

Courses Open to Freshmen

Course Descriptions: 2026-27

English

Course Name: English 9

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

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

Course Name: English 9 Honors

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

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

Course Name: Creative Writing

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

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

English (Continued)

Course Name: Poetry

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

Description: The writing and reading of poetry provide us with opportunities for self-expression, critical thinking and language development. In this course, students will read and analyze poems as well as create a portfolio of their own poems. We will focus on poems in the lyric tradition: ballad, sonnet, ode, elegy, dramatic monologue, haiku and pastoral. Students will have the opportunity to publish their poems in the online school arts publication.

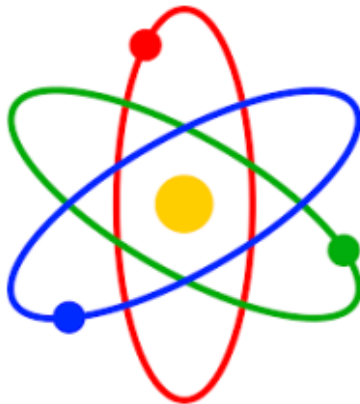
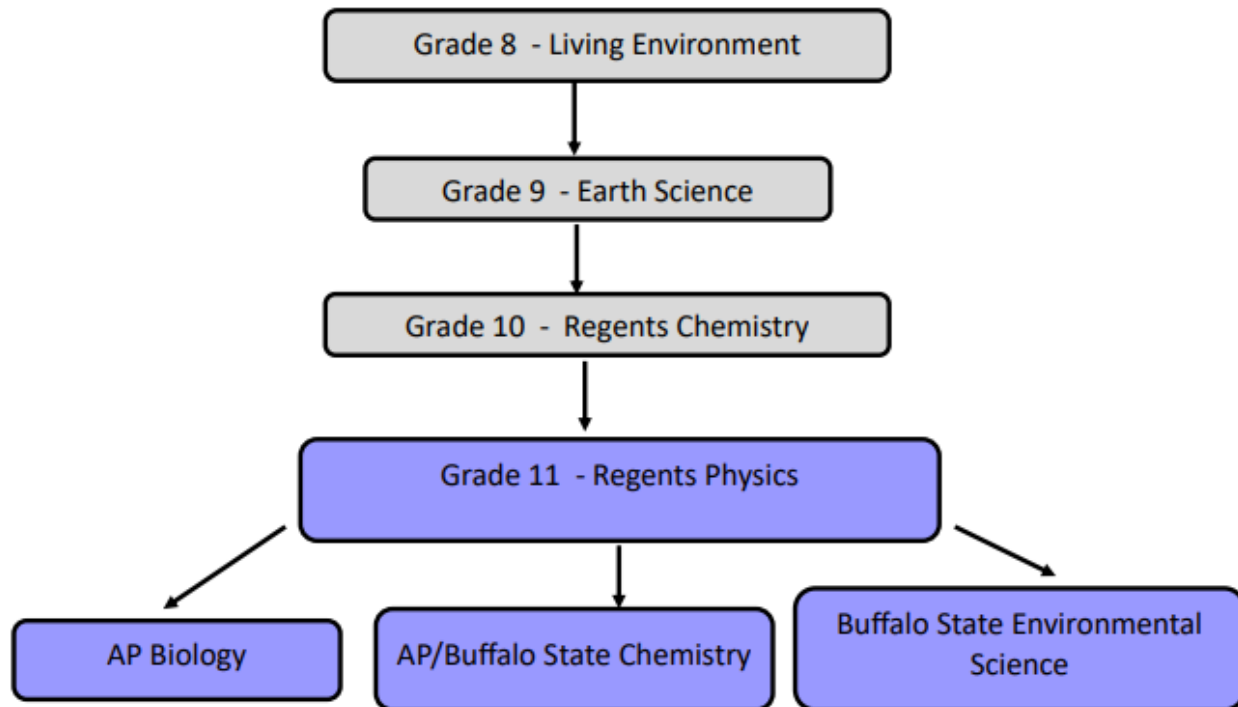
Science

Course Name: Earth and Space Science R

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

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

Advanced Science Student



Parents and students please note:

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

Social Studies

Course Name: Global History I & II

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

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

Math

Course Name: Algebra I

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

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

Course Name: Algebra IA

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

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

Course Name: Geometry

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

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

World Language

Course Name: Spanish IB

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

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

Course Name: Spanish II

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

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

Music

Course Name: Concert Choir

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

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

Course Name: Concert Band

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

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

Art

Course Name: Studio Art I

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

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

Technology

Course Name: Construction Systems

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

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

Course Name: Woodworking

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

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

Technology (Continued)

Course Name: Furniture Design and Production

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

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

Course Name: Motorsports

Length: Semester Open to: All grades

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

Course Name: Robotics

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

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

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

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

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

familiarize students with computer skills needed in the design field and to encourage problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Course Name: Electricity/Electronics

This course covers the basics of AC (alternating current) and DC (direct current). Students will learn commonly used terms and components of AC electrical work, and wire a wall section with lights, switches, and outlets, as it would be found in a residential home. Students will also learn calculations needed to successfully design an AC circuit to meet specific load requirements. After AC electrical, the course will move to DC where students will learn about series and parallel circuits, learn to solder, and design a final project that incorporates a DC circuit.

Course Name: Architecture

Students learn about some of the most common architectural styles from the past and present, before designing their own floor plans for a modern home. Students will become familiar with concepts and sizing needed to have a house that flows smoothly and will then design their house using Autodesk Revit. Students will also build a scale model of their house using proper framing techniques.

Physical Education

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

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