

## **Courses Open to Freshmen**

### **Course Descriptions: 2025-26**

#### **English**

##### **Course Name: English 9**

Prerequisites: none Recommended: none Length: Full year Exam: Local Open to: Freshmen

Description: English 9 Regents serves as a survey and foundation course. Lesson focus will be aligned with NYS Common Core Standards for skill development and proficiency. Literary units of study will include a variety of non fiction and memoir texts, along with full-length novels, fictional short stories, and poetry. In addition, students will be introduced to tasks from the ELA exam to be taken junior year. Independent reading projects, vocabulary and writing tasks, and presentations should be expected.

##### **Course Name: English 9 Honors**

Prerequisites: Complete independent readings prior to entering the course, teacher recommendation  
Recommended: 8th Grade Language Arts grade 90% or higher Length: Full year Exam: Local Open to: Freshmen

Description: English 9 Honors will follow a similar, yet accelerated, format to the English 9 Regents course. However the material will be presented based on student-generated questions and situations. There will be several independent reading assignments as well as a focus on developing and refining writing techniques. The students will be required to read at least one novel from the approved 9th grade reading list. Weekly vocabulary and writing exercises should be expected as well as independent reading projects, unit tests, cooperative learning groups, and presentations.

##### **Course Name: Creative Writing**

Prerequisites: None Length: Half Year Open to: Grades 9-12

Description: Students will craft various types of fiction (short story, poetry, drama) and nonfiction (memoir, analysis, research, argument). Students will study exemplars of each genre written by professional writers as well as work written by peers to help guide their progress. Using the peer group workshop model, students will create a portfolio of polished pieces created following exercises from Le Guin's *Steering the Craft*, Warner's *The Writer's Practice* and other sources. Students may choose to publish their finished work in Holland's arts publication.

## **English (Continued)**

### **Course Name: The Romance Novel**

Prerequisites: None Length: Half Year Open to: Grades 9-12

Description: Romance is one of the best-selling genres of popular fiction today. What makes romance novels so compelling? In this course, students will read and analyze “no spice romance” novels. We will consider these questions: What are some common romance plot patterns, tropes and character archetypes? Are all romance novels “fluff” or can they provide readers opportunities for reflection and escape? The class will follow a literature circle model in which students will collaboratively discuss and critique the text. Students will be expected to complete some reading outside of class and complete a weekly written response.

## **Science**

### **Course Name: Earth and Space Science R**

Required: Lab and Class must be taken concurrently Length: Full Year Exam: Regents Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: Regents Earth Science is a course of study designed to encourage students to investigate their world through first hand experiences. It is one of the most relevant disciplines. Through this program, students should gain new understandings of the world around them, and the processes of change. By investigating the systems of the Earth and their interactions, students can learn to appreciate the dynamic equilibria of our planet. Students should also grow to understand their dependence upon the Earth, with its finite resources, and its limited ability to recover from abuse. This course presents a program for the integration of scientific principles and attitudes necessary to become an informed and scientifically literate citizen. The development of knowledge in Earth Science is emphasized through problem-solving activities and hands -on labs. Skills developed in this course include: observing and inferring, measuring, classifying, creating models, applying mathematics, developing vocabulary, identifying variables, interpreting and analyzing data, drawing relationships and manipulating both ideas and materials. The units (topics) studied are: The Earth - earth size, shape and structure, latitude & longitude, topographic maps. Minerals and Rocks - formation of, properties of, uses of. Dynamic Crust - earthquakes, volcanoes, continental drift. Weathering, Erosion and Deposition. Earth History - geologic time and change. Meteorology - almost all weather phenomena including forecasting. Water Cycle and Climates - including groundwater. Earth in Space - earth motions and seasons, phases and eclipses of the moon, planetology and structure of the universe. Stewardship - environmental issues including: global warming, ozone depletion and acid rain. The completion of a minimum of 1200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory work (including a written record) is required before the state examination can be taken.

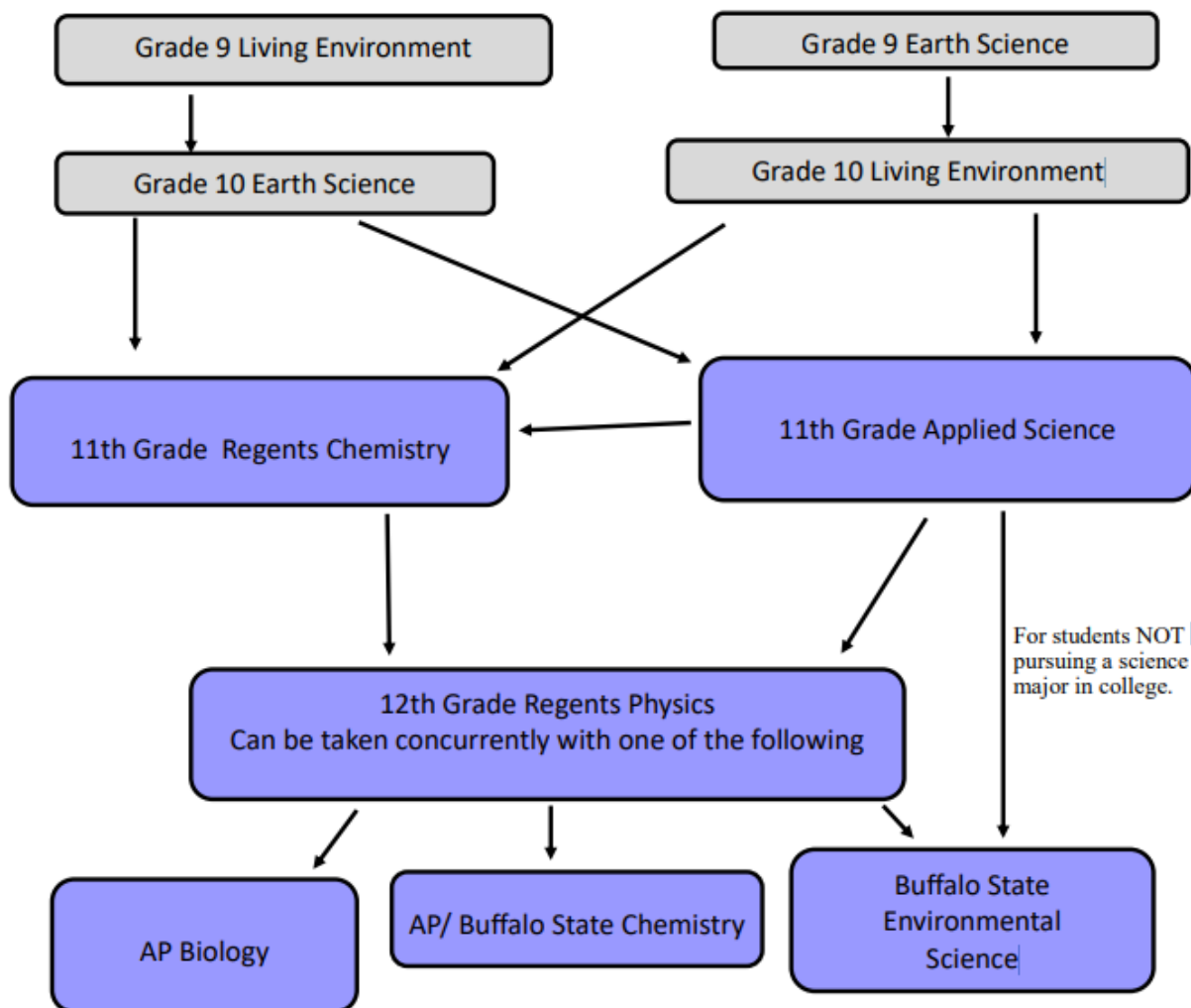
## **Science (Continued)**

### **Course Name: Biology R**

Prerequisites: Required: Lab and class must be taken concurrently Length: Full Year Exam: Regents  
Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors

Description: Living Environment introduces students to the basic biological concepts and stresses the vital connection of biology to technology and our everyday lives. There are 7 key ideas that this course revolves around: 1. Living Things are both similar and different from each other and other living things. 2. Organisms inherit genetic information in a variety of ways. 3. Individual organisms and species change over time. 4. The continuity of life is sustained through reproduction. 5. Organisms maintain a dynamic equilibrium that sustains life. 6. Plants and animals depend on each other and their physical environment. 7. Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the physical and living environment. These ideas are presented and integrated during the year through the study of cell biology, biochemistry, reproduction, genetics, human anatomy and physiology, evolution, and ecology. The goals of this course are to: • Prepare the student with a solid foundation necessary to cope with the expanding role of biology in society. • Prepare the student to successfully challenge the NYS Regents exam on “The Living Environment”. As with any Regents science course, the completion of a minimum of 1200 minutes of satisfactory laboratory work, including a written record, is required before the student may challenge the Regents exam.

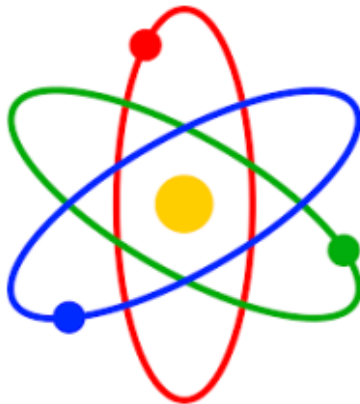
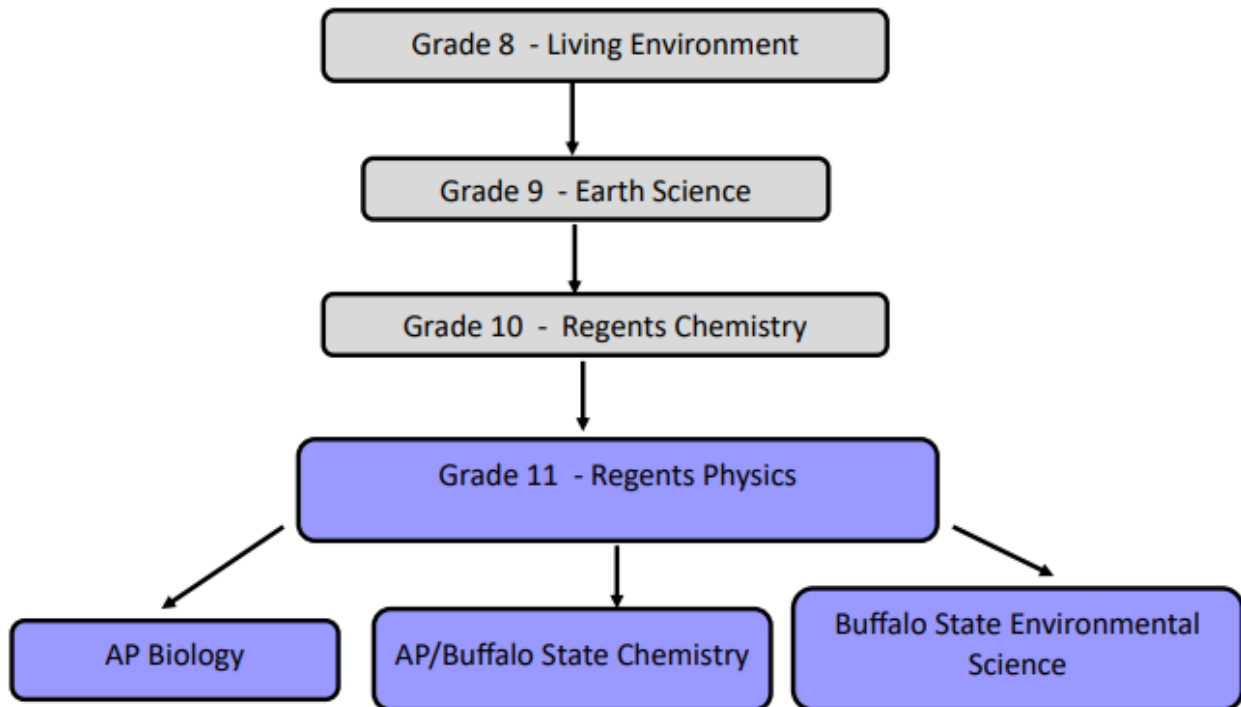
## Traditional science student



Parents and students please note:

1. It is extremely important to select a track that matches the student's math abilities.
2. **College Board strongly recommends that all students should take all four sciences (Earth Science, Living Environment, Chemistry and Physics) before entering college.**
3. Juniors need to be sure to check for college prerequisites

## Advanced Science Student



Parents and students please note:

1. It is extremely important to select a track that matches the student's math abilities.
2. **College Board strongly recommends that all students should take all four sciences (Earth Science, Living Environment, Chemistry and Physics) before entering college.**
3. Juniors need to be sure to check for college prerequisite
4. AP/Buffalo State Science courses may be taken in 11th grade if taken concurrently with Physics.

## Social Studies

### **Course Name: Global History I & II**

Exam: Regents Prerequisites: Required courses for graduation Length: Full Year Each Exam: See Below  
Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores

Description: A chronological study of the cultures and peoples of the world from Stone Age Man, development of Religions, the Renaissance, to the Modern Era, excluding U.S. history. Various social science methods are used (History, Geography, Economics, Anthropology Political Science) to develop an understanding of the topics. Global I is now a stand alone course, based chronologically from the Paleolithic Era up to 1750ce, and there will be a local exam offered at the end of the freshman year. Global II goes from 1750-modern era and now has the new one year regents exam based on the new NYS common core curriculum with more of a focus on item analysis and primary source critique. There will be a focus on “enduring issues” in history over time.

### **Course Name: America 250: Road to Independence**

Prerequisites: Interest in Subject Length: Semester Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: An overview of events of colonial America leading to our Declaration of Independence. In preparation to celebrate our Nation’s 250th anniversary, explore the fascinating and historic peoples, places, and events that started the British settlements of North America, founded Thirteen diverse colonies out of wilderness, and ultimately led British subjects to declare independence in 1776. You will explore details of events that took loyal British subjects, like George Washington, and caused them to rebel and seek independence. Research the location of many national parks and monuments and living history museums dedicated to preserving Colonial America.

### **Course Name: America 250: War of Independence**

Prerequisites: Interest in Subject Length: Semester Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: An overview of events from our Declaration of Independence in 1776 through to the Battle of Yorktown in 1781 and the Treaty of Paris, 1783. In preparation to celebrate our Nation’s 250th anniversary, explore the fascinating and historic peoples, places, and events that encompassed our Nation’s fight for independence. Research the location of many national parks and monuments and living history museums dedicated to preserving our Nation's fight for independence. Learn what events in New York State history helped lead American patriots to victory and how you can visit their locations.

## **Math**

### **Course Name: Algebra I**

Prerequisites: Required: None Length: Full Year Exam: Regents Open to: Freshmen

Description: The focal point of this Algebra course is to prepare for the NYS Algebra I regents exam, following the NYS Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards, students develop fluency writing, interpreting and translating between various forms of linear equations and inequalities and using them to solve problems. Students will explore many examples of functions, including sequences. They will compare and contrast linear and exponential functions. They will create equations and inequalities and systems of equations involving quadratic expressions. They will study quadratic functions, comparing them to linear and exponential functions. Extra Materials Required Graphing Calculator– TI 84 family of calculators (district provided)

### **Course Name: Algebra IA**

Prerequisites: Required: None Length: Full Year Exam: Local Open to: Freshmen

Description: For students who need more time to complete the above stated course curriculum, this course will cover approximately one half of the topics. The Regents exam will be given at the end of the second year. Extra Materials Required Graphing Calculator– TI 84 family of calculators (district provided)

### **Course Name: Geometry**

Prerequisites: Required – successful completion of Algebra 1 or Algebra IA&IB; pass the Algebra Regents Exam; teacher recommendation Length: Full Year Exam: Geometry Regents Open to: Sophomores and accelerated Freshmen

Description: Geometry is the second course of a three year sequence for an Advanced Regent's diploma. This course is fully aligned to NYS Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards. Emphasis will be placed on congruence, similarity, transformations, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, and geometry of the circle. This class will conclude with a Regents Exam in June. Extra Materials Recommended: Compass, ruler, protractor, Graphing Calculator– TI 84 family of calculators (district provided)

## World Language

### **Course Name: Spanish IB**

Purpose: Earn one unit of HS World Language credit required for NYS graduation Length: Full Year Exam: Local Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors who have failed World Language 7 and/or 8 classes or have transferred into HCS without required World language credit for HS graduation.

Description: Introduction to the Spanish language will include vocabulary and beginning grammar topics as required by NYS World Language curriculum for check point A. Students will begin to work on four skills for communication: reading, speaking, listening and writing. Many Spanish-speaking cultures will be explored as well as comparisons between them and the culture here in the US. Spanish IB completes checkpoint A for NYS World Language.

### **Course Name: Spanish II**

Prerequisites: Spanish 8 or Spanish I Recommended: interest Length: Full Year Exam: Local Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: The skills started in the first level course will be strengthened. A heavier emphasis on the linguistic structure of the language is made in level two and there will be a heavier emphasis on developing reading skills and speaking. Contributions of Spanish Speaking countries to society and studies of the customs of the peoples of these countries will add to the students' knowledge and understanding of the Spanish-speaking cultures. Spanish II completes the first half of checkpoint B NYS.

## Business

### **Course Name: Accounting Principles**

Prerequisites: None Length: Semester Open To: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: A comprehensive study of the basic elements of accounting with the completion of a practice set of books for a representative business concern including cost receipts and payments, payroll, petty cash, purchases and sales records, accounts receivable, operational assets, accounts payable and the preparation of a financial statement, with a laboratory period at the option of the instructor.

## **Business (Continued)**

### **Course Name: Personal Finance**

Prerequisites: None Length: Semester Open To: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: A general interest course designed to help the individual better understand the financial world in which we live today. Topics will enhance one's ability to make personal financial decisions which will include establishing an individual's financial goals, making decisions on saving money, making investments, buying a car, acquiring insurance and budgeting. This course is designed to benefit all and therefore, no prior business training is required.

## **Music**

### **Course Name: Concert Choir**

Prerequisites: None Recommended: Interest in singing and performing Length: Full year Exam: Local Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors-(SATB)

Description: Students will have the opportunity to learn and sharpen their music theory, sight-reading, count singing and choral skills. Skills acquired during these choir experiences become the cornerstone for a higher order of musical/vocal development and independence. Students in this choir have shown an understanding of basic music theory, as stated above. Students learn more difficult music composed of more sophisticated musical structures, texts, voicing and languages. Commitment to consistent attendance, "professional" behavior and high performance standards are stressed to prepare those students who wish to progress to the highest level of chorus. These students will have the opportunity to perform NYSSMA solos and audition to be placed in Area All State, Conference All State and All County choirs. This choir will perform at a Level IV NYSSMA Rating and will learn sight-reading at a Level IV. Both male and female students will participate in the Men's Ensemble and Women's Ensemble, which include the ladies and gentleman from all of the groups.

### **Course Name: Concert Band**

Prerequisites: 3 years experience on major instrument Recommended: 7th and 8th Grade Band Length: Full Year Exam: Local Open to: Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: The Concert Band is comprised of instrumentalist in grades 9-12 who have developed their skills through the Middle School program. This course involves concert band/instrument lesson and concert performances. Students will have the opportunity to attend local and state solo festivals. The group raises funds to help pay for the annual fine arts trip. Each musician is treated as an individual with expected improvement during grades 9-12. Extras Needed: Instrument/Supplies, Tuxedo Shirt and Bow Tie Approximate Cost: \$20 Extra Time Commitment: 2 hours of practice per week. 5-6 Concerts/Fine Arts Trip (Not required...but encouraged)

## Art

### **Course Name: Studio Art I**

Prerequisites: None Length: Full Year Exam: Portfolio Open to : Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: Studio Art is an introduction to the fine arts. Students will be introduced to several art disciplines, including drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, and graphic design. Students will use a variety of materials to complete assigned projects. Collaboration, creative problem-solving and arts integration with real-world contemporary connections will be explored. The Elements of Art and Principles of Design will be taught and incorporated into each lesson. There will be an Art History component to each unit that is completed. Studio Art is designed to give students an overview of the visual arts and experience with as many mediums as possible.

## Technology

### **Course Name: Construction Systems**

Prerequisites: None Suggested: Architecture Length: Semester Exam: Project or Portfolio Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: It takes several skilled trades to build a house or even maintain a building. This course will focus on two of them, carpentry and electrical wiring. It is an intensive course where students will build and wire an actual structure. Students will learn the following: safety, the framing members of a house and how these parts fit together, terminology of each field, blueprint reading, estimating, basic electricity, house wiring, and much more. This course gives students an opportunity to apply Math, Science and English skills in a real life experience. Career opportunities in each trade will be explored, and necessary skills will be identified.

### **Course Name: Woodworking**

Prerequisites: None Length: Semester Exam: Project or Portfolio Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: This course is perfect for students who are interested in fine woodworking and the manipulation of various different materials. Tool and machine safety, wood joinery, and proper woodworking techniques will be the main emphasis of this class. Extensive projects may require students to pay for some of the cost. Safety glasses will be required.

## Technology (Continued)

### **Course Name: Furniture Design and Production**

Prerequisites: Woodworking Length: Semester Exam: Project or Portfolio Open to: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: This course will introduce the beginning furniture and cabinetmaking student to the various stages of construction and assembly of wood products and related materials. This course is intended to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to design, construct, and finish furniture and/or cabinets in the woodworking industry. Through the course activities the student will gain an understanding of safety procedures, machine operation, and industrial applications. The appropriate use of technology and industry-standard equipment is an integral part of this course.

### **Course Name: Motorsports**

Length: Semester Open to: All grades

Description: This course will focus on the repair and performance modifications of motorsport-related machines. These machines may include but are not limited to – ATV's, snowmobiles, go-karts, Side by Sides etc..... Students will learn how to diagnose and repair machines based on what is in need of repair at the time. This course will operate as if it were a repair shop. Students will complete work orders, provide estimates, and keep records as if they were the owners and operators of a real motorsports repair service. While the course focuses on mechanical repair, students will also learn and practice other skills such as Math, English, critical thinking, and much more.

### **Course Name: Robotics**

Prerequisites: none Length: Semester Exam: Project or Portfolio Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: This is a beginning course in robotics. The objective is to introduce students to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building, and programming of multiple working robots. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program, and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems, and binary number systems. Student designed robots will be programmed to compete in various courses or challenges.

## Technology (Continued)

### **Course Name: CADD 1 (Design & Drawing for Production)**

Prerequisites: None Length: Full Year Exam: Local Final / Project Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors \*\*\* This course can be used to fulfill the NYS art requirement \*\*\*

Description: This will be an introduction to the use of the computer aided design programs, the application of the computer to generate designs and drawing, the utilization of mechanical drawing principles, and the use of a computer as a design tool. Even though the CADD software will be the primary focus of this course, many different types of software and hardware will be experimented with during this class. These include Solidworks, Inventor, Eiger, and many more. Students will even have the opportunity to make their designs come to life using the 3D printer! The goals of this class are to familiarize students with computer skills needed in the design field and to encourage problem solving and critical thinking skills.

### **Course Name: Computer Applications in Business**

Prerequisites: None Length: Semester Open To: Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: An introductory course in essential state-of-the-art business related skills. Topics include, but are not limited to: terminology, computer equipment, machine capabilities and limitations, current popular business software and its applications to realistic business problem solving in areas such as finance, marketing and accounting. Focus on Microsoft 365, keyboarding (typing). Final is a business simulation. No prior computer or business experience required.

## Physical Education

**Course Name: Physical Education** State Requirements: 1/2 credit/year -1/4 per semester (total of 2 required for graduation Local Requirements: 9th & 10th grades are separated from 11th & 12th Length Full Year Exam: Local Open to: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

Description: The mission of physical education is to enable all students to sustain regular, life long physical activity as a foundation for a healthy, productive, and fulfilling life. Commencement-level students understand that practice, effort, and understanding are necessary to establish and maintain a high level of skilled performance. They are able to describe how mastery of fundamental movement forms and skills may contribute to daily living tasks and participate in analysis of skill activities (for self and others) as an assessment technique. Students should accept physical activity as an important part of their life and recognize such consequent benefits as self-renewal, greater productivity as a worker, more energy for family activities, and reduction in health care costs. \*\*\*Required dress: Inside - loose fitting shorts T-shirts, socks, athletic sneakers; Outside - sweat shirts or jackets, older sneakers, sweat pants