also opportunity for motivated students to work for outside performing organizations who rent the Morton theatre spaces Students who take this class will understand the full process of creating theatre.
Drawing/Printmaking I	Introductory course where students will be introduced to drawing and art basics such as the elements of art and principles of design. The semester will focus on four major themes as overarching concepts while working on basics skills such as line, shading, creating 3D forms and portraiture. Development of vocabulary and basic skills are refined to set up for the level two class. A sketchbook is required. Students are responsible for obtaining any necessary supplies that are not provided in class.
Drawing/Printmaking II	Students will be encouraged to develop drawing style using large formats, sophisticated imagery, and expression in their work. Use of drawing materials and techniques are strengthened and refined. Serious students will develop a portfolio for employment, college entrance or AP credit. A sketch book is required. Students are responsible for obtaining necessary supplies.
Design	Design students will use a variety of media and materials to explore color, positive-negative reversals, symmetry, and other elements of design. Both 2D and 3D experiences will be provided. This course is designed for students who are considering careers in commercial art, advertising, interior design, product design, architecture, etc. Students are responsible for obtaining necessary supplies.
Sculpture I	This course will provide a hands-on approach to the exploration of three-dimensional form in traditional and nontraditional materials such as clay, paper, plaster, cardboard, wire, and found objects. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of sculpture, including the visual vocabulary used in creating and critiquing artwork. Students will study form, volume, and space relationships through the exploration of decorative, utilitarian, and conceptual approaches to sculpture. This class uses both historical and contemporary models as a catalyst for projects and discussions. Assignment focus on creativity, expression of ideas, comprehension of tools and techniques.
Sculpture II	This course will provide students with the opportunity to further explore the concepts of three-dimensional art as well as build on the foundation they have already established. They will develop a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of art through research and examination of new and interesting ways to create 3-D art. Students will continue to create sculptures using various material and methods. Creative play, material experimentation and contemporary practices are encouraged. Students will evaluate and critique their own, as well as other artist’s work.
Painting I	Using a variety of media and techniques (watercolor, acrylic, etc.), students will study many past and present styles of painting. Basic drawing, painting and compositional techniques will be emphasized to help students find their individual styles. Students are responsible for obtaining necessary supplies.
Digital Photography	This course provides students with experiences related to the photography field. Planned experiences give students a clear and concise introduction to the following: safety and housekeeping of a photo studio, photography as a visual and communicative discipline, and an introduction to the photo industry. Students will explore the basic concepts of photography from early pinhole cameras to today’s all digital systems. Emphasis will be on the production of images using digital cameras, Adobe Photoshop will be used to students the process of creating a completed photographic image, Elements of art, principles of design, and creative approaches to picture-taking will be stressed in order to prepare students for the demands of the



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	photographic industry. Students will conduct shop operation, camera work, digitally processing pictures, printing photographic images as well as learning about the use and selection of cameras, film, lenses, filters, and other accessories. Students must have their own point and shoot digital camera. Various commercial cameras and accessories will be available for students to use. Students are responsible for obtaining necessary supplies.
Video Techniques	This course is designed to foster an awareness and understanding of current video technologies. Students will cover the basic elements of video production including script writing, story boarding and editing. Visual elements and writing skills will be explored. Video projects may include storytelling, music videos, commercials, news, animation, etc... Students may be involved in school activities such as promotional videos, daily announcements, etc. Adobe Premier Pro and Adobe After Effects will be used for this course.
Spanish I	This is the first course in the series for Spanish. Students begin to speak, read, and write in the language as well as study the culture and geography of those who speak it.
Spanish II	This course is the second course in the series for Spanish. Students will continue to develop their understanding of Spanish Language and Culture. Students will develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students will also enjoy experiences that help them understand and appreciate customs, food, music, dance, holidays, and ceremonies.
Spanish III	This course is the third course in the series for Spanish. Students will continue to develop their understanding of Spanish Language and Culture. Students will develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students will also enjoy experiences that help them understand and appreciate customs, food, music, dance, holidays, and ceremonies.
Spanish Language Arts IV	This course is designed for students with an advanced speaking and writing skills in Spanish. Students will study Hispanic culture using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will enjoy various readings and activities concerning festivities, important historical events and works of influential authors of Spanish-speaking countries.
Spanish Language Arts V	This course is designed for students with an advanced speaking and writing skills in Spanish. Students will study Hispanic culture using reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will enjoy various readings and activities concerning festivities, important historical events and works of influential authors of Spanish-speaking countries.
AP Spanish Language	Students will continue to read, speak, and write in Spanish, continue the study of cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and read a variety of literary works written in Spanish. Students are required to take the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam.
French I	This course is the first course in the series for French. Students begin to speak, read, and write in the language as well as study the culture and geography of those who speak it.
Chinese I	This is the first course in the series for Chinese. Students begin to speak, read, and write in the language as well as study the culture and geography of those who speak it.
AP Human Geography	Following the College Board's suggested curriculum designed to parallel college-level Human Geography courses, AP Human Geography introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped the ways in which humans understand, use, and alter the earth's surface. Students use spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences and learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. Students are required to take the AP test in May.
Principles of Biomedical Science	In the introductory course of the PLTW Biomedical Science program, students explore concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that led to the death of a fictional person. While investigating the case, students examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might have prolonged the person's life. The activities and projects introduce students to human physiology, basic biology, medicine, and research processes while allowing them to design their own experiments to solve problems.