Vestaburg Community School
"The mission of Vestaburg Community School is to build a foundation and prepare students for their future."

ENGLISH

English Language Arts 9

In this class, you will work on becoming a stronger reader, writer, and communicator every day. You will read independent books of your choice, a class novel, and various short stories and articles. You will have opportunities to write in argumentative, informative, and narrative styles. Additionally, you will learn to effectively communicate your thoughts and ideas through group projects, discussions, and presentations.

Course Highlights:

- **Independent Reading:** Explore books of your choice to foster a love for reading and improve comprehension skills.
- **Class Novel and Short Stories:** Engage with a class novel and various short stories and articles to enhance literary analysis.
- **Writing Skills:** Develop your writing in argumentative, informative, and narrative styles, focusing on structure, clarity, and creativity.
- **Group Projects:** Collaborate with peers on projects to build teamwork and communication skills.
- **Discussions:** Participate in class discussions to articulate your ideas and engage with different perspectives.
- **Presentations:** Present your work and ideas to the class, improving your public speaking and presentation skills.

This course aims to enhance your abilities in reading, writing, and communication, preparing you for future academic success.

English Language Arts 10

In this class, you will focus on becoming a stronger reader, writer, and communicator every day. You will read independent books of your choice, a class novel, and various short stories and articles. You will have opportunities to write in argumentative, informative, and narrative styles. Additionally, you will learn to effectively communicate your thoughts and ideas through group projects, discussions, and presentations.

Course Highlights:

- **Independent Reading:** Choose books that interest you to foster a love for reading and enhance comprehension skills.
- **Class Novel and Short Stories:** Study a class novel along with various short stories and articles to deepen your understanding of different literary forms.

- **Writing Development:** Improve your writing in argumentative, informative, and narrative styles, focusing on structure, coherence, and creativity.
- **Group Projects:** Collaborate with classmates on projects to develop teamwork and communication skills.
- **Class Discussions:** Engage in discussions to share your ideas and consider multiple perspectives.
- **Presentations:** Present your ideas and work to the class, refining your public speaking and presentation abilities.

This course aims to enhance your reading, writing, and communication skills, preparing you for future academic success and effective expression in various contexts.

English Language Arts 11

Over this school year, we will be reading both narrative and informational texts, practicing critical writing and thinking, and engaging with one another to understand literature's historical, cultural, and social contexts. Our activities will include class readings, essay writing, accountable reading circles, independent reading, vocabulary development, and refining academic grammar skills.

Course Highlights:

- **Class Readings:** Explore narrative and informational texts together to enhance comprehension and analytical skills.
- **Essay Writing:** Practice writing essays that develop critical thinking and articulate well-supported arguments.
- **Accountable Reading Circles:** Participate in reading circles to discuss and analyze texts collaboratively.
- **Independent Reading:** Choose and read books independently to foster a personal love for reading.
- **Vocabulary Development:** Learn new vocabulary to improve language proficiency and understanding of complex texts.
- **Grammar Skills:** Refine academic grammar skills to improve writing clarity and precision.

This course aims to deepen your understanding of literature and enhance your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, preparing you for academic success and effective communication.

English Language Arts 12

Throughout this school year, we will engage in close readings of narrative, argumentative, and informational texts. You will learn to write and think critically and collaborate to deepen your understanding of literature's historical, cultural, and social contexts. Our activities will include class readings of two novels, essay writing, group presentations, accountable reading circles, vocabulary development, and grammar refinement.

Course Highlights:

- **Close Readings:** Analyze narrative, argumentative, and informational texts to enhance critical reading skills.
- **Class Novels:** Read and discuss two novels as a class to explore themes and literary techniques.
- **Essay Writing:** Develop critical thinking and writing skills through various essay assignments.
- **Group Presentations:** Collaborate on presentations to improve public speaking and teamwork abilities.
- **Accountable Reading Circles:** Participate in reading circles to discuss and analyze texts collaboratively.
- **Vocabulary Development:** Expand your vocabulary to improve comprehension and expression.
- **Grammar Refinement:** Brush up on grammar skills to ensure clear and effective writing.

This course aims to prepare you for college-level reading, writing, and critical thinking while fostering a deeper appreciation for literature and effective communication.

Middle English Language Arts (Reading/Writing)

This course is designed to enhance students' abilities in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Through a diverse curriculum that aligns with the Common Core State Standards, students will explore various literary genres, develop their writing skills, and improve their overall communication abilities.

Course Highlights:

- **Reading:** Engage with a wide range of texts, including novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction, to build comprehension and analytical skills.
- **Writing:** Improve writing proficiency through assignments such as essays, creative writing, research papers, and journaling, with a focus on grammar, organization, and style.
- **Speaking:** Participate in class discussions, oral presentations, and debates to enhance public speaking and interpersonal communication skills.

- **Listening:** Develop active listening skills through collaborative projects, peer reviews, and multimedia presentations.
- **Critical Thinking:** Analyze and interpret texts, construct well-supported arguments, and think critically about various topics.
- **Creative Expression:** Foster creativity and individual expression through diverse writing and speaking activities, encouraging a passion for language and storytelling.

This course aims to provide students with a strong foundation in English language arts, preparing them for future academic challenges and effective communication in various contexts.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 1

Throughout this course, we will work towards gaining proficiency in Spanish. While fluency in one year is not achievable, students will learn essential vocabulary and grammar rules to begin mastering the Spanish language. In addition to developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, students will complete projects to better understand the cultures of the many Spanish-speaking countries.

Course Highlights:

- **Vocabulary Building:** Learn essential words and phrases to create a strong foundation in Spanish.
- **Grammar Fundamentals:** Understand basic grammar rules to form correct sentences and communicate effectively.
- **Listening Skills:** Practice listening to native speakers to improve comprehension and pronunciation.
- **Speaking Practice:** Engage in conversations and classroom activities to develop speaking confidence and accuracy.
- **Reading Comprehension:** Read various texts to enhance understanding of written Spanish.
- **Writing Skills:** Write sentences, paragraphs, and short essays to practice grammar and vocabulary usage.
- **Cultural Projects:** Explore the diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries through projects and presentations.

This course aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the Spanish language and its cultures, setting the stage for continued language learning and cultural appreciation.

Spanish 2

Throughout this year, we will build on the foundation established in Spanish 1, working towards greater proficiency in the Spanish language. While achieving fluency in one year is not feasible, students will expand their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of grammar rules to further master the intricacies of Spanish. In addition to enhancing their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, students will engage in projects to deepen their understanding of the diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

Course Highlights:

- **Advanced Vocabulary Building:** Expand your Spanish vocabulary to include more complex and varied words and phrases.
- **Enhanced Grammar Skills:** Learn and apply advanced grammar rules to improve sentence structure and communication effectiveness.
- **Listening Comprehension:** Practice listening to more complex dialogues and narratives to improve comprehension and pronunciation.
- **Conversational Practice:** Engage in more advanced conversations and classroom activities to build confidence and fluency in speaking Spanish.
- **Reading Proficiency:** Read a variety of texts, including short stories and articles, to enhance understanding of written Spanish.
- **Writing Development:** Write more complex sentences, paragraphs, and essays to reinforce advanced grammar and vocabulary.
- **Cultural Exploration:** Delve deeper into the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries through more comprehensive projects and presentations.

This course aims to advance your skills in the Spanish language and deepen your cultural understanding, preparing you for further language studies and greater cultural appreciation.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1

Throughout this year, we will focus on mastering algebraic rules and definitions, following the Common Core State Standards and meeting all benchmarks set by the state of Michigan. This course is designed to build a strong foundation in algebra, preparing students for future mathematical studies and real-world problem-solving.

Course Highlights:

- **Expressions and Equations:** Learn to manipulate and solve various types of algebraic expressions and equations, including linear, quadratic, and polynomial equations.

- **Functions:** Understand the concept of functions, including linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, and learn to interpret and analyze their graphs.
- **Inequalities:** Study and solve linear and quadratic inequalities, and represent their solutions on number lines and coordinate planes.
- **Systems of Equations:** Explore methods to solve systems of linear equations and inequalities, including graphing, substitution, and elimination.
- **Exponents and Radicals:** Work with exponents and radicals, learning their properties and how to simplify expressions involving them.
- **Polynomials:** Add, subtract, multiply, and factor polynomials, and understand their role in algebraic expressions and equations.
- **Data Analysis:** Analyze and interpret data using statistical methods, and understand how algebra can be applied to real-world data.

This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of algebraic concepts, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are essential for academic success and everyday life

Algebra 2

Throughout this year, we will delve deeper into algebraic rules and definitions, following the Common Core State Standards and meeting all benchmarks set by the state of Michigan. This course is designed to extend your understanding of algebraic concepts and prepare you for advanced mathematical studies.

Course Highlights:

- **Advanced Functions:** Explore and analyze various types of functions, including quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
- **Complex Numbers:** Understand the concept of complex numbers, their operations, and their applications in solving quadratic equations.
- **Systems of Equations and Inequalities:** Solve systems of linear and nonlinear equations and inequalities using various methods, including matrices.
- **Polynomials:** Delve into higher-degree polynomials, including their operations, factorizations, and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.
- **Rational Expressions:** Simplify, multiply, divide, add, and subtract rational expressions, and solve rational equations.
- **Exponential and Logarithmic Functions:** Study the properties and applications of exponential and logarithmic functions, including solving related equations.
- **Sequences and Series:** Explore arithmetic and geometric sequences and series, and learn to use sigma notation.

- **Probability and Statistics:** Apply algebraic methods to probability and statistics, including combinatorics and interpreting data distributions.
- **Trigonometry:** Introduction to the basic concepts of trigonometry, including the unit circle, trigonometric functions, and their applications.

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of advanced algebraic concepts, enhancing your critical thinking and problem-solving skills to prepare you for higher-level mathematics and real-world applications.

Geometry

Throughout this year, we will explore geometric shapes and their properties, focusing on precision in mathematical vocabulary, constructions, and proofs. Students will engage in hands-on labs, interactive discussions, and collaborative learning experiences to deepen their understanding of geometry.

Course Highlights:

- **Geometric Shapes and Properties:** Study various geometric shapes, including points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles, and understand their properties and relationships.
- **Congruence and Similarity:** Learn about the concepts of congruence and similarity, and apply them to solve problems involving geometric figures.
- **Proofs and Reasoning:** Develop logical reasoning skills by constructing formal geometric proofs, including two-column, paragraph, and flow proofs.
- **Constructions:** Use tools such as a compass and straightedge to perform geometric constructions, enhancing your understanding of geometric concepts.
- **Coordinate Geometry:** Explore the relationship between algebra and geometry through coordinate geometry, including graphing points, lines, and conic sections.
- **Transformations:** Study geometric transformations, including translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations, and understand their effects on shapes.
- **Area and Volume:** Calculate the area and volume of various geometric figures, including polygons, circles, and three-dimensional solids.
- **Labs and Discussions:** Participate in hands-on labs and class discussions to apply geometric concepts in real-world contexts and collaborate with peers.

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of geometry, developing your precision, problem-solving skills, and ability to communicate mathematical ideas effectively.

High School Math

This foundational course is designed to strengthen your core mathematical skills and prepare you for more advanced studies. Through engaging lessons and practical applications, you will build confidence in your mathematical abilities and develop essential problem-solving skills.

Course Highlights:

- **Arithmetic:** Master the fundamentals of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, including operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.
- **Algebra:** Introduction to basic algebraic concepts such as variables, expressions, equations, and inequalities. Learn to solve linear equations and understand the principles of algebraic thinking.
- **Geometry:** Explore the properties and relationships of geometric shapes, including points, lines, angles, and polygons. Understand concepts of perimeter, area, and volume.
- **Data Analysis:** Learn to collect, organize, and interpret data. Use graphs, charts, and tables to analyze and present information effectively.
- Problem Solving: Develop critical thinking skills by tackling real-world problems and applying mathematical concepts to find solutions. Emphasize logical reasoning and step-by-step approaches to problem-solving.
- **Mathematical Tools:** Gain proficiency in using calculators, rulers, and other tools to assist in solving mathematical problems.

This course provides a supportive learning environment where you can ask questions, practice new skills, and build a solid mathematical foundation. Whether you are preparing for higher-level math courses or seeking to improve your everyday math skills, Basic Math will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to succeed. Join us and take the first step towards mastering mathematics.

Middle School Mathematics

This course is designed to build a strong mathematical foundation, following the Common Core State Standards. Students will engage in a variety of mathematical concepts and applications, developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential for future academic success.

Course Highlights:

- **Number Sense and Operations:** Understand and perform operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers, building a solid numerical foundation.

- **Algebraic Thinking:** Explore variables, expressions, equations, and inequalities to develop a foundational understanding of algebra.
- **Geometry:** Study geometric shapes and their properties, learning to calculate area, volume, and surface area, and understand the relationships between different figures.
- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships:** Learn and apply concepts of ratios, rates, and proportions in real-world contexts.
- **Statistics and Probability:** Collect, analyze, and interpret data, and understand basic probability concepts to make predictions and informed decisions.
- **Functions:** Introduction to the concept of functions and their importance in mathematical relationships and real-life applications.
- **Problem Solving:** Enhance problem-solving skills through challenging word problems, projects, and real-life scenarios, fostering critical thinking and logical reasoning.

This course aims to equip students with the mathematical knowledge and skills necessary for academic success and everyday life, preparing them for the challenges of high school mathematics and beyond.

Personal Finance

This course, designed for seniors, aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage their finances effectively. Through practical lessons and real-world applications, students will learn how to make informed financial decisions that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Course Highlights:

- **Budgeting:** Learn how to create and manage a personal budget, track income and expenses, and understand the importance of saving.
- **Saving and Investing:** Explore different saving and investment options, including savings accounts, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, and learn how to build wealth over time.
- **Credit and Debt Management:** Understand how credit works, how to use it responsibly, and strategies for managing and reducing debt.
- **Banking Services:** Get familiar with various banking services and products, such as checking and savings accounts, loans, and online banking.
- **Taxes:** Learn the basics of the tax system, how to file a tax return, and the impact of taxes on personal finances.
- **Insurance:** Explore different types of insurance, including health, auto, and life insurance, and understand their role in financial planning.
- **Financial Planning:** Develop a comprehensive financial plan that includes short-term and long-term goals, emergency funds, and retirement planning.

- **Consumer Rights and Responsibilities:** Learn about consumer protection laws, how to make informed purchasing decisions, and the importance of financial literacy.

This course aims to provide students with a solid foundation in personal finance, preparing them to navigate financial challenges and achieve financial stability and success in their adult lives.

Pre-Algebra

This course is designed to bridge the gap between arithmetic and algebra, providing students with a solid foundation in mathematical concepts and skills necessary for success in future algebra courses. Students will explore fundamental principles of mathematics through engaging lessons, hands-on activities, and problem-solving exercises.

Course Highlights:

- **Basic Algebraic Concepts:** Introduction to variables, expressions, and equations, laying the groundwork for algebraic thinking.
- **Number Operations:** Review and extend understanding of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers, focusing on operations and properties.
- **Ratios and Proportions:** Learn about ratios, rates, and proportions and how to solve problems involving proportional relationships.
- **Percentages:** Understand percentages and their applications in various real-life contexts, such as discounts, interest, and data interpretation.
- **Geometry Basics:** Explore geometric concepts, including angles, shapes, area, volume, and the Pythagorean theorem.
- **Data Analysis:** Learn to collect, organize, and interpret data using graphs, charts, and statistical measures such as mean, median, and mode.
- **Equations and Inequalities:** Develop skills in solving simple linear equations and inequalities, emphasizing logical reasoning and problem-solving techniques.
- **Mathematical Vocabulary:** Build a strong mathematical vocabulary to accurately describe and discuss mathematical concepts and processes.
- **Real-World Applications:** Apply mathematical concepts to real-world situations, enhancing understanding and relevance.

This course aims to build confidence and competence in mathematics, preparing students for the challenges of Algebra 1 and beyond. Join us in Pre-Algebra to strengthen your math skills and lay the foundation for future academic success.

Pre-Calculus

In Pre-Calculus, we will build on your previous knowledge from Algebra 2 and Geometry to prepare for Calculus and other college-level mathematics courses. Following the Common Core State Standards and meeting Michigan's benchmarks, this course emphasizes both algebraic and trigonometric skills needed for future success in mathematics.

Course Highlights:

- **Functions and Graphs:** Deepen your understanding of functions, including polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and piecewise functions, and learn how to graph and analyze their behaviors.
- **Trigonometry:** Expand your knowledge of trigonometric functions, identities, and equations. Topics include the unit circle, graphing sine and cosine, inverse trig functions, and real-world applications.
- **Analytic Geometry:** Study conic sections such as parabolas, ellipses, circles, and hyperbolas, and analyze their properties algebraically and graphically.
- **Vectors and Parametric Equations:** Explore the fundamentals of vectors and parametric equations and their applications in modeling motion and direction.
- **Polar Coordinates and Complex Numbers:** Learn to represent complex numbers in polar form and graph equations using polar coordinates.
- **Limits and Intro to Calculus Concepts:** Gain a preliminary understanding of limits, continuity, and the foundational ideas of derivatives to ease your transition into Calculus.
- **Sequences and Series:** Investigate arithmetic and geometric sequences, sigma notation, and mathematical induction.
- **Modeling and Problem Solving:** Apply algebraic and trigonometric concepts to model real-world problems and enhance your analytical thinking.

This course is designed to sharpen your mathematical reasoning, strengthen problem-solving skills, and provide a strong foundation for success in Calculus and other STEM fields.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Advanced Physical Education

This Advanced Physical Education (PE) course is tailored for high school students aiming to improve their strength, fitness levels, and daily exercise. Students will spend two to three days a week in the weight room, following structured routines to build strength, with each session including a warm-up and cool-down. On non-lifting days, the focus will be on developing speed, agility, and sports skills.

Course Highlights:

- **Physical Fitness:** Develop advanced skills in cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and coordination.
- **Strength Training:** Follow a weight-lifting routine to build strength.
- **Health Education:** Learn about nutrition, hydration, and healthy lifestyle choices crucial for overall wellness.
- **Personal Growth:** Set and track personal fitness goals to foster self-discipline and motivation.

This course is particularly beneficial for student-athletes seeking to enhance their speed and agility. If you are not an athlete, it is strongly recommended that you speak with the instructor to understand the course better before enrolling.

Middle School Physical Education

This course focuses on promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and overall well-being through a variety of engaging activities and sports.

Course Highlights:

- Physical Fitness: Develop fundamental fitness skills such as cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and coordination.
- Team Sports: Participate in team-based activities and sports to enhance communication, collaboration, and sportsmanship.
- Health Education: Learn about the importance of nutrition, hydration, and healthy lifestyle choices for overall wellness.
- Personal Growth: Set personal fitness goals and track progress throughout the course, fostering self-discipline and motivation.
- Outdoor Activities: Engage in outdoor games and recreational activities to appreciate the benefits of physical activity in natural environments.
- Safety and Wellness: Emphasize safety guidelines and proper techniques for injury prevention during physical activities.

Join us in Middle School PE to explore the joy of movement, build lifelong fitness habits, and cultivate essential life skills that promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

Physical Education 9

This course is designed to enhance students' understanding of the five components of fitness through engaging in diverse physical activities and assessments. Students will also develop a comprehensive understanding of game rules, fostering an appreciation for and active participation in lifelong physical activities.

Course Highlights:

- **Physical Fitness**: Develop fundamental skills including cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and coordination.
- **Team Sports**: Participate in team-based activities to enhance communication, collaboration, and sportsmanship.
- **Health Education**: Learn about nutrition, hydration, and healthy lifestyle choices crucial for overall wellness.
- **Personal Growth**: Set and track personal fitness goals to foster self-discipline and motivation.
- **Outdoor Activities**: Engage in outdoor games and recreational activities to experience the benefits of physical activity in natural settings.
- **Safety and Wellness**: Focus on safety guidelines and injury prevention techniques during physical activities.

Participation in this class will empower high school students to establish a strong foundation for achieving and maintaining lifelong physical wellness.

SCIENCE

Anatomy and Physiology

This course explores the intricate structure and dynamic function of the human body, emphasizing how its systems collaborate to maintain health and vitality.

Course Highlights:

- **System Integration**: Investigate how the body's systems—such as the nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, and musculoskeletal systems—interact to support overall function.

- **Structure and Function**: Explore the anatomical structures and physiological processes that enable organ systems to perform their specialized roles.
- **Health and Wellness**: Discuss the principles of homeostasis and their significance in maintaining bodily equilibrium and responding to external challenges.
- **Clinical Applications**: Examine common medical conditions and their impact on human physiology, fostering a deeper understanding of health and disease.
- **Hands-On Learning**: Engage in laboratory activities, dissections, and simulations to reinforce theoretical knowledge and develop practical skills.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach**: Integrate knowledge from biology, chemistry, and physics to comprehend the complexities of human anatomy and physiology.

Join us in Anatomy and Physiology to unravel the intricacies of the human body and gain insights into its remarkable resilience and adaptation. This course is essential for anyone pursuing careers in medicine, healthcare, sports science, and beyond.

Biology

In this introductory course, you will explore the fascinating world of living organisms. Designed as a comprehensive overview, this class covers a wide range of topics essential for anyone interested in healthcare, research, or other science-based careers.

Course Highlights:

- **Study of Life**: Investigate the structure, function, growth, and evolution of living organisms.
- **Diverse Topics**: Gain a broad understanding of various biological fields, including genetics, ecology, physiology, and cellular biology.
- **Foundational Knowledge**: Build a solid foundation in biology, crucial for pursuing advanced studies in healthcare, research, and other scientific professions.
- **Scientific Inquiry**: Engage in hands-on experiments and projects to develop your skills in observation, analysis, and critical thinking.
- **Real-World Applications**: Connect biological concepts to real-world issues and advancements in science and medicine.

Join us in Biology to embark on an exciting journey through the study of life, laying the groundwork for your future success in any science-related field.

Chemistry

In this introductory course, you will explore the nature of matter and the interactions between molecules. Designed to provide a broad overview, this class covers a wide range of fundamental topics essential for understanding the principles of chemistry.

Course Highlights:

- **Matter and Its Properties**: Learn about the different states of matter, their properties, and how they change.
- **Molecular Interactions**: Study the various types of chemical bonds and interactions between molecules.
- **Chemical Reactions**: Explore the principles behind chemical reactions, including reaction rates, equilibrium, and energy changes.
- **Atomic Structure**: Understand the structure of atoms and how it relates to the behavior of elements and compounds.
- **Periodic Table**: Discover the organization of the periodic table and how it reflects the properties of elements.
- **Hands-On Experiments**: Engage in laboratory experiments to apply theoretical knowledge and develop practical skills.

Join us in Chemistry to gain a solid foundation in the study of matter and molecular interactions, setting the stage for further studies in science and related fields.

Earth Science

This course explores the dynamic interactions among Earth's major systems and examines the challenges humans face due to these interactions. With a strong emphasis on literacy, engineering, and technology, you will gain a comprehensive understanding of our planet and its complexities.

Course Highlights:

- **Systems Interaction**: Study how Earth's major systems—geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere—interact and affect each other and human life.
- **Human Impact**: Investigate the impact of human activities on Earth's systems and the environmental challenges that arise from these interactions.
- **Literacy and Communication**: Enhance your scientific literacy by engaging with texts, writing reports, and presenting findings clearly and effectively.
- **Engineering and Technology**: Apply engineering principles and technological tools to solve problems related to Earth's systems and environmental issues.

- **Standards-Based Learning**: Follow the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Michigan Science Standards to ensure a rigorous and relevant educational experience.

Join us in Earth Science to explore the interconnectedness of our planet's systems and understand the critical role humans play in shaping the environment. This course will equip you with the knowledge and skills to think critically and act responsibly in a rapidly changing world.

Middle School Science

This course covers key components of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for middle school. Through hands-on, project-based learning, you will explore essential scientific concepts and develop a deeper understanding of the world around you.

Course Highlights:

- NGSS Alignment: Study a range of topics aligned with NGSS, ensuring a comprehensive and modern science education.
- Hands-On Learning: Engage in experiments, investigations, and projects that make science come alive and foster active learning.
- Project-Based Approach: Work on exciting projects that encourage critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration while reinforcing scientific principles.
- Real-World Applications: Connect scientific concepts to real-world scenarios, making learning relevant and meaningful.
- Scientific Inquiry: Develop skills in observing, hypothesizing, experimenting, and analyzing data, promoting a deeper understanding of scientific methods.

Join us in Middle School Science for an engaging and interactive journey through the wonders of science, designed to ignite your curiosity and inspire a lifelong love of learning!

Physics

This course explores the fundamental principles governing the interactions of matter and energy. You will delve into concepts such as velocity, acceleration, force, energy, momentum, and charge. Through a blend of theoretical study and practical application, you will develop a strong understanding of the physical laws that shape our world.

Course Highlights:

- **Core Concepts:** Study key physics topics including motion, forces, energy transformations, momentum, and electrical charge.
- **Critical Thinking:** Apply your knowledge of physics laws to solve complex problems and engage in critical thinking exercises.
- **Algebra-Based:** Use algebraic methods to understand and solve physics problems, ensuring a solid mathematical foundation.
- **Metric System:** Emphasize the use of the metric system in all measurements and calculations.
- **Hands-On Investigations:** Conduct experiments and investigations to reinforce theoretical concepts and develop practical skills.
- **Comprehensive Learning:** Engage with readings, tests, and daily assignments to reinforce and expand your understanding of physics.

Join us in Physics to explore the fascinating interactions of matter and energy, and build a strong foundation for future studies in science, engineering, and technology.

Zoology

In this course, you will explore the animal kingdom, starting with invertebrates and progressing through the various vertebrate phyla. This comprehensive study will provide you with a deep understanding of animal diversity and complexity.

Course Highlights:

- **Invertebrates to Vertebrates**: Begin with an in-depth study of invertebrates, then move through each vertebrate phylum, examining their unique characteristics and adaptations.
- **Animal Diversity**: Understand the vast range of animal species, their classifications, and their evolutionary relationships.
- **Behavior and Ecology**: Explore how animals interact with their environments and each other.
- **Anatomy and Physiology**: Learn about the anatomical structures and physiological processes that support animal life.
- **Evolutionary Adaptations**: Study the evolutionary history and adaptations that enable animals to survive in diverse habitats.
- **Hands-On Learning**: Engage in dissections, field studies, and laboratory experiments for practical insights into zoological concepts.

Join us in Zoology to embark on a journey through the animal kingdom, gaining valuable knowledge and skills for future studies or careers in biology, veterinary science, and wildlife conservation.

Social Studies

Civics and Economics

This course offers an organizational and political analysis of our governmental system, coupled with an introduction to the concepts of a market economy. Students will explore the structure and functions of government and apply economic principles through practical experiences, including a company simulation and computer-based activities.

Course Highlights:

- **Governmental Structure:** Study the branches of government, their functions, and the checks and balances system to understand how power is distributed and exercised in the U.S.
- **Political Analysis:** Analyze the political processes, including elections, policy-making, and the roles of various political entities and individuals.
- **Market Economy Concepts:** Learn the fundamentals of a market economy, including supply and demand, market structures, and the role of government in the economy.
- **Company Simulation:** Apply economic concepts by participating in a company simulation, where students will make business decisions, manage resources, and understand market dynamics.
- **Computer Simulations:** Use computer-based activities to simulate economic scenarios and analyze the outcomes, enhancing understanding through interactive learning.
- **Civic Responsibility:** Explore the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society, encouraging informed and active participation in civic life.

This course aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of both civics and economics, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to navigate and influence the political and economic systems.

organizational and political analysis of our governmental format. An intro to the concepts of a market economy and applying those concepts through a company and computer simulation.

Middle School Social Studies Course Description

Our middle school social studies program focuses on developing civic efficacy and a strong understanding of historical and cultural contexts. In grades 6 and 7, students engage in an integrated study of the world, exploring various cultures, geographies, and histories. In grade 8, the focus shifts to United States history, providing a comprehensive overview of the nation's development and key events.

Course Highlights:

- **Grades 6 and 7: Integrated World Studies**
  - **Global Cultures:** Explore diverse cultures and societies from around the world to understand different perspectives and lifestyles.
  - **Geography:** Study the physical and human geography of various regions to understand how location influences culture and history.
  - **Historical Contexts:** Learn about significant historical events and movements from different parts of the world, fostering a global perspective.
- **Grade 8: United States History**
  - **Founding Principles:** Examine the founding documents and principles of the United States, including the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
  - **Key Events:** Study major events in U.S. history, such as the American Revolution, Civil War, and Civil Rights Movement, to understand their impact on the nation's development.
  - **Civic Understanding:** Develop a deeper understanding of civic duties and responsibilities, encouraging active and informed participation in society.

This course aims to build a strong foundation in social studies, helping students become informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizens.

US History

This year-long course is designed for 9th graders and fulfills one of the Social Studies requirements for graduation. Students will continue their study of U.S. History from where it left off in 8th grade, starting in the mid-1800s. The course will cover significant periods and events that have shaped the nation.

Course Highlights:

- **Immigration and Industrialism:** Explore the waves of immigration and the rise of industrialism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, examining their impacts on American society and economy.
- **World War I:** Study the causes, major events, and consequences of World War I, including the U.S.'s involvement and the post-war impact.
- **The Roaring 20s:** Understand the cultural, social, and economic changes of the 1920s, including the Jazz Age, Prohibition, and the rise of consumerism.
- **The Great Depression:** Analyze the causes and effects of the Great Depression, as well as the New Deal policies implemented to address the economic crisis.

- **World War II:** Examine the global conflict of World War II, focusing on key events, the role of the U.S., and the war's aftermath.
- **The Cold War:** Learn about the geopolitical tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, including significant events like the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Space Race.
- **The Civil Rights Era:** Study the major movements and figures of the Civil Rights Era, understanding the struggle for equality and justice in the U.S.

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of U.S. history, helping students develop critical thinking skills and a deeper appreciation for the nation's past and its influence on the present.

World History

This year-long course is designed for 11th graders and fulfills one of the Social Studies requirements for graduation. Students will explore various historical events from around 300 AD to the Medieval Times, gaining insights into significant civilizations and cultures that have shaped the world.

Course Highlights:

- **The Roman Empire:** Study the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, its governance, cultural achievements, and its impact on subsequent European history.
- **Kingdoms and Cultures of West Africa:** Explore the rich histories and cultures of West African kingdoms such as Ghana, Mali, and Songhai, and their contributions to global history.
- **Imperial China:** Examine the development of Chinese civilization during the Imperial era, including innovations, dynastic cycles, and cultural contributions.
- **Japanese Origins:** Learn about the early history of Japan, including its mythology, the formation of its first states, and the influence of neighboring cultures.
- **Ancient Central American Cultures:** Discover the advanced civilizations of Ancient Central America, such as the Maya, Aztec, and Olmec, focusing on their achievements and historical significance.

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of world history, helping students develop a global perspective and critical thinking skills by studying diverse cultures and historical periods.

Visual and Performing Arts

Art 1

This high school course is designed for students who are beginning their journey into the visual arts. Art 1 provides a comprehensive introduction to fundamental art concepts, techniques, and media. Students will explore their creativity, develop their technical skills, and build a solid foundation in various art forms. Through hands-on projects and critical analysis, students will gain an appreciation for art and its role in personal and cultural expression.

Course Highlights:

- **Drawing Techniques:** Learn the basics of drawing, including perspective, shading, and composition, using materials such as pencils, charcoal, and ink.
- **Painting:** Experiment with different painting techniques and mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, and tempera, to understand color theory and brushwork.
- **Sculpture and 3D Art:** Create three-dimensional artworks using materials like clay, paper mache, and found objects, exploring form, texture, and space.
- **Printmaking:** Discover the process of printmaking, including techniques such as linoleum block printing, monoprints, and screen printing.
- **Elements of Art and Principles of Design:** Study the essential elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, space, and value) and principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity).
- **Art History and Cultural Studies:** Gain insight into the history of art and its cultural contexts by examining various art movements, artists, and cultural influences.
- **Mixed Media:** Combine different artistic media and techniques to create innovative and expressive works of art.
- **Critique and Reflection:** Develop the ability to analyze and critique your own artwork and that of your peers, fostering a constructive environment for artistic growth.
- **Portfolio Development:** Begin building a personal art portfolio that showcases your progress and best works throughout the course.
- **Art Exhibitions:** Participate in school art exhibitions and events, displaying your artwork and celebrating your creative achievements.

This course aims to cultivate a strong foundation in visual arts, encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and personal expression. Join us in Art 1 to explore your artistic potential and discover the joy of creating art.

Art 2

This high school course is designed for students who have completed Art 1 and are ready to deepen their artistic skills and explore more advanced concepts. Art 2 builds on the foundation laid in Art 1, focusing on refining techniques, expanding creative expression, and developing a personal artistic voice. Students will engage in more complex projects, explore diverse media, and begin to take more ownership of their artistic choices.

Course Highlights:

- **Advanced Drawing and Painting:** Build upon previous techniques with an emphasis on realism, perspective, and expressive mark-making. Experiment with a variety of drawing tools and advanced painting methods, including mixed-media layering and glazing.
- **3D Art and Sculpture:** Explore more intricate three-dimensional projects using advanced sculptural materials like wire, plaster, and fabric, with a focus on craftsmanship and conceptual design.
- **Artistic Style and Voice:** Develop a personal style through themed projects and creative challenges. Learn to make intentional choices about subject, medium, and composition.
- **Art History and Contemporary Artists:** Study influential historical and contemporary artists and movements, with an emphasis on how artists respond to social, cultural, and political issues.
- **Visual Storytelling and Symbolism:** Learn how to communicate ideas and emotions through symbolism, narrative, and visual metaphor.
- **Critique and Artistic Dialogue:** Participate in regular class critiques to discuss and reflect on works of art. Build confidence in speaking about your own art and responding thoughtfully to the work of others.
- **Portfolio Enhancement:** Continue to curate a high-quality art portfolio that reflects your growth, creativity, and technical development. Prepare for future art opportunities or advanced courses.
- **Community and Exhibition Opportunities:** Showcase your work in school and community exhibitions, gaining experience in presenting and discussing your artwork in a public setting.

Art 2 encourages students to take creative risks, explore new perspectives, and further their artistic journey through thoughtful exploration and technical refinement. Join us in Art 2 to push the boundaries of your creativity and elevate your artistic expression.

Band

This middle/ high school course is designed for students who are passionate about music and eager to develop their instrumental skills. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced musician, this course offers a comprehensive and engaging experience. Students will learn to play various musical pieces, improve their technical abilities, and perform as part of an ensemble. Through practice, performance, and music theory, students will gain a deeper appreciation for the art of music.

Course Highlights:

- **Instrumental Techniques:** Learn and refine techniques specific to your instrument, including proper posture, breath control, finger positioning, and articulation.
- **Music Reading:** Develop the ability to read musical notation and understand rhythmic patterns, dynamics, and expression marks.
- **Ensemble Performance:** Experience the joy and challenge of performing in a group setting, learning to listen and blend with other musicians.
- **Music Theory:** Gain foundational knowledge in music theory, including scales, chords, key signatures, and harmonic analysis.
- **Repertoire:** Explore a diverse range of musical genres and styles, from classical to contemporary, and perform pieces that showcase your growing skills.
- **Concerts and Performances:** Participate in school concerts, community performances, and possibly competitions, showcasing your progress and talents.
- **Improvisation and Composition:** Experiment with creating your own music through improvisation and basic composition techniques.
- **Teamwork and Discipline:** Develop important life skills such as teamwork, discipline, and time management through regular practice and group rehearsals.

This course aims to foster a love for music, enhance your technical and musical abilities, and provide memorable performance experiences. Join us in Band to grow as a musician and contribute to our vibrant musical community.

Middle School Art:

This course is designed to inspire creativity and self-expression through a variety of artistic mediums and techniques. Students will explore fundamental concepts in art and design, develop their artistic skills, and gain an appreciation for the visual arts. Through hands-on projects and collaborative activities, students will build confidence in their creative abilities and discover their unique artistic voice.

Course Highlights:

- **Drawing and Painting:** Learn basic drawing and painting techniques, including the use of different materials such as pencils, charcoal, watercolors, and acrylics.
- **Printmaking:** Experiment with printmaking techniques, such as block printing and stamping, to create unique designs.
- **Art History:** Gain an understanding of art history by studying famous artists, art movements, and cultural influences from various periods.
- **Elements of Art and Principles of Design:** Learn the fundamental elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, space, and value) and principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, and unity).
- **Mixed Media:** Combine different artistic mediums and techniques to create innovative and expressive works of art.
- **Critique and Reflection:** Develop the ability to critique and reflect on your own work and the work of others, fostering an environment of constructive feedback and growth.
- **Collaborative Projects:** Participate in group projects and activities that encourage teamwork and the sharing of ideas.

This course aims to nurture a love for art, enhance technical skills, and encourage creative exploration. Join us in Middle School Art to unlock your artistic potential and express yourself through the visual arts.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES **Core subject area electives are listed within that core subject area.*

Consumer Science

This dynamic course integrates essential skills in economics, math, and practical business management to prepare students for real-world financial literacy and entrepreneurial success. Whether you aspire to be an entrepreneur, a savvy consumer, or a financially responsible individual, this course provides a comprehensive foundation for your future success.

Course Highlights:

- **Financial Literacy:** Understand the basics of personal finance, including budgeting, saving, investing, and managing credit and debt.
- **Economics:** Learn fundamental economic concepts, such as supply and demand, market structures, and the role of government in the economy.

- **Business Management:** Explore the principles of business management, including planning, organization, leadership, and decision-making.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Develop entrepreneurial skills by creating and managing business projects, from initial concept to execution.
- **Practical Math Applications:** Apply mathematical concepts to real-world scenarios, enhancing problem-solving and analytical skills.
- **Consumer Skills:** Gain insights into making informed purchasing decisions, understanding consumer rights, and effectively navigating the marketplace.
- **Career Readiness:** Prepare for future careers with practical knowledge and skills in financial planning, business operations, and economic decision-making.
- **Projects and Simulations:** Engage in hands-on projects and simulations to apply your knowledge in practical settings, fostering critical thinking and creativity.

This course aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of the modern economic landscape, ensuring they are well-prepared for financial and entrepreneurial success.

Film Studies

This high school course offers an in-depth exploration of cinema as an art form, a cultural artifact, and a medium of communication. Students will analyze films from various genres, periods, and cultures, developing an understanding of cinematic techniques, narrative structures, and the social and historical contexts of films. Through viewing, discussion, and projects, students will gain a deeper appreciation for the art of filmmaking and its impact on society.

Course Highlights:

- **Film History:** Study the evolution of cinema, from silent films to contemporary blockbusters, and understand the technological and artistic developments that have shaped the medium.
- **Genres and Styles:** Explore various film genres, including drama, comedy, horror, science fiction, and documentary, and analyze the conventions and themes associated with each.
- **Cinematic Techniques:** Learn about key filmmaking techniques, such as cinematography, editing, sound design, and mise-en-scène, and how they contribute to the overall impact of a film.
- **Film Analysis:** Develop critical viewing skills by analyzing the narrative structure, character development, and thematic elements of selected films.

- **Directors and Auteur Theory:** Study influential directors and their unique styles, examining how their personal vision and creative control define their films.
- **Cultural and Social Contexts:** Understand how films reflect and influence cultural, social, and historical contexts, and explore themes such as identity, power, and ideology.
- **Film Criticism:** Engage in discussions and write critical essays on various aspects of films, fostering the ability to articulate and support your interpretations.
- **Creative Projects:** Participate in hands-on projects, such as creating short films or storyboards, to apply your understanding of cinematic techniques and storytelling.

This course aims to cultivate a deep appreciation for cinema, enhance critical thinking skills, and inspire creative expression, preparing students for further studies in film or related fields.

Intro to Sports Medicine

Welcome to Sports Medicine! This introductory course offers students an engaging overview of the dynamic field of sports medicine. Throughout the semester, students will explore key topics such as the structure and function of major body joints, common injuries and their treatments, the principles of athletic training, and how to design effective training plans. Students will also learn about designing training areas and discover the diverse career paths within sports medicine.

Course Highlights:

- **Anatomy & Physiology:** Study major body joints and understand their role in movement and injury prevention.
- **Injury Management:** Learn about common sports injuries, treatment techniques, and recovery strategies.
- **Athletic Training Principles:** Explore the basics of athletic training, including prevention and care for injuries.
- **Training Plan Development:** Gain practical skills in writing training plans tailored to specific goals.
- **Facility Design:** Understand how to create functional and efficient training spaces.
- **Career Exploration:** Investigate various careers in sports medicine and their educational pathways.

This fast-paced, one-semester course is perfect for students curious about sports medicine or considering a future in health sciences, athletic training, or physical therapy.

Life Skills

In this class, students will learn essential functional life skills that are critical for personal and professional success. This course will focus on one or more of five key subjects: interiors & housing, child development & parenting, consumerism & home economic decisions, sewing, and foods & nutrition. Join us in Life Skills to prepare for family life, work life, and develop foundational skills for the real world.

Course Highlights:

- **Interiors & Housing:** Learn the basics of home design, organization, and maintenance, including space planning and interior decorating.
- **Child Development & Parenting:** Understand the stages of child development and gain practical knowledge of effective parenting techniques and responsibilities.
- **Consumerism & Home Economic Decisions:** Explore smart consumer practices, budgeting, and making informed economic decisions for managing a household.
- **Sewing:** Acquire sewing skills, from basic hand stitching to using a sewing machine, and complete various sewing projects.
- **Foods & Nutrition:** Learn about nutrition, meal planning, cooking techniques, and food safety to promote healthy eating habits and culinary skills.

This course aims to equip students with practical knowledge and hands-on experience in various aspects of daily life, ensuring they are well-prepared for future challenges and responsibilities.

Middle School Enrichment

This course offers students the opportunity to explore topics aligned with their interests, providing a diverse and engaging educational experience. Designed to complement the traditional curriculum, this class allows students to delve deeper into subjects they are passionate about.

Course Highlights:

- **Additional Science Labs:** Conduct experiments and participate in hands-on activities to enhance your understanding of scientific concepts.
- **Poetry:** Explore different forms of poetry, practice creative writing, and appreciate the art of expression through words.
- **Mathematical Puzzles:** Challenge your problem-solving skills with a variety of mathematical puzzles and games.

- **Computer Programming:** Learn the basics of coding and develop simple computer programs, fostering computational thinking and creativity.
- **Creative Projects:** Work on individual or group projects that align with your interests, encouraging independent learning and collaboration.
- **Guest Speakers and Workshops:** Engage with guest speakers and participate in workshops to gain insights from experts in various fields.

This course is designed to enrich your educational experience by providing additional time and resources to explore topics that may not be covered in traditional core classes. Through this class, you will develop a love for learning and discover new interests and talents.

Pop Culture

This engaging course examines the impact of popular culture on society, exploring various forms of media, trends, and cultural phenomena. Students will analyze how pop culture shapes and reflects social values, beliefs, and identities. Through discussions, projects, and multimedia, you will gain a deeper understanding of the role pop culture plays in our daily lives.

Course Highlights:

- **Media Analysis:** Explore the influence of television, movies, music, and social media on society and individual behavior.
- **Historical Trends:** Study significant trends in pop culture history and their lasting impact on modern culture.
- **Fashion and Style:** Examine the evolution of fashion and style as expressions of cultural identity and social change.
- **Popular Literature:** Analyze popular books, comics, and graphic novels to understand their themes and cultural significance.
- **Celebrity Culture:** Investigate the phenomenon of celebrity, its effects on public opinion, and its role in shaping societal norms.
- **Technology and Pop Culture:** Discuss the relationship between technological advancements and the evolution of pop culture.
- **Global Pop Culture:** Explore how pop culture transcends borders and influences global communities, including the impact of international media and trends.
- **Cultural Criticism:** Develop critical thinking skills by evaluating and critiquing various aspects of pop culture and their implications.

This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of pop culture and its pervasive influence, fostering critical awareness and appreciation of the diverse cultural landscape.

Psychology

This course focuses on individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphasis will be placed on research methods, stages of lifespan, how the brain works, both chemically and cognitively, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders.

Course Highlights:

- **Foundations of Psychology:** Learn about the history of psychology, major theoretical perspectives, and influential psychologists.
- **Research Methods:** Understand the scientific methods used in psychological research, including experiments, observations, and surveys.
- **Biological Bases of Behavior:** Explore the relationship between the brain, nervous system, and behavior, including the role of neurotransmitters and hormones.
- **Developmental Psychology:** Study the psychological development of individuals across the lifespan, from infancy to adulthood.
- **Cognitive Psychology:** Examine mental processes such as perception, memory, learning, problem-solving, and decision-making.
- **Social Psychology:** Analyze how individuals are influenced by social interactions, group dynamics, and cultural norms.
- **Personality and Individual Differences:** Investigate theories of personality and the factors that contribute to individual differences in behavior and thought.
- **Psychological Disorders:** Learn about various psychological disorders, their symptoms, and approaches to treatment and therapy.
- **Applied Psychology:** Explore how psychological principles are applied in fields such as education, health, sports, and the workplace.

This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of psychology, enhance their critical thinking abilities, and inspire curiosity about human behavior and mental processes.

Publications

This class is a product-based course designed to provide students with hands-on experience in producing a variety of school publications and media. Students will develop skills in writing, design, photography, and digital media while creating tangible products such as print shop

signs, fliers, sports programs, morning announcements, digital photographs, and yearbooks, including advertising.

Course Highlights:

- **Print Shop Signs & Fliers:** Design and produce high-quality signs and fliers for school events and activities, learning about layout, typography, and effective visual communication.
- **Sports Programs:** Create professional-looking sports programs that include team rosters, schedules, and feature articles, enhancing your skills in graphic design and sports journalism.
- **Morning Announcements:** Develop and deliver engaging morning announcements, practicing scriptwriting, public speaking, and multimedia production.
- **Digital Photography:** Capture and edit digital photographs for various publications, learning about composition, lighting, and photo editing techniques.
- **Yearbooks:** Plan, design, and produce the school yearbook, incorporating themes, layouts, and student contributions. Learn about project management, deadlines, and working as a team.
- **Advertising:** Develop advertising content for school publications, learning about marketing strategies and creating compelling ads to generate revenue and support the publication process.

This course aims to provide practical experience in producing a wide range of school publications and media, preparing students with valuable skills in writing, design, photography, and project management. Join us in Publication Class to create impactful and professional-quality products that enhance the school community.

STEM

This high school course integrates the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics to provide a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience. Students will engage in interdisciplinary projects and activities that promote critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. This course is designed to prepare students for future careers in STEM fields by fostering a deep understanding of core concepts and their real-world applications.

Course Highlights:

- **Scientific Inquiry:** Develop skills in scientific investigation, including hypothesis formation, experimentation, data analysis, and drawing conclusions.
- **Technology Integration:** Explore the latest technologies and their applications, including coding, robotics, and digital tools.
- **Engineering Principles:** Learn about engineering design processes, including problem identification, brainstorming, prototyping, testing, and iteration.
- **Mathematical Foundations:** Apply mathematical concepts and techniques to solve real-world problems and analyze data.
- **Interdisciplinary Projects:** Participate in collaborative projects that integrate multiple STEM disciplines, encouraging teamwork and innovative thinking.
- **Critical Thinking:** Enhance problem-solving abilities by tackling complex challenges and developing logical, evidence-based solutions.
- **Real-World Applications:** Explore how STEM concepts are applied in various industries, such as healthcare, environmental science, and technology development.
- **STEM Careers:** Gain insights into various STEM careers through guest speakers, field trips, and research projects.

This course aims to inspire a passion for STEM, equip students with essential skills, and prepare them for advanced studies and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Middle School World Cultures

In World Cultures, students will embark on an engaging journey across the globe to explore the diverse customs, traditions, and ways of life that shape our world. This course follows state social studies standards and is designed to broaden students' understanding of global communities, geography, and cultural connections.

Course Highlights:

- **Geography and Mapping Skills:** Learn to read, interpret, and create maps while gaining a deeper understanding of physical and political geography.
- **Global Regions:** Explore different regions of the world—including Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Oceania—focusing on their histories, environments, economies, and cultural practices.
- **Cultural Traditions and Beliefs:** Examine the values, belief systems, languages, celebrations, and daily life of various world cultures.
- **World Religions and Philosophies:** Gain an introductory understanding of major world religions and philosophies and their impact on culture and society.

- **Global Issues:** Discuss current global challenges such as climate change, resource distribution, and human rights, and how they affect people across the world.
- **Cultural Connections:** Understand how trade, migration, exploration, and technology have connected societies throughout history and continue to shape our world today.
- **Comparative Study:** Develop skills to compare and contrast cultures respectfully, recognizing both differences and shared human experiences.

This course aims to cultivate curiosity, empathy, and global awareness while helping students appreciate the richness and diversity of our world. Through collaborative projects, discussions, and critical thinking activities, students will become more informed and thoughtful global citizens.

Off-Campus and Online Opportunities:

Vocational programs

The Career Center Programs that are offered at the Montcalm Career Center include the following:

- Agriscience
- Diesel Equipment & Technology
- Educational Careers
- Computer Aided Drafting & Design/Engineering
- Engineering Construction Trades
- Health Sciences
- Public Safety
- Welding Technology
- Automotive Technology

Students must fill out an application for all career center classes. Applications are available in the counseling or main office. Students may only attend the career center if they are in good academic standing with their current cohort.

CO-OP

Co-op is also available for students. Students may only sign up for Co-op if they have completed a Career Center course, or if they are enrolled in co-op and career center during the same semester. Students who wish to take co-op must see the counseling department for approval and an application. This approval will include required documentation such as a work permit to be updated and on file with the school.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Juniors and Seniors who have been endorsed as students who have achieved the correct scores on the placement test may be eligible to take classes at local colleges for high school and college credit.

Classes must be academic in nature or directly related to their career pathway. The school district pays tuition for these classes, as long as the student has taken the most advanced class offered at Vestaburg High School or at the Montcalm Area Career Center in that subject area.

Students are responsible for their own transportation, books, and any activity fees. See the high school counselor for more information

EDGENUITY ONLINE CLASSES

Online offerings may be available to students who require basic classes, additional skills, or credit recovery. These classes will be approved on an individual basis by the counselor/principal. Classes will be available through Edgenuity for students who are interested in online learning at Vestaburg High School.

The materials for these classes are provided by Edgenuity and monitored by designated school personnel. These classes are NCA-endorsed and taught by specially trained Michigan teachers. These classes use multi-media interaction activities and involve students in group work through chat lines and boards. Students taking online classes need to have basic computer skills and be self-motivated. See beginning on the next page for course options.

The same course list may be found here:
https://www.edgenuity.com/course-lists/Edgenuity-Michigan-Course-List.pdf