AFSA High School
2025-2026 Curriculum Guide
Grades 7-12

Charter Public School District #4074

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AFSA High School engages learners in academically rigorous, student centered learning experiences and leadership opportunities within a science and agricultural context.

Curriculum Strengths at AFSA

Continuity and Consistency
Students can begin their education at AFSA as early as Kindergarten and continue through 12th grade. Courses over AFSA's K - 12 curriculum build upon previous coursework to develop critical thinkers and a strong depth of knowledge of core content.

College Prep Education
Students at AFSA High School are prepared for postsecondary education. Our curriculum is designed to prepare students for postsecondary admission and success. In addition to college-preparatory classroom content, AFSA students participate in regular college and career readiness (CCR) activities. AFSA students in grades 10 through 12 visit 2- and 4-year public and private colleges and universities. AFSA also hosts an annual Career Day and College Fair. These events give AFSA students opportunities to explore career interests and postsecondary programs and help each AFSA student develop an individualized meaningful postsecondary path.

Career Focus
Agricultural careers make up nearly 20% of all jobs in the United States; AFSA was created to provide information to urban and suburban students about the wide range of careers available to them in this highly specialized field. AFSA is not preparing students to be farmers, but to be wise consumers, savvy decision makers and successful, career-oriented life-long learners. The chart on the next page shows many of the potential careers in the Science, Business and Technology of Agriculture.

Variety
AFSA offers a variety of courses for students, including more than 21 different Agriscience course offerings, 20 Language Arts courses, math classes ranging from Linear Algebra to CIS Calculus, standard and elective Science courses, Social Studies courses, two levels of Spanish, and courses in theater, art, music, and technology. Students can also earn college credits while taking classes at AFSA through the University of Minnesota's College in the Schools program.

Small Class Sizes
The average class size at AFSA is under 25 and some classes may be as low as 10. Small class sizes allow teachers to get to know the students on an individual basis. They can spend more time with each student, providing enrichment activities for those that are ready to move ahead and provide extra review for those who need more time.

Tutoring
AFSA staff members are available after school Monday through Thursday for tutoring in all subject areas. Teachers are also available on a regular basis to assist students before and after school.

Experiential Learning
Critical thinking, teamwork, and problem solving skills are essential for today's learners. The real-world connections provided by projects, collaborative learning, and experiential learning create opportunities for students to develop critical thinking, teamwork, and problem solving skills while fostering student inquiry and innovation. All classes at AFSA incorporate projects for students to demonstrate their knowledge.

Terms
AFSA students all participate in experiential learning activities in lieu of regular classroom activities for two weeks each year: one week in October and one week in June. These are unique experiences planned by students and staff to develop skills, introduce new opportunities, and build relationships. Offerings include community service, college visits, travels, arts activities, environmental activities, camping, career exploration, sports activities, and more.

Leadership Opportunities
AFSA classes and activities provide many opportunities for students to develop their leadership potential. From student officer and junior officer positions in the FFA and National Honor Society, to committee chairpersons for community service or fundraisers, students have many opportunities to get involved in their school community.

AFSA High School - Pathways, Career Options, and Concepts

AFSA strives to provide urban and suburban students with a broader understanding of the careers available in science and agriculture. The chart below lists just a few of the careers available to students who are trained in these areas.

PATHWAYS	**Food Science** (Food Processing and preserving, Packaging, Distribution, Government monitoring & regulation)	**Plant Science** (Agronomic, Horticulture, Forestry, Turf, Viticulture, Soils)	**Animal Science** (Large animals, small animals, wildlife animals, and research animals)	**Engineering & Mechanics** (Power, Structures, Controls, Geospatial Technology, Computer Systems, Electronics, Hydraulics, Pneumatics)	**Environment & Natural Resources** (Pollution Prevention, Water & Air Quality, Habitat Conservation, Forest Products, Parks and Recreation, Mining, Fisheries)
SAMPLE CAREER SPECIALTIES/ OCCUPATIONS	Sales ● Communications Specialists ● Business-Educators ● Food Scientists ● Meat Processors-Toxicologist ● Biochemists-Nutritionists-Dieticians ● Food Brokers-Food Inspectors ● Meat Cutters-Meat Graders ● Meat Science Researchers ● Food Meal Supervisors ● Cheese Makers ● Microbiologists ● Produce Buyers ● Bacteriologists ● Food & Drug Inspectors ● Bioengineers ● Biochemists ● Food & Fiber Engineers ● Food Processors ● Storage Supervisors● Fieldman ● Quality Control Specialists	Bioinformatics Specialists ● Plant Breeders and Geneticists ● Biotechnology Lab Technician ● Soil & Water Specialists ● Crop Farm Managers ● Agricultural Educators ● Plant Pathologists ● Aquaculturalists ● Sales Representatives ● Botanists ● Tree Surgeons ● Education & Extension Specialists ● Agricultural Journalists ● Commodity Marketing Specialists ●Grain Operations Superintendents ●Custom Hay/Silage Operators ● Forest Geneticists ● Golf Course Superintendents ● Greenhouse Mangers ● Growers ● Farmers ●Ranchers	Aquaculturalists ● Animal Caretakers-Poultry Managers ● Equine Managers-Veterinarians ● Veterinary Assistants-Feedlot Specialists ● Animal Scientists ●Embryo Technologists ● Livestock Buyers ● Feed Sales Representatives ● Vivarian Technicians ● Wildlife Biologists ● Livestock Geneticists ● Animal Nutritionists ● Dairy Producers● Livestock Inspectors ● Feed Sales Specialists ●Animal Health Salespersons ●Meat Science Researcher ●Reproductive Physiologists ● Embryo Transfer Technicians ● Pet Shop Operators ●USDA Inspectors ● Livestock Rancher / Breeder ● Agricultural Products Buyer ● Animal Health Products Distributor	Electronics Systems Technicians ● Engineers ● Extension Engineering Specialists ● Heavy Equipment Maintenance Technicians ● Recycling Technicians ● Waste Water Treatment Plant Operators ● Equipment/Parts Mangers ● Welders ● Machinists ● Communication Technicians ● Agricultural Applications Software Developers/Programmers ● Database Administrators ● Computer Service Technical Support Technicians ● Information Lab Specialists ●GPS Technicians● Remote Sensing Specialists● Machine Operators	Cartographers ● Wildlife Managers ● Range Technicians ● Ecologists Park Mangers ● Environmental Interpreters ● Fish and Game Officers Loggers ● Forest Technicians ● Log Graders ● Pulp and Paper Manager Soil Geology Technician ● Geologists ● Mining Engineers Fisheries Technicians ● Hydrologists ● Fish Hatchery Manager ● Commercial Fishermen ● Pollution Prevention and Control Managers ● Environmental Sampling and Analysis Scientists/Technicians● Environmental Compliance Assurance Managers● Hazardous Materials Handlers ● Water Environment Managers ● Water Quality Managers● Toxicologists● Solid Waste Specialists
CONCEPTS	**CLUSTER KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS: ALL PATHWAYS AT AFSA INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING EDUCATIONAL CONCEPTS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT** ♦Academic Foundations/College Prep Curriculum ♦ Communications ♦Problem Solving and Critical Thinking ♦ Information Technology ♦ Research ♦ Systems ♦ Safety, Health and Environment ♦ Leadership and Teamwork ♦ Ethics and Legal Responsibilities ♦ Employability and Career Development ♦ Technical Skills ♦ Personal Values ♦ Community Service ♦ Hand- on Learning ♦				

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General Registration Information

1. Students should review the curriculum guide and course selection information with their parents/guardians.
2. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the requirements for graduation.
3. All students at AFSA must be working towards meeting the AFSA graduation requirements.
4. Each one-trimester course earns a student .5 credits unless otherwise noted in the course description.
5. Information on Terms changes each year and will be made available at the start of the school year for O-term and in February/March for J-term.
6. Additional Information about school policies and procedures can be found in the Student Handbook. Copies of this handbook are provided to all students on the first day of school.

Annual Registration Procedures

New Students: Each June, scheduling dates will be arranged by grade level. All new students will be required to attend their scheduling session to complete the Math Placement exam and finalize their schedule.

Returning Students: Schedules will be finalized before the beginning of the next school year. Please see a school official if you have questions regarding your schedule.

Orientation-First Day of School

Orientation is held prior to the first day of school for all students new to AFSA. This is an optional program to help students become comfortable on campus, meet their teachers and start to develop friendships. All families are invited to attend our back to school picnic on the same day as orientation as well. Sessions are held for parents to help get to know the school as well.

On the first day of school each year, all students gather in the gym for welcome and introductions. School staff members speak briefly to the entire group and then divide students up by their advisory groups. The advisory groups then meet for 1-2 hours to go over any questions a student might have. Information given out at that time includes student lunch numbers, locker information, computer logins and passwords, daily schedule, directions and any other information students need to make their school year successful.

AFSA Graduation Requirements for grades 9 - 12

AFSA's graduation standards are higher than state requirements and all courses meet or exceed Minnesota State Standards. To graduate from AFSA, high school students must earn 28.5 Credits, complete 4 Science Fair Projects, carry out 12 Public Presentations, participate in Community Service each year and complete a portfolio in a web-based program. Completion of these requirements results in the AFSA Honors Diploma. Exceptions may be made by referral to the Academic Advisory Committee and will not qualify for the Honors Diploma.

Credits must be earned in the following areas:

- 4.5 credits each of Language Arts
- 4 credits each of Math, Science, Social Studies and Agriscience
- 2 credits of a World Language
- 1 credit of an Arts class (Art, Music, Theatre)
- .5 credits of Phy Ed.
- .5 credits of Health
- 4 credits of Electives (Terms, SAEs, projects, etc)

*7th and 8th grade course requirements meet state standards so that students can progress into the high school program.

AFSA Requirements Grades 7 - 12

Science Fair projects: Students must complete one science fair project per year

- These may be completed in class (science or agriculture) or developed independently.
- AFSA will hold an in-house science fair competition in January. Students who do not complete their Science Fair in January must present their Science Fair on a school presentation night. This needs to be arranged in advance.
- In order to receive credit, Science Fair projects must investigate a scientific topic and reflect that topic in a display board, a paper, and presentation to judges.

Public Presentations: Students carry 3 public presentations per year

- One presentation will be the student's annual science fair presentation at the local, state or national science fair.
- The other two presentation can be a student's participation in an event such as a recruitment visit, presenting at a Presentation Night, selling at the Potato Hug, or other activities as approved by their FOCUS teacher.

Note: Presentations in classes do not count towards this requirement.

Electronic Portfolio:

- Students begin their portfolio in 7th grade and update it each year. Advisors track progress and sign off on the final (senior year) portfolio.
- Student portfolios will be done using a web-based program.
- The student's electronic portfolio should include:
    - Cover letter and resume
    - Student career goals and information
    - Career Interest Inventories
    - Copies of student work
    - Copies of awards and activities
    - Record of presentations
    - Other items as recommended by your advisor
    - Senior Graduation Survey

Community Service: All students participate in 12 hours of community service activities each year. Students can complete these hours by participating in AFSA's Fall and Spring Community Service Days. Students who are unable to complete their community service hours during AFSA's designated days will work with AFSA staff to demonstrate completion of the community service requirement.

School Participation: Full participation in all seminars, terms, and FOCUS groups.

- Students meet in FOCUS group each day
- O-term is held in October.
- J-term is held in June.
- Advisory groups meet each day.

Six Year Course Plan

NOTE: This plan is the typical path for students who start at AFSA in Middle School. Adjustments can be made for students who test in at higher levels or who start at AFSA as 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade students.

Dept	7th/8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Agriscience	Discovering Agriculture (1 trimester)	Introduction to Agriculture (1 trimester)	Three trimesters of Agriculture electives	Two trimesters of Agriculture electives	Two trimesters of Agriculture electives
Creative Arts	Multiple art offerings (over the school year)	Not required	One trimester of Art, Music, or Theatre	One trimester of Art, Music, or Theatre	Not required
Language Arts	Discovering Literature and Composition (3 trimesters)	Essence of English (3 trimesters)	Two trimesters of Language Arts courses	Two trimesters of Language Arts electives	Two trimesters of Language Arts electives
Math	Linear Algebra, Algebra 1, or Geometry* (3 trimesters)	Algebra I or Geometry* (3 trimesters)	Next higher math offering (usually Geometry or Algebra II) – (3 trimesters)	Next higher math offering – must complete through Algebra II (3 trimesters)	Next higher math offering – must complete through Algebra II (3 trimesters)
Phy Ed. & Health	Discovering Health & Physical Education (1 trimester)	Not required	Choice of Phy. Ed. Course (1 trimester)	Health	Not required
Science	Earth Science (3 trimesters)	Physical Science (3 trimesters)	Chemistry (2 trimesters)	Biology (2 trimesters)	Two trimesters of Science classes
Social Studies	Discovering United States History & Economics (2 trimesters)	Geography (2 trimesters)	U.S. History (2 trimesters)	World History (2 trimesters)	Economics and Civics (2 trimesters)
World Language	Spanish (1 trimester)	Spanish I (2 trimesters)	Spanish II (2 trimesters)	Not required	Not required
Electives	Not required	One elective course if student is in Geometry or higher	Choice of classes	Choice of classes	Choice of classes
Terms	O-term & J-term	O-term & J-term	O-term & J-term	O-term & J-term	O-term; J-term required for students who need credit toward graduation

*Students may test into higher math levels.

RECOMMENDED COURSE OF STUDY GRADES 7-12

Honors Diploma and College Prep-four year college program – with CIS –EXAMPLE
Student is prepared to enroll in a four-year college program

Dept	Grade 7/8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Science	Earth Science OR Exploring Science	Physical Science	Chemistry	Biology	Science Elective
Language Arts	Discovering Lit & Comp OR Exploring Lit & Comp	Essence of English	Composition & American OR British Literature	CIS Composition*/ CIS Literature*	CIS Composition*/ CIS Literature*
Agriscience	Discovering Agriscience OR Exploring Agriculture	Introduction to Agriculture	Floriculture & Fish and Wildlife	Landscape & Greenhouse OR CIS Animal Science*	CIS Animal Science*
Social Studies	Discovering U.S. History OR Exploring History & Culture	Geography	US History	World History	Economics & Citizenship & Govt
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	CIS Calculus*
World Language	Spanish	Spanish I	Spanish II	Elective (if needed)	Elective (if needed)
Arts	Multiple art offerings (over the school year)	Elective (if schedule allows)	Creative Dramatics, Music Appreciation, OR 2D Art	Improvisation, Music Appreciation, OR 3D Art	Music Appreciation, Graphic Design, OR Yearbook
Phy Ed & Health	Exploring Physical Education & Health OR Discovering Education & Health		Health OR Physical Education	Health OR Physical Education	PE Elective (if needed and schedule allows)
Electives	One elective course if student is in Geometry or higher	One elective course if student is in Geometry or higher	Environmental Science	Leadership OR CIS Political Science*	CIS Political Science* OR Leadership

***Most CIS courses are offered on alternating years.**

Science classes: Students must complete chemistry and/or physics. Some Agriculture classes can also count toward AFSA graduation credit for science

- Vet Science
- Large Animal Science
- Equine Science
- Plant Science
- Sustainable Agriculture
- CIS Animal Science
- Natural Resources
- Introduction to Horticulture
- Agriscience
- Fish & Wildlife

Honors Diploma and College Prep-four year college program – no CIS- EXAMPLE

Student is prepared to enroll in a four-year college program

Dept	Grade 7/8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Science	Earth Science OR Exploring Science	Physical Science	Chemistry	Physics	Environmental Science
Language Arts	Discovering Lit & Comp OR Exploring Lit & Comp	Essence of English	Composition AND British OR American Literature	British OR American Literature AND Mythology	World Literature AND Professional Writing
Agriscience	Discovering Agriscience OR Exploring Agriculture	Introduction to Agriculture	Floriculture AND Leadership OR Fish & Wildlife	Landscape OR Greenhouse	Metals and Welding - OR Small Engines OR Food Microbiology
Social Studies	Discovering U.S. History OR Exploring History & Culture	Citizenship AND Government	US History	World History	Economics & Geography
Math	Linear Algebra or Algebra I	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre Calculus OR Personal Finances
World Language	Spanish	Spanish I	Spanish II	Elective (if needed)	Elective (if needed)
Arts	Variety of options	Elective (if schedule allows)	Creative Dramatics, Music Appreciation, OR 2D Art	Improvisation, Music Appreciation, OR 3D Art	Music Appreciation, OR Yearbook
Phy Ed & Health	Exploring Physical Education & Health OR Discovering Education & Health		Health OR PE	Health OR PE	PE Elective (if needed and schedule allows)
Electives			Food and Culture	Leadership	Field Ecology

Science classes: Students must complete chemistry and/or physics. Some Agriculture classes can also count toward AFSA graduation credit for science

Vet Science
Large Animal Science
Equine Science
Plant Science
Sustainable Agriculture
CIS Animal Science
Natural Resources
Introduction to Horticulture
Agriscience
Fish & Wildlife

Honors Diploma and College Prep – 2 year college program

Student is prepared to enter a two year college or community college program.

Dept	Grade 7/8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Science	Earth Science OR Exploring Science	Physical Science	Chemistry	Conceptual Physics AND Environmental Science	Student Choice
Language Arts	Discovering Lit & Comp OR Exploring Lit & Comp	Essence of English	Teen Lit AND Composition	Science Fiction AND Creative Nonfiction	Media Studies AND Professional Writing
Agriscience	Discovering Agriscience OR Exploring Agriculture	Introduction to Agriculture	Floriculture AND Leadership OR Fish & Wildlife	Landscape AND Greenhouse OR Nutrition	Engineering & Metals/Welding OR Food Microbiology & Field Ecology
Social Studies	Discovering U.S. History OR Exploring History & Culture	Geography	US History	World History	Economics AND Civics
Math	Linear Algebra or Algebra I	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Finances
World Language	Spanish	Spanish I	Spanish II	Elective (if needed)	Elective (if needed)
Arts	Variety of options	Elective (if schedule allows	Creative Dramatics, Music Appreciation, OR 2D	Improvisation, Music Appreciation, OR 3D Art	Music Appreciation, Graphic Design, OR Yearbook
Phy Ed & Health	Exploring Physical Education & Health OR Discovering Education & Health		Health OR PE	Health OR PE	PE Elective (if needed and schedule allows)
Electives			2D Art	Small Engines	Creative Dramatics

Science classes: Students must complete chemistry and/or physics. Some Agriculture classes can also count toward AFSA graduation credit for science

- Vet Science
- Large Animal Science
- Equine Science
- Plant Science
- Sustainable Agriculture
- CIS Animal Science
- Natural Resources
- Introduction to Horticulture
- Agriscience
- Fish & Wildlife

College Courses at AFSA

1. UMN College in the Schools program: Website: http://cce.umn.edu/college-in-the-schools College in the School (CIS) courses are University of Minnesota courses that are offered at AFSA. CIS classes are open to qualified students in grades 10-12, as determined by the UMN guidelines. To qualify, students need to meet eligibility requirements set by each department, including course prerequisites.

    a. Composition: University Writing (WRIT 1301 - 4 college credits)
    b. Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative (ENGL 1001W - 4 college credits)
    c. CSE Calculus 1 (MATH 1371 - 4 college credits)
    d. Introduction to Animal Science (ANSC 1101 - 4 college credits)
    e. Political Science: American Democracy in a Changing World (POL 1001 - 3 college credits)
    f. Creative Problem Solving (DES 1111 - 3 college credits)

2. CIS Courses that will be offered during the **2025-2026** school year:
    CIS Calculus
    CIS Literature
    CIS Creative Problem Solving
    CIS Animal Science

Postsecondary Enrollment Options

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows some 10th, and qualified 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn both high school and college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college-level, nonsectarian courses at eligible participating postsecondary institutions.

AFSA offers PSEO courses at AFSA from the University of Minnesota (UMN) and Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). PSEO courses are also offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. Each participating college or university sets its own requirements for enrollment into the PSEO courses. Eleventh and 12th-grade students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis; 10th graders may take one career/technical PSEO course. If they earn at least a grade C in that class, they may take additional PSEO courses. Exceptional 9th and 10th grade students are able to take certain CIS classes.

There is no charge to students for tuition, books, or fees for items that are required to participate in a course. Students must meet the PSEO residency and eligibility requirements and abide by participation limits specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.09. If a school district determines a pupil is not on track to graduate, she/he may continue to participate in PSEO. Funds are available to help pay transportation expenses for qualifying students to participate in PSEO courses on college campuses.

Schools must provide information to all students in grades 8-11 and their families by March 1, every year.

Students must notify their school by May 30 if they want to participate in PSEO for the following school year. For current information about the PSEO program, visit the Minnesota Department of Education's Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) webpage.

If students are interested in taking PSEO classes on a college or university's campus, it is recommended that students take CIS courses at AFSA during their junior year and then take PSEO courses through their preferred college or university as a senior. Students enrolling in PSEO on a college or university's campus must be making adequate progress towards graduation and must meet all graduation requirements as set by AFSA. All students enrolled at AFSA must be working towards the AFSA Honors Diploma.

When students are accepted into a PSEO program, they are making a commitment to abide by the rules of the postsecondary institution they are attending as well as the rules of AFSA. Students are expected to enroll as a full-time student (can be part-time at AFSA and part-time at college), attend all classes, participate, and maintain satisfactory progress. The postsecondary credits students earn will apply towards graduation requirements at AFSA High School and become part of their official college transcript.

PSEO (cont.)

Important to remember:

- Students are responsible for contacting the postsecondary institution they are planning to attend and obtain and complete application materials.
- Students must make sure they are taking the required courses towards AFSA graduation requirements. These requirements will not automatically match what the postsecondary institution requires, so students need to check credit requirements on a regular basis..
- Students taking PSEO classes must fulfill AFSA requirements every year: Science Fair, 3 presentations, 12 hours of community service, and a final senior portfolio.
- Students participating in PSEO have the option to participate in AFSA extra-curricular activities.
- Students who will miss class time at AFSA must develop a graduation plan.
- Students must provide a PSEO schedule to AFSA.
- Students are responsible for checking with the Registrar's office and requesting a transcript be sent to AFSA at the end of each quarter or semester. Post-secondary institutions do not automatically send them (if AFSA does not receive the final PSEO transcript prior to graduation, the student's diploma will not be issued until the transcript is received.)

GRADING

The following grading scales have been approved and adopted.
All classes in grades 7-12 will use the traditional (A- F) letter grading system.

AFSA 7-12 Courses Grading Scale		CIS Grading Scale	
100%	A+	A+	100%
93% -99%	A	A	93%-99%
90%-92%	A-	A-	90%-92%
88%-89%	B+	B+	87%-89%
83%-87%	B	B	80%-86%
80%-82%	B-	B-	78%-79%
78%-79%	C+	C+	74%-77%
73%-77%	C	C	67%-73%
70%-72%	C-	C-	65%-66%
68%-69%	D+	D+	61%-64%
63%-67%	D	D	54%-60%
60%-62%	D-	D-	52%-53%
59% and below	F	F	51 % and below

Schedule Planning Sheet for grades 7-12

- Each year, a student may take up to 15 classes (five classes each of the three trimesters) and must participate in O-term and J-Term.
- Students must take Language Arts, Math, Science, Agriscience, and Social Studies each year; other classes can be taken as they are available and fit into the schedule (courses in grey are already filled in.)
- Check the course descriptions to see how many trimesters each class is. Each trimester is worth .5 credits unless otherwise noted.
- This is not a registration form or class schedule, this is for student reference only. The class periods vary from year-to-year and trimester-to-trimester.

Classes	7th/8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Trimester 1					
Class 1	Exploring Lit & Comp	Physical Science	Math:	Math:	Math:
Class 2	Math	Essence of English	English:	English:	English:
Class 3	Exploring Science	Math	Ag:	Ag:	Ag:
Class 4	Art	Introduction to Agriculture	Science:	Science	Science:
Class 5	Exploring Spanish	Geography	US History	World History	Civics or Elective:
O-term	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Trimester 2					
Class 1	Exploring Lit & Comp	Biology	Math	Math	Math:
Class 2	Math	Essence of English	English:	English:	English:
Class 3	Exploring Science	Math	Ag:	Ag:	Ag:
Class 4	Exploring History & Culture	Spanish	US History	World History	Science:
Class 5	Exploring Agriculture	Geography	Physical Education	P.E. or Health	Economics or Elective:
Trimester 3					
Class 1	Exploring Lit & Comp	Biology	Math:	Math:	Math:
Class 2	Math	Essence of English	Spanish	Science:	Economics or Elective:
Class 3	Exploring Science	Math	Science:	Spanish:	Civics or Elective:
Class 4	Exploring History & Culture	Introduction to Agriculture	Elective:	P.E. or Health	Elective:
Class 5	Exploring Health & PE	Spanish	Elective:	Elective:	Elective:
J-Term	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

2025-2026 7-8 Grade Course Looping

Middle school level courses are taught in two year loops at AFSA. Our 7th and 8th grade students will have the same advisory teacher for 2 years, allowing growth and skill development to be tracked over a longer term and relationships to be a solid foundation for learning.
7th and 8th grade standards are taught in two year loops, with half of the standards for each content area being addressed in Year A and the second half of the 7th/8th grade standards addressed in Year B. This allows students in 7th and 8th grade to be placed in class groupings together based on appropriateness of the course level and individual student ability rather than grade level alone. At the end of the two year looping period 8th grade students will enter high school having learned all of the standards needed to ensure their success.

Year A	Year B
Discovering Life & Environmental Science	Exploring Physical & Earth Science
Discovering Literature & Composition	Exploring Literature & Composition
CPM CC1-CC3 Math	CPM CC2-CCA Math
Ag: Discovering Agriculture	Ag: Exploring FFA
Discovering US History	Exploring World History & Cultures
Art, Theatre, Spanish, PE, & Health	Art, Theatre, Spanish, PE, & Health

2025-2026 Course Descriptions Grades 7-8

AGRISCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Students complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project in each agriscience class they take.

Discovering Agriculture – 1 trimester
Students will be introduced to a variety of agricultural topics including: What is Agriculture and Why is it important History of Agriculture, Figures in Minnesota Agriculture, Global Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Science, and the FFA. The course is designed to allow students to explore a broad range of topics for future study.

Exploring Careers and the FFA – 1 trimester
This course is the foundation from which all other agriculture courses are based. Students will discover the importance of agriculture in everyday life, historical significance, and career opportunities. Students will spend significant time learning about the National FFA Organization. This will benefit all students, as it will focus on their potential to develop leadership skills. Students will also gain skills in basic record keeping through the introduction of the Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Exploring Art - 1 trimester
This course introduces students to a variety of Art mediums and techniques. These include drawing, painting, textile art, printmaking, intro to 2D and 3D design, color theory, and art history. This course will demand student participation and will require consistent class attendance. The course will cover, in depth, the four major goals as determined by the National Visual Arts Standards. We will focus on structure, function, composition, and the elements and principles of design.

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Discovering Literature and Composition – 3 trimesters
Students in this year-long class will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials in the forms of articles, biographies, drama, essays, novels, poems, and short stories and investigate the qualities that make good writing and literature. An emphasis on multi-cultural texts will be presented. In addition to reading texts, students will also continue developing their writing skills by completing a variety of traditional and multi-media writing assignments that will use research, critical thinking, and analytical, persuasive, and conventional writing skills. As students complete reading and writing assignments they will work on team building and goal setting, preparing them for additional opportunities at AFSA.

Exploring Literature and Composition – 3 trimesters
During this year-long course, students will continue developing the reading, writing, listening and speaking skills they have already learned. Throughout the school year, students will complete a variety of assignments related to specific reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. These assignments will help students refine what they know and provide them with opportunities to practice new skills that they learn in research, critical thinking, collaborative learning while exploring text and writing.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Discovering Science: Life and Environmental Science – 3 trimesters
The course is designed to give students the necessary skills for a smooth transition from elementary life science standards to high school biology standards. The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in life science including, but not limited to, diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, heredity, ecosystems, and biological evolution.

Exploring Science: Earth and Physical Science – 3 trimesters
Trimester 1 –Scientific Processes and Procedures: This section is an introduction to the process of scientific thought. Experimental design, science as a process and the role of science in our history and future will be discussed. Students will work to complete an original science fair project.
Trimester 2 – Physical Science: This section is an introduction to the physical sciences. Students will utilize scientific processes to explore the physical environment and natural phenomena.
Trimester 3 –Earth Science: This section applies concepts of physical science to explain processes of the earth and the universe.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Discovering United States History and Economics – 2 trimesters
This course introduces the key people and events in the five eras of United States History. Era 1 will cover European discovery of the Americas through the Revolutionary War. The second era will begin with the westward expansion of the U.S. and conclude with the Civil War and Reconstruction. Between eras 1 and 2 there will be a mini unit introducing the structure of the United States Constitution and the roles of the three branches. Era 3 is an overview of the Gilded Age and World War I. Era 4 will begin with the Great Depression and conclude with World War II. The final era will cover U.S. history from the end of World War II to Modern Day. The course will end with a unit introducing the key concepts of micro and macro-economics.

Exploring the Development of World History & Cultures – 2 trimesters

This course introduces the key people and events in the seven units of World History. Unit 1 explores the development of early societies, economic systems, and agriculture. Unit 2 examines classical traditions, belief systems and giant empires. Units 3 & 4 explore the post-classical and medieval civilizations and expanding zones of exchange to create the first global age. Unit 5 explores the emergence of the age of revolutions with specific focus on the causes and effects of changes in government and economic theory. Unit 6 focuses on the half century of crisis and achievement at the turn of the twentieth century. Finally, unit 7 will focus on the new global era with specific focus on issues of unity, resources distribution, and population with regards to modern economics and government. The class will also examine the geopolitical factors and resources of each region as well as the development of different forms of government.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Spanish Culture Connections – 1 trimester

Students will gain a knowledge and understanding of other cultures, and will develop insight into the nature of language and culture. Students will continue to develop beginner language speaking skills. In this level, students will also reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the Spanish language.

Exploring Spanish – 1 trimester

Students will continue to build on their basic language skills. Students will acquire language through music, authentic materials and acting out skits. They will continue building the foundation of their conversational skills and develop writing skills through practical writing assignments. They will draw comparisons and make connections with the Spanish speaking world. They will demonstrate their language proficiency through verbal assessments and projects.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Core Connections 2 (Pre-Algebra) - 3 trimesters

This course is structured around problems and investigations that build conceptual understanding of these topics and an awareness of connections between different ideas. Students are encouraged to investigate concepts, communicate their thinking and generalize. Lessons are structured for students to collaborate actively by working in study teams. During class time, students work in study teams on challenging problems that introduce new material. The teacher provides guidance as needed and helps to consolidate topics.

Core Connections 3 (Linear Algebra) – 3 trimesters

This course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Some strategies students will be able to remember and apply are : Analyze data, model integers and operations, compute area and perimeter, use linear models and equal ratios, solve percent problems, compare ratios, calculate unit rates and slope ratios, use the triangle inequality and the Pythagorean theorem.

Algebra 1 – 3 trimesters

This course will prepare students for higher-level mathematics courses and gives the background to utilize more advanced algebra in their everyday lives. The specific topics include: linear relationships, quadratics, inequalities, simplifying and solving, as well as functions and relations. This course will stress not only key mathematical skills, but also the importance of problem solving, reasoning, critical thinking, and teamwork. Students will solve, analyze, and critique other students ideas as they work together to develop mathematical thought.

Geometry – 3 trimesters

Geometry is a fun and hands on class. Students will use their established computation and algebra skills to investigate shapes, including their transformations, angles, and areas. We will also explore topics such as Pythagorean Theorem, similarity and congruence, probability, trig functions, and many more. Prerequisite: Alg I

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Exploring Health/PE - 1 Trimester

Students in AFSA High School's PE and Health class will participate in activities designed to promote lifelong wellness, develop health-related goals, and enhance personal and social responsibility. This course teaches physical activity with health education to help students improve overall well-being, make positive decisions, and explore various fitness and health concepts. Students will learn how to stay active throughout their lives, build teamwork skills, and strengthen their physical, mental, and emotional health.

TERMS

O-term - .25 credits - 1 week in October

J-term - .25 credits - 1 week in June

Students will select their O-term or J-term activity from a list of 12-16 choices planned by AFSA staff members. Some options will involve out-of-town travel and overnight stays; some will be in-town only. Some selections have additional costs for transportation, materials or supplies, some have no additional fees. Scholarships are available to help with the cost. The purpose of term activities is to foster the development of student friendships and a positive school climate, provide experiential learning activities and to offer students the chance to do something they have never done before. All students are required to participate in an O-term and J-term activity. Parent signatures are required to enroll in terms.

2025-2026 Course Offerings grades 9-12

The following courses are offered at AFSA for the 2025-2026 school year. All classes at AFSA are taught by highly qualified teachers licensed in their subject area by the State of Minnesota.

AGRISCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Students complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project in each agriscience class they take. SAEs are projects or work experiences that students participate in and keep records on for approximately 10 hours. Examples include caring for a garden or a pet, building bird houses, helping with home remodeling, working at a job and more.

Introduction to Agriculture – 1 trimester –required for 9th grade

Are you ready to experience something new? Explore the five agricultural pathways offered at the school through this required course. Students will receive a basic overview of all areas of agriculture including animal science, plant science, environmental science, food science, and ag mechanics/engineering. Course topics include the preparation and delivery of effective speeches and presentations, using parliamentary procedure to run efficient meetings, and writing emails and letters.

Agriculture Communications and Technology - 1 trimester

Agricultural Communications is a course that focuses on identifying current issues affecting the agricultural industry both locally and nationally. We will concentrate on individual forms of communication and utilizing it for the betterment of a group. We will learn about all types of agricultural communications such as speech writing, discussions, presentations, marketing, salesmanship, etc. By the end of the course, students will have built an understanding of agriculture and be able to share that knowledge with others - increasing awareness and making an influence on the field of agriculture.

Agricscience - 1 trimester

This course focuses on helping students that are new to AFSA be successful in their Agriscience Fair project. Offered in the second trimester, we learn about experiment design, interpreting results, and assist in writing your paper for the annual AFSA Agriscience Fair in February.

Work-Based Learning – 1 trimester

The Work-Based Learning class is designed to give students the tools and skills they need to pursue a career of their choosing while giving them real life work experience at a job placement. Students must find a job that they will get paid for performing. Work-Based Learning gives students the unique opportunity to get high school credit and a grade outside of the traditional classroom.

Capstone Class - 1 trimester

Students will work on an independent agriculture project that is guided and supported by an agriculture teacher. This class is great for students who are working toward an FFA degree, SAE proficiency, or who want to take their agricultural learning to the next level.

Animal Science Courses

Small Animal Care - 1 trimester

This course will investigate scientific concepts relating to the care of animals. Students will study the nutrition, safety, training, health, and general care of companion animals. The course will focus on dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, reptiles, and fish. Laboratory activities will provide opportunities for problem-solving through practical applications to learn scientific concepts. Application to current issues will also be explored.

Large Animal Science- 1 trimester
Click, Clack, Moo is a common story book many of us probably grew up on, but what do we really know about the cows that say moo? In this course, we will learn all about cattle, swine, sheep and goats; what common breeds are, where these animals originated, about their diets, and their bodies. We will learn that brown cows don't produce chocolate milk, that pigs really aren't pink, and that sheep and goats aren't really all fluffy. At the end of this course, you might be saying , click, cack, moo, oink, and ball.

CIS Animal Science – 2 trimesters (UMN: Animal Science 1101) This course emphasizes genetics, physiology and nutrition. This course includes a study of production systems relative to the horse, dairy, sheep, poultry, swine and beef industries. Additional topics include people's relationship to animals, current issues and future perspectives of animal agriculture. Students will experience laboratories at the University of Minnesota relating to Animal Science. Prerequisite: Juniors or Seniors, (top 50% of class or instructor approval).

Environmental Science Courses

Fish & Wildlife - 1 trimester
Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! In this class, you will explore Minnesota's fish, wildlife, and bird populations. You will notice the wildlife in our own backyard as you put your boots to the ground to see what wildlife call the wooded and wet areas around AFSA's home. If hunting and fishing are something you like, learn more about these hobbies and up your game for the upcoming season!

Food Science Courses

Food Processing – 1 trimester
A way to a person's heart is through their stomach. Knowing about how food is cooked and processed is an important part of cooking and eating food. In this class, you will work in teams to learn about food preservation and processing and work to develop your own new food product to compete with others in the class. Don't worry about coming to class on an empty stomach, taste testing is allowed!

Food Science- 1 trimester
Why does food look, taste, feel, and smell the way it does? There is so much to discover when thinking about food. Food science will involve learning the history of the food industry, exploring the food supply in the world, and how science plays a role in what you eat. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning through inquiry and project-based opportunities.

Mechanical Sciences Courses

Metals & Welding - 1 trimester - $30 materials fee
Metals and Welding class introduces students to one of the most exciting and lucrative career skills offered at AFSA. Students will become familiar with gas and plasma cutting, brazing, arc welding, wire feed welding and TIG welding. Whether a student is interested in metal art, engineering, or project construction this class will provide an excellent introduction to the world of welding and metal fabrication.

Metals & Welding 2 - 1 trimester
Did you take metals and welding and look for the next step in the welding skills? Then Welding II is just for you. You will be learning other types of welding as well as how to program and utilize a Plasma table to create a variety of different things, from signs, to planters. It is highly recommended that you have taken or have experience in welding before taking this course.

Woodworking - 1 trimester
In this course we will be practicing the basic concepts and skills related to the woodworking industry. As a class we will explore careers that are based on woodworking and where wood comes from. What makes the different types of wood special, and of course how to be safe in the shop. Be ready to meet industry professionals, and to grow your hands-on skills.

Plant Science Courses

Greenhouse Management - 1 trimester
Put your green thumb to the test as you learn to grow and care for plants in AFSA's greenhouse. This course is designed for students to learn about the characteristics of plants, get their hands dirty, and learn all about the greenhouse. Hands-on opportunities will include operating and managing the hydroponic system and the spring plant sale.

Plant Science - 1 trimester
Plants are all around us and we can learn a lot from them. In this course, we will go over different methods of growing, what plants need to grow, and how plants can thrive. You'll get to do lots of hands-on activities and experiments throughout the trimester, including applying your knowledge in the AFSA greenhouse.

Landscape Design - 1 trimester
Landscapes are around us whether it is in our front yards, the parks we walk through or in front of our school. In this course, learn the art and technique of designing and installing landscapes. This hands-on course will allow us to get our hands dirty as we work with plants, hardscape materials, or are busy working up a plan!

Floriculture - 1 trimester, may be additional materials fee, depending on student projects
Through this course, students will be able to further their studies in plant science while learning useful skills that can be used throughout their life. Students will be exposed to the principles of floral design while they are creating their own floral masterpieces including boutonnieres, corsages, table arrangements, and holiday decorations. In addition, students will learn how to grow and handle potted plants, bedding plants, and cut flowers and foliage.

CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

2D Art Design - 1 trimester
This course will introduce students to a variety of Art mediums and techniques. These include drawing, painting, textile art, printmaking, color theory, and art history. This course will demand student participation and will require consistent class attendance. The course will cover, in depth, the four major goals as determined by the National Visual Arts Standards. We will focus on structure, function, composition, and the elements and principles of design.

3D Art Design - 1 trimester
This course will introduce students to a variety of art mediums and techniques. These include creating sculptures from found objects, paper, wire, cardboard and possibly clay. This course will demand student participation and will require consistent class attendance. The course will cover, in depth, the four major goals as determined by the National Visual Arts Standards. We will focus on concept, function, composition, and the elements and principles of design.

Modern Art - 1 trimester
Modern Art will provide an in depth study of Modern and Contemporary art and basic art concepts. Introducing art within historical, social, geographical, political, and religious contexts for understanding art and architecture. Modern Art offers high school students an overview of art closer to our present time, with

lessons organized by chronological and historical order and world regions. Students enrolled in this course will cover topics including but not limited to: Surrealism, Abstract & Expressionism, Pop Art, Optical Art, Minimalism, Conceptual and Contemporary Art. Students will examine a variety of aspects of Modern Art including themes and purposes of art; styles of art; the elements of art; design principles; two-dimensional media; western and non-western art history.

Graphic Design - 1 trimester

Graphic design is a studio based art class where we will explore graphic design software and create imagery on computers fueled by the elements and principles of design. The class plan is to comprehend design concepts, create design imagery, build graphic designs, and have assessments and critiques.

Yearbook - 1 trimester

Yearbook will be a class where we will work together to create our school yearbook. We will use class time to come up with a theme, layout, spreads, and design of our yearbook. Certain assignments will be given to certain students and we will all provide and do our part to make the yearbook. This is a large commitment to create a full yearbook in only one trimester, so there will be no slacking!

Photography - 1 trimester

Photography is an introduction to the digital camera as an art-making tool designed for students at the beginning level. The course will use digital photography to help students learn and apply the basic elements of art and the principles of design. Digital Photography will familiarize the student with digital photographic equipment, materials, methods, and processes. Visual problem solving skills are explored through the use of the computer as the main tool for creative expression and communication. Cellphone photography and editing with a variety of phone applications will be infused in the curriculum. Students are expected to have access to a cellular device or camera for this course.

Film Studies - 1 trimester

Film studies is a course intended to familiarize students with the evolution of film history as well as provide them with a chance to analyze film as a visual art form. This course should appeal to any and all students who love to watch movies and discuss them. In addition, writing will be emphasized as well as building technical knowledge of film-making in each unit.

Technology Department

Yearbook - 1 trimester

Yearbook is a hands-on course where the students and teacher work closely together to produce AFSA High School's annual. If you enjoy graphic design, photography and writing, this is the perfect class for you. Plan to work hard but have fun while doing it. You'll learn the principles of good design, journalism writing techniques and other basics. You will also help choose the theme for the yearbook and incorporate it throughout. Students will learn many aspects of publication production as the yearbook is designed and produced. The yearbook is a workshop-based class that is taught in the computer lab. Be a part of a hard working group that brings AFSA's yearbook to life!

Graphic Design- 1 trimester

In Graphic Design students will get a thorough introduction to online design software. This is a studio project class that will explore design through computer programs. Visual design for communication is a focus for the course. Projects may include: Logo designs, Advertisement designs, photograph manipulation, and creation of graphics. Students will learn about and use different resources on the Internet that can be used outside of the classroom. File management and organization will prepare the digital student for their future.

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Composition: The Art of Essay – 1 trimester
This course focuses on developing and refining essay writing skills. While following the writing process, students will complete a variety of writing assignments (research essay, expository essay, persuasive essay, personal essay, etc.) and sharpen their writing skills. This course is recommended as a precursor for students who wish to take CIS Composition their junior or senior year.

Land in Literature – 1 trimester
This course will examine how the land and nature are depicted in literature. We will read a wide variety of texts that examine how the natural world has been imagined and portrayed. We will write fiction, as well as nonfiction, that incorporates what we learn. Texts we will study include fiction, nonfiction, poems, films, etc. The goal of this class is to develop and enhance students' abilities as literary and cultural critics, and as writers.

Mythology - 1 trimester
Students will read and analyze several myths from around the world while learning about prominent Greek, Roman and modern mythological figures. They will further their understanding of the stories and figures through reading multiple versions of the stories as well as scholarly interpretations of the stories and figures. This is an excellent course for those interested in furthering their knowledge of mythological references in other stories.

Writing for the Professional World – 1 trimester
Students will learn and practice formal writing used in the business world. As students write memos, letters, resumes, personal statements, emails, instruction manuals and other professional materials, they will also look at professional samples and give feedback to one another. In addition, students will learn technical writing guidelines, and strategies for keeping their own writing clear and concise.

Classics for the College Bound: British Literature – 1 trimester
Through the study of classic and modern British texts, students will further their appreciation for challenging literature. While studying great British selections, students will also discover the origins of English literature and observe how it has evolved into many eras (Medieval, Elizabethan, Romantic). This course is an excellent choice for those interested in taking CIS Literature.

College in the Schools Literature - 2 trimesters (4 college credits through UMN: ENGL 1001W)
Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative. Basic techniques for analyzing/understanding literature. Readings of novels, short stories, poems, plays Would you like to discuss excellent classical and modern fiction with people who love to read? Would you like to learn in a collegiate environment and earn college credit for it? If you are ready to work hard and think deeply then CIS Literature is for you. Prerequisite: Must be a Junior or Senior with instructor recommendation.

Media Studies - 1 trimester
Throughout the trimester this course will look at the many forms of media: film, radio, internet, advertising, periodicals, news sources, and television. Given how pervasive media is in the lives of students now, they will build the critical thinking skills required to analyze the effect media has on their lives. Students will also develop skills to make them savvy and responsible digital citizens.

Outcasts in Literature - 1 trimester
This course examines the stories of those who live outside conventional society, whether by choice or after exile. Students will discuss how outcasts cope with adversity, why we often admire outcasts, why we condemn them, and why they continue to intrigue us. Students will examine their own experiences with not fitting in and/or seeing others who do not fit in. Students will read a wide variety of texts, including several short stories by different authors. Additional media may also be used. Students will also do a wide variety of writing activities and other projects associated with the reading.

American Literature - 1 trimester

Throughout this course, students will read, listen to, and analyze a variety of novels, poems, and short stories written by American authors. Students will explore the significance of these novels, both at the time of their publishing, and in today's modern landscape, in order to better understand the history of our country, how literature is a response to the world around us, and how these stories have impacted our current society. Most of the summative assessments will be project based.

Shakespeare - 1 trimester

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as one of the best writers of the English language. In this class, students will read, analyze, act out, and watch productions of several of Shakespeare's works. The class mainly will focus on his plays, with units on his comedies, tragedies, and history plays, respectively. Students will participate in class discussions about the Bard's work, and all summative assessments will be project-based.

Minnesota Writers - 1 trimester

Minnesota has a long tradition of being the home of great writers. In this class, students will read, listen to, and watch a wide variety of works authored by Minnesotans who are either born, raised, or have lived a number of years in the state. Students learn about a number of authors in many genres: fiction, nonfiction, music, radio/podcasts, poets, scriptwriters, etc. Students will read books, short stories, plays, and write about what they learn in addition to doing projects and discussions.

Essence of English - 3 trimesters

This class will develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and interpersonal skills. Students will expand their vocabulary and refine their reading and writing abilities. A wide variety of texts will be used to expose students to the world of literature; novels will primarily concentrate on the classics. Writing will primarily be essays and short works, with additional year-long work on grammar and sentence structure. Through this combination of exposure to different types of literature, critical thinking and creativity, members of this class will gain deeper insight and appreciation for all types of literature and for how to communicate through writing and speaking.

The Story Within: Creative Nonfiction – 1 trimester

Students in this course will read and write a variety of creative non-fiction texts based on actual events and people. As students complete their own creative nonfiction works (biography, memoir, profile, nature writing, etc.), they will also study samples of creative nonfiction writing. By the end of the trimester, students will have a body of *work that will demonstrate their growth as writers.*

Speech - 1 trimester

Students in this class will develop the skills needed to become effective public speakers. Specific areas of learning will focus on researching and writing various types of speeches for different formats. Each speech will then be used to work on different public speaking skills e.g. voice projection, eye contact, platform movement etc. Students will research, write and then present their speeches in front of a group, the class, and receive both instructor and group feedback.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

***Placement Test:** *All incoming students will take a placement test during their class registration. The results of the placement test will determine which math class they will start in.*

Core Connections 3 (Linear Algebra) – 3 trimesters
In this course students will use problem-solving strategies, as well as questioning, investigating, and analyzing skills. They will be asked to gather and construct evidence and communicate rigorous arguments justifying their thinking. Students will learn in collaboration with others while sharing information, expertise, and ideas. The course helps students to develop multiple strategies to solve problems and to recognize the connections between concepts. Topics include: representing a linear function with a graph, table, rule, and context, solving two variable equations, collecting and analyzing data and make predictions, and an introduction to some geometry topics.

Algebra 1 – 3 trimesters
This course will prepare students for higher-level mathematics courses and gives the background to utilize more advanced algebra in their everyday lives. The specific topics include: linear relationships, quadratics, inequalities, simplifying and solving, as well as functions and relations. This course will stress not only key mathematical skills, but also the importance of problem solving, reasoning, critical thinking, and teamwork. Students will solve, analyze, and critique other students ideas as they work together to develop mathematical thought.

Geometry – 3 trimesters
This course will prepare students for higher-level mathematics courses and gives the background to utilize Geometry concepts in their everyday lives. Students will use their established computation and algebra skills to investigate shapes, including their transformations, angles, and areas. We will also explore topics such as Pythagorean Theorem, similarity and congruence, probability, trig functions, proofs, and many more. Scientific calculators are highly utilized in Geometry and the prerequisite is Algebra 1.

Algebra 2 – 2 trimesters
Numbers are all around us – in data, in patterns and in relationships. From the simplest patterns to more complex function relations, you will build your knowledge of linear, power, exponential and logarithmic functions and even experience transforming them. Along with working with equations and graphs, you will also learn to apply the many tools you obtain. Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

Pre-Calculus– 2 trimesters
This course provides the base for college calculus. Students will explore advanced math topics as well as have the opportunity to share their understanding with others through the use of challenging teamwork sets. Topics include elementary and trigonometric functions, exponentials and logarithms, limits, area under a curve, college algebra, average and instantaneous rates of change, vectors and parametric equations. Prerequisites: Geometry, Algebra 2.

Integrated Mathematics – 3 trimesters
Integrated Math is designed to prepare students for higher-level mathematics courses and give them background to utilize more advanced math in their everyday lives. The specific topics include: functions, transformations, modeling two-variable data, sequence, systems of equations, and inequalities. This course will stress not only key mathematical skills, but also the importance of problem solving, reasoning, critical thinking, and teamwork. Students will solve, analyze, and critique other students' ideas as they work together to develop mathematical thought.

Personal Finance - 1 trimester
This course will look at different aspects of adulting when it concerns money. Specific topics include: Money Management, Borrowing (good versus bad debt), Earnings, Investing, Financial Services, and Insurance.

CIS Calculus – 2 trimesters (4 college credits through UMN: Math 1371)

This course covers college calculus I and students may earn 4 credits through the University of Minnesota. Topics include differentiation and integration of single-variable functions. Applications include: max-min, related rates, area, curve-sketching. The course will emphasize the use of calculators and cooperative learning. Textbook: *Stewart, Single Variable Calculus Early Transcendentals, 6th Ed.* Prerequisites: grade of A or A- in Trigonometry and Advanced Mathematical Analysis or instructor consent.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Fall/Winter/Spring Sports - 1 Trimester

This class will focus on learning different sports and how to take care of their body. They will learn how to stretch properly and learn how to recover and take care of their body. It will teach sportsmanship and how to be a good teammate and build character building skills that will translate elsewhere. It will also promote healthy habits outside of the classroom that will hopefully carry into their lives in the future.

Exploring Health/PE - 1 Trimester

This course is an introduction to personal health, wellness, and physical activity. Students will explore key topics such as nutrition, mental and emotional health, stress management, sleep, and injury prevention. Students will also learn how to properly care for their bodies through exercise, movement, and body awareness. In addition to physical activities that build strength, endurance, and flexibility, students will be introduced to basic CPR and first aid skills. Emphasis will be placed on developing lifelong healthy habits and understanding how to respond in emergency situations. This class is a great starting point for middle and high school students interested in improving their overall wellness or exploring careers in health, fitness, or public safety.

Health and First Aid - 1 Trimester

This course is designed to help students develop lifelong habits for maintaining and improving their physical and mental well-being. Students will explore a wide range of topics including body systems, nutrition, exercise, stress management, mental health awareness, sleep hygiene, and disease prevention. A strong emphasis will be placed on injury prevention through proper movement techniques, personal safety practices, and body care strategies. Students will also learn the basics of first aid and CPR, gaining confidence in how to respond to common injuries and emergency situations. Practical, hands-on activities and real-life applications will prepare students to make informed decisions about their health.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Due to new standards, science courses are undergoing an adjustment starting with the class of 2028

Biology I - 2 trimesters

This life science class will focus on the language of science and the scientific approach to knowing and understanding the Universe. Students will gain a broad understanding of science and relationships in nature, history, and society. The first half of the class will focus on ecology, cellular structure, function and reproduction. The second half of the class will focus on genetics, evolution, biodiversity and developmental biology.

Chemistry - 2 trimesters

The course content will include the requirements of the graduation standard, including chemical formulas, chemical equations, reaction types, and stoichiometry (the amounts involved in chemical reactions), atomic, molecular, ionic structure, acids/bases, redox reactions, gas laws and organic chemistry. The course involves lecture, lab work, and written assignments. This course is designed to prepare students for university-level studies in any field, especially science, technology, engineering, math or medical fields.

Anatomy & Physiology - 2 trimesters

Anatomy and physiology is a course that will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. The curriculum provides a basis for students to develop a strong conceptual understanding of the following human body systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive. Students have the opportunity to integrate that knowledge through inquiry-based activities and laboratory investigations.

Animal Behavior - 1 trimester

Do you want to understand how and why animals behave the way they do? This course provides an introduction to the complexities of animal behavior. Over the trimester, you will explore the various behaviors that animals use in order to meet the challenges of their daily lives. We begin with how animals are classified, how the diversity of animals arose, how they learn and communicate with each other, how they find food, avoid predators, choose their mates, rear their offspring, and develop social structures.. We will then move on to how humans interact with animals and the importance of the welfare of animals. We will finish with exploring career options in the field of animal behavior and analyzing publications on current events in animal behavior.

Environmental Chemistry – 2 trimesters

Environmental chemistry is a phenomenon-based course that integrates the fundamentals of chemistry with the core concepts of environmental science. Students will investigate several real-world environmental problems and their evolving solutions through field study, lab work, research, lectures, discussion, movies, current events, and projects. This course meets the Minnesota State Chemistry Standards, and is designed as an alternative to the traditional chemistry course for students that prefer hands-on learning and creative thinking.

Environmental Science - 1 trimester

Is your water safe to drink? Worry about hotter climates, holes in the ozone layer, pesticide residues in food, and extinction of species? This course is designed to give the student a better scientific background for understanding the environment from a chemical viewpoint and to do hands-on laboratory investigations to better appreciate the ecosystem in which we live.

Field Ecology - 1 trimester

This course will review major ecological concepts, identify the techniques used by ecologists, provide an overview of local and global environmental issues, and examine individual, group and governmental activities important for protecting natural ecosystems. A large portion of this class will be spent in the field, in varying weather conditions, for data collection and observation.

Earth & Space Science - 3 trimesters

In this Earth and Space Science course, students will explore fundamental concepts related to the Earth, its systems, and the universe beyond. Aligned with the Minnesota Academic Standards, the course covers key topics such as geology, meteorology, oceanography, astronomy, and environmental science. Students will investigate Earth's materials and processes, including plate tectonics, weathering, and the rock cycle, to understand how these shape our planet over time. The course extends into space, where students will learn about the solar system, stars, galaxies, and the universe's origins, exploring how astronomical phenomena impact Earth. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and understanding natural cycles like the water cycle and the carbon cycle.

Veterinary Science - 1 trimester
This course will develop students' understanding of the companion and livestock animal industry, animal anatomy and physiology, animal nutrition, animal reproduction, animal ethics and welfare issues, animal health, veterinary medicine, veterinary office practices, and animal services to humans.

Physics: Electricity & Waves - 1 trimester
Students will explore electricity, magnetism, and waves through lab activities, engineering challenges, and mathematical calculations. The relationship between mathematics and the natural universe will be a substantial component of the course; students will use vector algebra and trigonometric functions. Completion of Algebra II is recommended. This course will prepare students for university-level studies in any field, especially science, technology, engineering, math or medical fields.

Physics: Forces & Motion - 1 trimester
Newtonian physics, also called classical mechanics, is the description of forces and motion using Newton's laws of motion and gravity. The relationship between mathematics and the natural universe will be a substantial component of the course; students will use vector algebra and trigonometric functions. Completion of Algebra II is recommended. This course will prepare students for university-level studies in any field, especially science, technology, engineering, math or medical fields.

Forensic Science - 1 trimester
Forensic Science is the application of science in the criminal justice system. It involves all areas of science including biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, and earth science with an emphasis on complex reasoning and critical thinking. Students will engage in lectures, labs, case studies, online activities, and simulations. Concurrent enrollment or completion of chemistry is recommended for this course.

Rocks & Stuff - 1 trimester
Do you ever find yourself thinking about how neat rocks are and wondering how they got there? If so, this is the class for you. In this 1 trimester course, you will be exploring the science behind how rocks form and change the world we live in. Additionally, you will also learn to identify rocks and theorize the origins with evidence.

Pollinators and Natural Selection - 1 trimester
Did you know that Minnesota is home to 508 species of bees and wasps? It is amazing facts like this that make one wonder how this came to bee… In this course, you will begin by learning how to accurately and quickly document/identify creatures found outside in the shortest of glimpses. As we continue, we will explore what makes bees so special and uncover the secrets behind how this lineage of species thrived through the study of natural selection and evolution. Be prepared to launch into many explorative projects as we keep asking the question "Why?".

Planets, Stars, and Constellations - 1 trimester
Make space for this extraterrestrial class in your schedule. Looking to build a better understanding of planets, stars, comets, constellations, rockets and other strange occurrences? Your mission is to develop a strong understanding of what is above and the history it took to get there. Much of the content will be explored through simulations, projects, and some film discussion.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Due to new standards, Geography and Civics courses are undergoing an adjustment starting with the class of 2028

Economics - 1 trimester

Why is there world hunger or why is energy so expensive? How are natural resources distributed and how are wildlife populations managed? How does ethanol, or additional alternative uses for commodities, affect agriculture and food prices? Economics is the study of how people coordinate their wants and desires, given scarce resources and the decision-making mechanisms, social customs, and political realities of their societies. Decisions made by consumers, farmers, agricultural businesses, investors and the government interact to determine the allocation of scarce resources. The basics of supply, demand, price determination, world trade, public policy, and the economics of food safety will all be covered in this course. The economics of day-to-day living, saving and investing for your future, and the use of the stock market will also be included in this course. These concepts will be taught using hands-on learning activities, market simulations, and interactive group scenarios.

U.S. History: Discovery through Reconstruction - 1 trimester

This course examines the underlying causes and effects of events through US History, broken into six eras. This trimester covers the first three eras. Era one addresses the European discovery of the Americas, the development of the English colonies, the declaring of independence and the resulting Revolutionary War. Topics in era two and three include the expansion of the United States, the Civil War and the following reconstruction.

U.S. History: Westward Expansion through Modern Day - 1 trimester

This trimester continues examination of the underlying causes and effects of key events in US History. The course continues the investigation of the final three Eras. We will begin with a study of the Gilded Age and World War I. Next, era four includes a study of the causes and effects of Great Depression and World War II. Finally, era six examines U.S. History post World War II. The themes that will be focused on include: the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the making of modern America.

World Geography - 1 trimester

The purpose of Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

World History Part 1 - 1 trimester

The first trimester covers human history from the birth of agriculture in the Fertile Crescent to the end of the Middle Ages. Students will explore early civilizations like Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, as well as the Medieval period, studying events such as the spread of Islam and the Crusades. Through hands-on projects, they will examine history from both local and American perspectives.

World History Part 2 - 1 trimester

The second part begins with the Age of Exploration and continues to modern history. Students will study key events such as European colonization, the Renaissance, world wars, and globalization. They will explore different perspectives and engage in hands-on learning to understand the global impact of these events.

CIS Creative Problem Solving - 2 Trimesters (DES 1111 3 credits from U of MN)

This course provides the chance to explore and engage with the creative fields, principally in art and design through a series of personal and creative activities. Central to the mission of the course is the development of your personal traits of creativity, thoughtful analysis, ingenuity, experimentation, and the ability to solve problems. The goal of this course is to create a lasting, permanent, and integrated connection between the student, their own creativity, and the creative fields.

Native American History - 1 trimester
This course is focused on explaining Native American history. More specifically Native American history following the creation of the United States of America. We will cover Native American cultures, along with clashes between the United States and Native Americans. We will also discuss Native American protest movements throughout the 1900s and how Native American reservations operate today.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Spanish I - 2 trimesters
In this class, students will build a foundation in language skills, including conversation, comprehension, cultural understanding, grammar, reading, and writing. During the year, Spanish I students will participate in various activities, like paired conversations, dialogues, as well as actively participate in conversations and write about their daily lives, personal interests, preferences, and feelings. Through reading and writing, students will increase their vocabulary and grammar skills, and their understanding of other cultures. Students will also participate in a variety of creative activities and projects utilizing the Spanish language.

Spanish II – 2 trimesters
In this language-intensive class, students will review and expand on the skills learned in Spanish I. During the year, Spanish II students will participate in various activities, like paired conversations, dialogue, as well as actively participate in conversations and write about a variety of themes. Through reading and writing, students will increase their vocabulary and grammar skills, and their understanding of other cultures. Students will also participate in a variety of creative activities and projects utilizing the Spanish language.

World Cultures - 1 trimester
This culture and history focused class teaches students about different cultures throughout the world. During the trimester, students will engage with movies, literature, and folklore from countries and cultures around the world. Students will analyze the content and see

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Independent Study (by permission) - 1 trimester - All curriculum areas-requires permission from the school director
Students who wish to earn credit for an independent project will need to submit detailed plans for approval to the school director prior to the start of the trimester in which they wish to work independently. Juniors and Senior standing required.

Study Hall - no credit - 1 trimester
Students who need additional school time to work on assignments may have the option of signing up for study time. Students will need their advisor's permission or permission from school administration to register for this option.

Supervised Agricultural Experience (by permission) - 1 trimester --Independent study-requires consent of instructor and school director
Students enrolled in this course will have the utmost input on course direction. Each student will submit a project proposal and timeline for completion. Students will work under the guidance of a teacher-facilitator in collaboration with community members, business representatives and other school-based personnel

Teacher Assistant/Tutoring (by permission)- .25 elective credits per trimester, requires permission of instructor and school director, grades 11, 12 only. - 1 trimester

Work closely with an AFSA staff person to prepare lessons, clean lab areas, correct papers and other duties to assist the educational process. Students will need to gain permission from instructor (instructor may sign the schedule planning form) prior to registering. Juniors and Senior standing required.

O-term - .25 credits - 1 week in October

J-term - .25 credits - 1 week in June

Students will select their O-term or J-term activity from a list of 12-16 choices planned by AFSA staff members. Some options will involve out-of-town travel and overnight stays; some will be in-town only. Some selections have additional costs for transportation, materials or supplies, some have no additional fees. Scholarships are available to help with the cost. The purpose of term activities is to foster the development of student friendships and a positive school climate, provide experiential learning activities and to offer students the chance to do something they have never done before. All students are required to participate in an O-term and J-term activity. Parent signatures are required to enroll in terms.

The courses listed below are not offered for the 2025-2026 school year, but may be offered in 2026-2027. AFSA rotates several courses in order to provide expanded curriculum choices for our students.

AGRICSCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Construction - 1 trimester - $30 materials fee
Become a handyman or woman by learning about various construction materials and applications. Safety comes first in the shop, so you will start off by learning the proper way to handle tools, work with large equipment and get the job done. Experiences could relate to: wood, concrete, and/or electrical.

Food Science - 1 trimester
There is so much to discover when talking about food. Food science will involve learning the history of the food industry, exploring the food supply in the world, and how science is involved in causing food products to look, taste, feel, and smell the way they do.

International Foods - 1 trimester
Food is a major component of culture in our world. Each nation and region has their own culture surrounding food. In this course, we will study foods of various regions and try making them ourselves. Teaching methods include lab-based activities as well as some lectures. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning through independent projects and work time.

Natural Resources – 1 trimester
As the world population continues to grow, the strain on the earth's natural resources continues to multiply. Students in this course will study the consumption of food, energy, minerals, wood and other raw materials by countries around the world, as well as understand the processes used to extract these resources from the Earth. Emphasis will be placed on discussion of current environmental topics such as global warming, pollution, population growth, biodiversity, and deforestation.

Equine Science – 1 trimester
A survey of equine science, including equine evolution, breeds and breeding, selection and conformation, nutrition and feeding, facilities, handling, and health management. Students also will explore careers in the equine industry. Emphasis on sound management practices. For students exploring the equine industry as a career or in just having a horse as a hobby.

Fundamental Work Skills - 1 trimester
Fundamental Work Skills will be focused on learning important skills in order to prepare for and obtain a job and career. We will also be touching on all the Agricultural Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) pathways including: Agriculture Business Systems Pathway, Animal Systems Pathway, Biotechnology Systems Pathway, Food Products and Processing Systems Pathway, Natural Resource and Environmental Service Systems Pathway, Plant Systems Pathway and Power, Structural and Technical Systems Pathway. This class is a great class to take for students interested in Work-based Learning.

Vet Science - 1 trimester
This course will investigate scientific concepts relating to the care of animals. Students will study the nutrition, safety, training, health, and general care of companion animals. The course will focus on dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, reptiles, and fish. Laboratory activities will provide opportunities for problem-solving through practical applications to learn scientific concepts. Application to current issues will also be explored.

Ag Structures - 1 trimester - may be additional materials fee, depending on student projects

This course will focus on electrical wiring, carpentry, arc welding, plumbing and small engines. Students will explore technologies commonly used in the industry of agriculture. Students will explore solutions to emerging technologies related to energy, power, bio-systems, and the environment. Students will utilize knowledge and skills they have developed to design and construct a project relating to agriculture. Students will be expected to develop a plan, write a bill of materials, follow accepted shop safety practices and procedures, and present a completed project. The projects can be wood, metal, welding, surveying, equipment maintenance, or other projects that are instructor approved. Some prior knowledge of tools and shop procedures is necessary.

Food Microbiology - 1 trimester

Salmonella. E. coli 0157:H7. Listeria. Do these words sound familiar? Through this course, we will look at the safety of our country's food supply, and the laws put in place to ensure that our food supply is safe. Furthermore, students will study the biology and potential danger of different microorganisms that cause food borne illnesses in humans and spoilage in food products. As the global concern rises for the safety of the world food supply, this area of food science continues to grow and offer exciting career possibilities which will also be explored in this course!

Sustainable Agriculture – 1 trimester

This course helps students develop an understanding of sustainable agriculture by examining the environmental and human aspects of conventional and alternative agricultural practices. Included will be a study of the trends in the sustainable and organic food industry and the new technologies that drive them.

Introduction to Engineering - 1 trimester

Engineering is acquiring and applying scientific and technical knowledge to the design, analysis, and/or construction of works for practical purposes. Students will explore engineering fields, fabrication, power and will design and build models to represent the different areas being taught. Students will design a final project and create a model of that project.

Leadership - 1 trimester

This course is designed to give students a competitive advantage in the working world. This course will provide the student with valuable leadership and communication skills that a person will use in their everyday lives. During this course, a student will develop their own personal leadership portfolio (resume'), learn to develop their speaking skills, develop team-building skills and plan school and community activities. This course is recommended for students involved in student organizations in and out of school.

Nutrition- 1 trimester

In this introductory nutrition course, students will explore the newest frontiers in nutrition and learn how to apply nutrition principles to food choices. Solidly based on science, this course will help students understand how key nutrients (carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, amino acids, vitamins, water, and minerals) affect health, disease, energy balance, and weight control. Students will learn how nutrition needs change from infancy to adulthood and into the later years, and students will explore such global issues as food safety, food technology, and world hunger.

Engineering & Robotics - 1 trimester

In this course, students take on the roles of mechanical engineers, computer scientists and electrical engineers. Through step-by-step activities covering robot assembly and programming, teams learn to build and program a competitive robot for both autonomous and operator control. Activities enable teams to understand and apply the concepts of encoders, ultrasonic, line followers and PID control.

Small Engines - 1 trimester -$25 materials fee

This course offers an intensive study of the operation, maintenance, and repair of small gasoline and diesel engines. Instructional topics include principles of operation of gasoline and diesel engines, tune-up and maintenance procedures, and disassembly, overhaul, and reassembly. Instruction may also include the operation of two cycle and four-cycle engines commonly found on lawn mowers, garden tractors, snow blowers, rotary tillers, chainsaws, and other equipment.

CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Articulture - 1 trimester
Articulture is an art course with a connection to the many ins and outs of agriculture. We will be looking at different ways the two intertwine and connect and how we could not have one without the other! We will be experimenting with a variety of new materials and techniques. You may have had art classes before, but never one like this! Some potential subjects will be fiber arts, mosaics, beeswax, and repurposing art.

Music Appreciation - 1 trimester
This class is designed to give students a basic understanding of music and to inspire an appreciation for music from a variety of genres and cultures. We will explore music from a variety of cultures and countries, including Indonesia, India, Ireland, China, West Africa, and the Middle East. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through various hands-on activities, including bucket drumming.

Music Fundamentals - 1 trimester
This class is intended for students who are interested in learning about the technical side of music. Students will learn how to read music through the study of rhythm and pitches. We will apply our knowledge through playing bucket drums and other various instruments. We will also discuss chords and how to read chord symbols on a keyboard or stringed instrument.

Theater History - 1 Trimester
This class is designed to introduce students to the different eras and styles of theatre from the Golden Age of Greece to the creation of the American Musical. Students will read various plays from these eras and learn about the important developments, changes, and differences in storytelling and aesthetics.Class projects will include writing short plays, performing scenes in a chosen theatre style, and crafting historical design elements.

Intermediate Acting - 1 Trimester
This class is designed to introduce students to a more rigorous actor's training than a basic High School Theatre course. Students will research and practice famous realistic acting methods such as the Stanislavski, Meisner, and the Alexander technique. They will also experiment with more avante garde techniques such as Meyerhold, Grotowski, and Suzuki. This is a project-based class, where students will regularly perform classical and contemporary scenes and monologues, and will culminate in a whole class performance.

Improv Acting - 1 Trimester
This course is designed to develop student's theatrical improvisation and collaboration skills. Student's will begin by learning about the art of improv as a form of play, but will move on to improv as a skill in various other areas including: actor's training, debate, speech, and storytelling. Student's final project will involve creating a long-form improv musical together as a class.

Art History - 1 trimester
Art History will provide an overview study of art history and basic art concepts. Students will examine a variety of aspects of art history including themes and purposes of art; styles of art; the elements of art; design principles; two-dimensional media; western and non-western art history. Art History course is a part of Fine-Arts subject, in which students will be given exposure to the community through museums, galleries and local artists.

Theater Production - 1 trimester
Exploring the world of a play. Students will work together to produce a play from start to finish. Students will either act in or be a member of the crew for a play production. Students will perform the play for the community.

Stage and Script - 1 trimester
Students analyze, create, and act from scripts that will be read or written in class. Different acting techniques will be explored along with creative playwriting.

Theater Design - 1 trimester
Students will practice creating different forms of theatrical designs. They will create sets, costumes, and lighting designs based on scripts or from original ideas.

Programming – 1 trimester
Are you interested in computers? Do you want to learn a new language? Are you interested in coding in order to create the next big game? This course will teach a foundation to computer science and basic programming. Students will spend time in the classroom discussing computer science as well as individual time in the computer lab to practice programming. No prior programming knowledge is needed.

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Creative Writing - 1 trimester
Students in this course will complete their own poems, stories and dramas (plays). As students complete writing workshops with their peers, they will study works by published authors. By the end of the trimester, students will have completed a variety of writing to be placed in a final portfolio that will demonstrate their growth as writers.

World Mythology – 1 trimester
This course is designed to explore a variety of myths from various cultures including Egyptian, Norse, African, Far Eastern, and the Americas to name a few. Students will read, analyze, and respond to selected stories, novel excerpts, plays, movies, etc. Students will also gain academic and experiential knowledge of a variety of world cultures and arts. Work in this class will involve academic and creative papers as well as creative projects. This course is reading and writing intensive, and involves working with others. NOTE: This course does not include the Greek myths, as those are studied in the Mythology course.

Teen Literature - 1 trimester
This course features novels about real-life teen issues told from the point of view of teens. While reading these novels, students will complete research and discuss their ideas about many of the topics presented in the novels.

Science Fiction - 1 trimester
Science fiction investigates exciting stories with futuristic settings and concepts. The stories of Asimov, Rand, Crichton, Bradbury and others will reveal the imaginative possibilities of science. In addition, students will learn the elements of science fiction while exploring connections to historical and current events.

CIS Composition - 2 trimesters (4 college credits through UMN; WRIT 1301)
This course involves critical reading, writing, and thinking as students practice the types of academic writing they may expect in their college career, such as summaries, essays, academic arguments, bibliographies, and research papers. The course is designed to help students develop a clear thesis in a written paper and support that thesis with appropriate sources, evidence, and documentation. Time is spent discussing rhetorical elements of writing such as audience, purpose, and argumentative structure. In addition, students practice steps in the writing process such as invention, research, organization, drafting, revision, and editing. Students report, synthesize, and draw conclusions regarding the significance of what they read. Prerequisite: Must be a Junior or Senior with instructor recommendation.

World Literature – 1 trimester
In this course, students will study a variety of literary works from diverse cultures and authors. Students will work to understand the wide array of traditions, perspectives and cultures that are represented in course texts and apply this understanding to critique, analysis and discussion. Students will work to develop a global perspective as well as understand their place in our diverse and complex world.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Chemistry of Life - 1 trimester
This course will dive into the chemical nature of life with emphasis on biological macromolecules such as proteins, nucleic acids, lipids, carbohydrates, and enzymes. We will also look at the processes that take advantage of these macromolecules such as metabolism and photosynthesis. If time permits, we may also touch on how humans have used these macromolecules to develop new technologies.

Physics - 2 trimesters
Through projects, competitions, and problem solving students will explore forces, work and energy, and momentum. Students will develop a deep understanding for the interplay which exists between theoretical science and engineering as they explore how physics relates to the real world of cars, computers, and satellites. The relationship between mathematics and the natural Universe will be a substantial component of the course. Specific topics for the first half of the course will be one dimensional, and two-dimensional motion, the Laws of Motion, momentum and collisions, and relativity. During the second half of the course students will explore electricity, magnetism, waves sound, and optics.

Conceptual Physics – 2 trimesters
Through projects, and problem solving, students will explore Newton's Laws of Motion, momentum & collisions, rotational motion, electricity, and waves. Students will develop a deep, conceptual understanding of physics as they explore how physics relates to the real world.

College Now (CHEM 231) - General Chemistry - 2 trimesters (4 College Credits from SMSU)
First course in chemistry for students majoring in a science field. Topics include chemical and physical properties of matter, atomic and molecular structure, bonding, chemical notation, inorganic nomenclature, stoichiometry, and periodic laws.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Spanish III – 2 trimesters
Students will continue to build and improve on their written and verbal skills. Students will acquire vocabulary and grammar concepts through Spanish language media, such as newspapers and news broadcasts, and music. Students will also explore the agricultural practices and cultural customs of a Spanish-speaking country. Language proficiency will be demonstrated through presentations, papers, and their communication during field trips.

Spanish IV – 2 trimesters
In the culmination of their high school language study, students will hone and refine their communication skills. Authentic materials, such as books and newspapers, will be the primary resources. They will recognize and analyze perspectives unique to Spanish speaking cultures. Students will demonstrate their language skills by reading and analyzing literature, producing a formal written essay, and interacting with native Spanish speakers in real life situations. Students will explore local Spanish speaking communities and resources.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Worldwide Wellness - 1 trimester - fulfills elective
This course will introduce you to a variety of wellness practices, activities, and games from around the world.

Lifelong Recreational Activities - 1 trimester - fulfills P.E. Requirement
Lifelong Recreational Activities provides students with an opportunity to incorporate physical activity and life-long leisure experiences into their lifestyle through game play and practice. Focus units may include archery, badminton, golf, pickleball, tennis, volleyball, walking/jogging. Some team sports will be incorporated as non-competitive activities. Skills, common concepts, and safety of each lifelong activity will be presented and developed through practice and match play. Students of all skill and experience levels are encouraged to enroll in this course.

Group and Personal Fitness - 1 trimester - fulfills P.E. Requirement
Students will acquire the basic knowledge about how to become fit and why it is important in a fun group setting. Instruction will focus on the components of fitness and how they contribute to optimal health. Principles of strength training and elements of cardiovascular health will be incorporated through group activities such as Kickboxing, Crossfit style workouts, Zumba, and Circuit Training. This is a great off-season or in-season conditioning program that can be done during school for many of our students with multiple after-school commitments. Any student wishing to improve their fitness levels would benefit from this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Lifelong Leaders - 1 trimester - 9th grade class
This course is one trimester and worth one-half credit. In this course students will develop those personal attributes necessary to be successful in and after high school. These skills include: constructing an argument, finding and assessing sources, identifying expected behavior in a range of scenarios, public speaking, and etiquette.

Civics: Citizenship- 1 trimester
This class will focus on the rights and responsibilities of American citizens. The rights that will be central to our study is the right to vote, the right to run for office and the right to participate in the governmental process at different levels. Along with our rights we will be studying our responsibilities as well. Responsibilities will include things such as: voting, being an informed and involved citizen, and examining the needs of the greater community.

Civics: U.S. Government - 1 trimester
U.S. Government will focus on the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students will examine, in detail, the roles of the legislative, executive and judicial branches. During our examination of the legislative branch we will discuss how a bill becomes a law and the role of members of Congress. While studying the executive branch, students will have an opportunity to study a president in depth and see how he fulfilled the roles prescribed by the Constitution. Finally, while learning about the Supreme Court, students will research cases that impacted our rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

World Religions - 1 trimester
This course introduces students to the major world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Through a comparative study, students will explore the core beliefs, practices, and historical impact of these traditions. The course emphasizes critical thinking and respectful dialogue, helping students appreciate religious diversity and understand the role of religion in contemporary society.

CIS Political Science - 2 trimesters (3 college credits through UMN; POL 1001)
American Democracy in a Changing World - Introduction to politics and government in the United States. Constitutional origins and development, major institutions, parties, interest groups, elections, participation, public opinion. Ways of explaining politics and the nature of political science. Recent trends emphasized.