

PIRATE PLANNER



Registration Handbook

2026-2027

*Polson High School
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Visit our web site at www.polson.k12.mt.us

INTRODUCTION

The administration and staff at Polson High School is committed to a continual process of reviewing and reassessing the academic program to ensure that we meet the needs of all students as we **EMPOWER STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN A CHANGING WORLD.**

We recognize that the future holds many opportunities for our students. These opportunities continue to change and be influenced by technology and a global economy. We are dedicated to providing each student with the foundation needed to compete and prosper in this new economic environment.

Academic success for all students is the focus of the staff at Polson High School. Each student at Polson High School is assigned to a counselor who will serve as their academic coach. The counselor will help each student plan for academic success, review academic goals, and explore career and educational options after graduation. Every student will be provided with the academic planning and support to be successful and graduate from Polson High School with the skills and abilities to continue their education or employment opportunities.

As students become aware of what the future might have in store for them, it is our responsibility to provide each student with the academic preparation required for success after leaving Polson High School. We encourage all students to seek post-secondary training and education or employment that will be challenging, provide a learning environment, opportunities for advancement, and financial security.

We look forward to working with all students and parents as they make decisions related to class choices and preparation for the future. As always our doors are open, give us a call or stop by if we can assist you in any way.



PHS Graduation Requirements

The purpose of high school graduation requirements is to establish rigorous standards of learning. Graduation requirements are intended to provide the student with a well-rounded education in a variety of subjects and should be viewed as minimums. We encourage all students to pursue a rigorous schedule all four years of high school. Graduation requirements are those in effect when the student enters the ninth grade for the first time.

SUBJECT	CREDITS
English 1 credit each in English 9, 10, 11, 12	4
Math Must be in different Math courses	2
Science	2
Social Studies Must include 1 credit of US History, .5 credit Government, and .5 credit of Economics.	2
College & Career Readiness CCR 1 (9th Grade)	.5
Physical Education* If a student has a temporary exemption from PE, that credit must be made up prior to graduation. If permanently exempt, 22 credits will still be required.	1.5*
Health	0.5
Fine Arts Fine Arts courses include Art, Choir, Band, Journalism, Engineering Design, Web Page Design, Graphic Design, Design & Animation	1
Practical Arts Practical Arts courses include Business, Shop, FCS, Journalism, Health Occupations Internship, Education Occupations Internship, Leadership, Engineering Design, Web Page Design, Graphic Design, & Multimedia Production/Design.	1
Electives	7.5
TOTAL	22

In addition to the 22 credits required for graduation, all Seniors must successfully complete a Pirate Pursuit in order to earn a PHS Diploma.

Note: Courses described in this curriculum guide may not necessarily be offered every year.

STANDARD FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM

The educational program at Polson High School is based on a standard four-year plan with each grade level taking specific course work. Students are encouraged to meet with their counselor regarding their 4 year plan.

FRESHMAN YEAR	
English	1 Credit (English 9)
Mathematics*	1 Credit (Algebra Skills, Algebra I, or Advanced Algebra I)
Science	1 Credit (Earth Science or Biology)
Physical Education / Health	1 Credit (Physical Education), .5 Credit (Health)
College & Career Readiness	.5 Credit (College & Career Readiness I)
Electives	1.0 Credit
Study Support	No Credit - All incoming Freshman are encouraged to enroll in this class for 1st Sem.
<i>*Students will be placed in an appropriate math course based on their previous performance, proficiency test results, and the recommendation of the math department.</i>	
SOPHOMORE YEAR	
English	1 Credit (English 10)
Mathematics*	1 Credit (Geometry, Algebra I, Geometry Skills)
Science	1 Credit (Biology)
Physical Education	.5 Credit (Physical Education)
Electives	
<i>*Students will be placed in an appropriate math course based on their previous performance, proficiency test results, and the recommendation of the math department.</i>	
JUNIOR YEAR	
English	1 Credit (English 11 or A.P. Literature & Composition)
Social Studies	1 Credit (U.S. History or A.P. U.S. History)
Electives	
SENIOR YEAR	
English	1 Credit (English 12 or A.P. Language & Composition)
Social Studies	.5 Credit (Government) & .5 Credit (Economics) or 1 Credit (A.P. Gov.)
Electives	

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Valedictorian will be determined at the end of eight semesters and will be based on the following criteria:

- Highest Cumulative GPA
- A.P. Merit Distinction (See A.P. Merit distinction for criteria, includes four A.P. classes)
- In addition to the A.P. Merit Distinction, students must also successfully complete two more credits in A.P. (Total of 6 A.P. Credits)

The Salutatorian will be determined at the end of eight semesters and will be based on the following criteria:

- Second Highest Cumulative GPA
- A.P. Merit Distinction (See A.P. Merit distinction for criteria, includes four A.P. classes)
- In addition to the A.P. Merit Distinction, students must also successfully complete two more credits in A.P. (Total of 6 A.P. Credits)

In case of a tie for Valedictorian, the students will share the honors. If multiple students have earned the recognition of Valedictorian, there will be no Salutatorian recognized. Students must be full time and in continual attendance at Polson High School the two semesters prior to graduation to be considered for the title of Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

GPA Recognition

Special designation is reserved for students who have challenged themselves and excelled academically. The following distinctions are intended to recognize academic excellence.

- **Summa Cum Laude Distinction** (3.95-4.00 Cumulative GPA for 8 Semesters)
 - In addition to the GPA criteria, students must also meet the course requirements for admission into the 4 Year Montana University System.(page 11) Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a gold tassel and a pin at graduation.
- **Magna Cum Laude Distinction** (3.70-3.94 Cumulative GPA for 8 Semesters)
 - In addition to the GPA criteria, students must also meet the course requirements for admission into the 4 Year Montana University System.(page 11) Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a silver tassel.
- **Cum Laude Distinction** (3.50-3.69 Cumulative GPA for 8 Semesters)
 - In addition to the GPA criteria, students must also meet the course requirements for admission into the 4 Year Montana University System.(page 11) Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a white tassel.
- **Principal's Award** (3.5 or Higher GPA)
 - Students earning this award will receive a Principal's Award Certificate and their picture included on the Academic Wall of Fame.

CAREER RELATED ELECTIVES

Many elective classes are available to you at Polson High School. These courses can help you build a solid foundation for your postsecondary education or future employment. We encourage you to take a wide variety of electives so that you can explore different areas of interest. Doing so can help you to refine career fields you may want to pursue after high school.

CTE COURSES

All Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses offered at PHS are open to all students 9-12 regardless of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. We highly encourage all students to explore the various opportunities of our CTE offerings.

DROP/ADD POLICY

Students who choose to drop a class that they are enrolled in and who do not meet the criteria outlined below will receive a WF. The failure will be recorded on the student's grade transcript and will be calculated into their cumulative GPA.

- Withdrawal Deadline
 - There will be no academic penalty for a class dropped within the first week of the term.
 - All student schedules are final.
- Extenuating Circumstances
 - Failure to meet a prerequisite for a course
 - Overloads in class size
 - A change recommended after consulting with the parent/counselor/teacher

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Freshmen and Sophomores are required to enroll in seven periods, six of which must be for credit. Juniors and Seniors must enroll in seven periods, five of which must be for credit.

Note: Middle School Students are eligible to enroll in Advanced Algebra 1 at PHS during their 8th grade year. This is the only high school class that is available to middle school students.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Cumulative grade point average (GPA) is computed by averaging all semester grades beginning with the freshman year. Cumulative GPA is used to determine class rank. GPA is calculated on the following basis:

A+ = 4.0	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3	F = 0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	
A- = 4.0	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	D- = .7	

GRADUATION DISTINCTIONS

Graduating seniors have the opportunity to earn recognition beyond a typical diploma by completing a course of study that goes above and beyond the minimum graduation requirements. In addition to the 22 credits needed to graduate, each distinction will require an additional two credits for a minimum total of 24 credits. Correspondence and online courses will not count toward meeting distinction criteria, except when enrollment is necessitated by a documented scheduling conflict outside the student's control. Please visit with a PHS Counselor if you have a specific question about courses accepted for pathways and distinction.

AP Merit Distinction

The AP Merit Distinction recognizes graduating seniors that accomplish a plan of study that includes successful completion of a minimum of four Advanced Placement classes. Students must also complete a minimum of 8 credits in Math and Science combined, along with three credits of Social Studies and two credits of World Language. Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a gold distinction cord at graduation. A 3.2 GPA is required for the AP Merit Distinction.

Fine Arts Distinction

The Fine Arts Distinction acknowledges graduating seniors that complete a plan emphasizing a fine arts focus in one of the two Fine Art pathways: Music or Visual Art. To be eligible for this distinction, the student must complete all requirements in one of the two pathways. Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a purple distinction cord at graduation.

Music Pathway	Visual Art Pathway
Music criteria for distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 consecutive credits in one of two music performance areas: Choir and/or Band• Cumulative GPA of 3.2• 3 Activity Letters in Music	Visual Art criteria for distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 credits of Visual Art• Cumulative GPA of 3.2• 2D Studio and 3D Studio• Personal exhibition of work

Humanities Distinction

The Humanities Distinction acknowledges graduating seniors that complete a plan emphasizing a humanities focus in one of the three humanities pathways: World Language, Social Studies, and English. To be eligible for this distinction, the student must complete all requirements in one of the three pathways. Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a silver distinction cord at graduation.

World Language Pathway	Social Studies Pathway	English Pathway
World Language criteria for distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 consecutive credits in Spanish• Cumulative GPA of 3.2	Social Studies criteria for distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 credits in Social Studies OR 2 credits in AP Social Studies courses (World, US, Govt)• 2 credits in World Language• Cumulative GPA of 3.2	English criteria for distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 credits in Journalism or Publications OR 2 credits in AP English courses (Lit and Lang)• 2 credits in World Language• Cumulative GPA of 3.2

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) Distinction

The STEM Distinction acknowledges graduating seniors that complete a plan emphasizing a STEM focus in one of two STEM pathways: Science, or Math. To be eligible for this distinction, the student must complete all requirements in one of the two pathways. Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a white distinction cord at graduation.

Science Pathway	Math Pathway
Science criteria for distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 credits in Science• 3 credits in Math• Cumulative GPA of 3.2	Math criteria for distinction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 credits in Math• 3 credits in Science• Cumulative GPA of 3.2

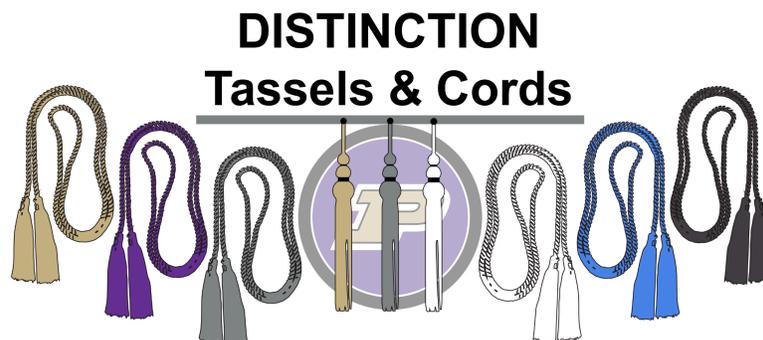
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Distinction

The CTE Distinction acknowledges graduating seniors that complete a plan emphasizing a Practical Arts focus in one of three Practical Arts pathways or a combination of these pathways: Business, Industrial Technology Education, or Family and Consumer Science. To be eligible for this distinction, the student must earn 4 credits in Practical Arts including CCR1. One of these credits can be replaced if the student participates in a CTE related club such as DECA, FCCLA, ESports, etc. Students must also have a minimum Cumulative GPA of 3.2. Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a blue distinction cord at graduation.

Health Enhancement

The Health Enhancement Distinction acknowledges graduating seniors that complete a plan emphasizing a Health Enhancement focus. To be eligible for this distinction, the student must complete all requirements in the pathway. Students earning this distinction are eligible to wear a black distinction cord at graduation.

Health Enhancement Pathway
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 credits in Health Enhancement (Physical Education, Fitness and Conditioning, Strength and Conditioning)• .5 credit in Health• Participation in 8 MHSAs extracurricular activities• Cumulative GPA of 3.2



PHS Graduation Distinction Requirements

Distinction	AP Merit <i>Gold Cord</i>	Fine Arts <i>Purple Cord</i>		Humanities <i>Silver Cord</i>			STEM <i>White Cord</i>		Practical Arts <i>Blue Cord</i>			Health Enhancement <i>Black Cord</i>	
Pathway	AP Merit	Music	Art	World Language	Social Studies	English	Science	Math	Business	Construction	FACS	Health Enhancement	Health Occupations
English	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Math	4*	2	2	2	2	2	3*	4*	2	2	2	2	2
Science	4*	2	2	2	2	2	4*	3*	2	2	2	2	3*
Social Studies	3*	2	2	2	4*	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
College & Career Readiness	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Physical Education	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3*	1.5
Health	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Fine Arts	1	4*	3*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Practical Arts	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
World Language	2*	--	--	4*	2*	2*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2*	--	--	--
Business	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2*	--	--	--	--
FACS	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2*	--	--
Electives	2.5	6.5	7.5	5.5	5.5	7.5	6.5	6.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	8	8.5
Total	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24

Note: Credit requirements with an asterisk are a requirement above and beyond regular PHS graduation requirements. Please review the description for each distinction for clarification. Each department has specific criteria that must be met to be eligible for the cord at graduation. Criteria may include, but is not limited to, courses, community service, cumulative GPA, department activities, etc. Please see a PHS Counselor or Departmental Teacher for an application and additional information on the requirements for the distinction. The deadline for submitting applications is May 1.

NCAA AND NAIA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

For students who wish to compete in intercollegiate competition, special attention must be given to the eligibility requirements of NCAA and/or NAIA. Each governing body has specific eligibility requirements that include core classes, GPA, and ACT/SAT test scores. **Students need to review the requirements as they are listed on the respective web sites of NAIA and NCAA as early as their sophomore year to ensure that they are taking appropriate coursework.** Information pertaining to eligibility can be found at NCAA at www.ncaa.org and NAIA at www.playNAIA.org. PHS courses with NCAA approval are marked with the (*) symbol.

PREREQUISITES

A prerequisite refers to course work or requirements which must be met before another course may be taken. Prerequisites for each course are outlined in the Pirate Planner. Please note that some courses have a GPA prerequisite such as: Advanced Placement English requires a cumulative 3.25 GPA in English courses.

TRANSCRIPT

A transcript is a historical record of all courses taken and grades received for students during their high school tenure. All grades including "F's" and "WF's" remain on a student's transcript and they are calculated into the cumulative GPA. At the recommendation of their teacher, students may retake a course that they have previously passed and earned credit. For these cases, the student will receive the additional credit and the grade will be calculated into his or her GPA.

WRITING PROFICIENCY

Any student seeking full-time admission to a 4 year degree program at one of the 4 year campuses must satisfy a writing proficiency by earning a minimum score on one of the following writing assessments;

ACT Plus Writing Subscore	7
ACT ELA Score	18
SAT Writing & Language	25
A.P. English Literature or Language Exam	3

A student who does not meet these standards may be admitted to a 2 year degree program or admitted provisionally to a 4 year degree program on any campus of the Montana University System.

** No entrance requirements have been imposed for the Montana Community Colleges or the Colleges of Technology beyond a high school diploma. ACT or other test scores are required for placement only.

Montana University System Admission Requirements

Rigorous Core College Prep Program

The rigorous core is an alternative to the Regents' college prep program. Students who successfully complete the rigorous core are eligible for the MUS Honors Scholarship.

In addition to the Regents' college prep courses required for entrance to 4-year universities, the rigorous core adds one additional year of math (4 yrs.), science (3 yrs.), and college-prep electives (3 yrs.).

Provisional Admission

Students who do not meet the writing and math proficiency standards are admitted to 4-year universities on a provisional basis.

Students who are provisionally admitted can gain full admittance by

- earning a "C" or better in developmental course work (must be done within the first three semesters); or
- earning the required score on one or more of the math or writing assessment tests, including the ACT or SAT, required for admissions; or
- completing an associate of arts or associate of science degree; or
- submitting a letter to the admissions office documenting a disability that prevented the student from adequately demonstrating proficiency in a test setting if no accommodation was provided at the time of the test.

Entrance Requirements

In order to be fully admitted to a 4-year university in the MUS, entering high school graduates are required to meet the following standards:

- **Complete the Regents' college preparatory program:** mathematics (3 years), English (4 years), science (2 years), social studies (3 years), and electives (2 years) – includes languages, computer science, visual/performing arts, speech, or vocational education.
- **Demonstrate Mathematics Proficiency:** earn an ACT math score of 22, SAT math test score of 27.5, or complete the Rigorous Core.
- **Demonstrate Writing Proficiency:** earn an ACT ELA score of 18 (average of the English, reading, and writing scores) or score 7 on the ACT writing test (essay); or earn an SAT writing and language test score of 25 or higher.
- **Achieve one of the following requirements:**
 1. Earn at least a 2.5 high school GPA; or
 2. Rank in the top half of the school's graduating class; or
 3. Earn an ACT composite score of 22 or higher, or SAT total score of 1120 or higher (except MSU-Northern: ACT score of 20, SAT score of 1050).

Provisional Admission

Students who do not demonstrate the ability to meet the mathematics and/or writing proficiency standards may be admitted provisionally to a four-year degree program on any campus of the MUS and without condition to a two year degree program.

Exemptions

Entrance requirements do NOT apply to the following groups:

- Non-traditional students (those who do not enter college for a period of at least three years following high school graduation);
- Summer-only students; and
- Part-time students taking seven or fewer credits per semester.

In addition, institutions may exempt up to 15% of first-time, full-time undergraduates from the entrance requirements listed above. This exemption is reserved for students with special talents, minorities, and others who demonstrate special needs.

Open Admission

Two-year colleges in the MUS offer open admissions that do not require the academic standards listed above. However, certain programs within the college (such as nursing) may have admission standards.

A high school degree or GED is required for admission to all degree programs.

ART FUNDAMENTALS

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This introductory course is designed to help students build a strong foundation in drawing and art basics. Students will learn essential vocabulary and techniques while exploring the elements of art. With a focus on drawing as the main medium, this class offers hands-on projects and guided practice to develop skills and confidence.

DRAWING & DESIGN

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Art Fundamentals

Course Description: This course builds on the skills learned in Art Fundamentals, focusing on strengthening students' drawing abilities and understanding of design concepts. Students will explore a variety of subjects and take on more challenging assignments in drawing, painting, and sculpture. Emphasis will be placed on the six principles of design, encouraging creativity and experimentation while refining technical skills. This course is ideal for students ready to expand their artistic knowledge and explore new mediums.

2-D STUDIO

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Drawing/Design

Course Description: This course focuses on developing creative solutions to 2D visual challenges while building upon the elements of art and principles of design. Students will refine their skills in drawing, observation, and creative thinking through the exploration of various techniques and materials, including graphite, charcoal, ink, colored pencils, watercolor, and acrylic paint. A grade of B or higher in Drawing/Design is required for enrollment.

3-D STUDIO

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Drawing/Design

Course Description: In this course, students will explore three-dimensional art through a variety of sculpture media and art techniques. The first quarter focuses on mixed media, emphasizing how the elements and principles of art apply to 3D art forms. The second quarter transitions to ceramics, where students will learn building and firing techniques while applying design concepts to lay compositions. This class builds on prior knowledge, requiring a grade of B or better in Drawing/Design to enroll.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Credit 0.5; Semester: Grade 9 (CCR Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: CCR is designed to equip 9th-grade students with the skills, knowledge, and strategies necessary to succeed in high school and to prepare for future careers and postsecondary education. Through hands-on activities, self-assessments, and real-world applications, students will explore career pathways, learn essential workplace skills, and develop a personalized roadmap for academic and career success.

VIDEO GAME DESIGN (Unity Games)

Credit 0.5; Year Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art or Fine Art Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This one-semester course introduces students to the fundamentals of creating video games using Unity, one of the industry's leading game engines. Designed for beginners with no prior experience, the course combines hands-on projects and guided lessons to teach the design planning process, navigation of the Unity environment, and essential skills such as visual effects, animation, lighting, audio, and UI design. By the end of the course, students will have created their own 2D and 3D game and gained insight into industry-related careers, providing a solid foundation for further exploration in game development.

DESIGN AND ANIMATION (Adobe Animate + Adobe Illustrator)

Credit: 0.5; Semester: 9, 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art or Fine Art)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course introduces students to 2D animation using industry-standard tools. Students begin by learning foundational 2D animation techniques—including drawing, keyframing, timing, storyboarding, and the 12 Principles of Animation—while creating original short animations. Projects emphasize user interface design, content design with storyboards or scripts, and the creation of graphics, animation, audio, and video material. It also included software development using high-level authoring tools like Adobe Animate. We will then apply the skills acquired in Adobe Animate, including keyframe animation, to Adobe After Effects. One of the leaders in the effects industry uses this special-effects program.

WEB PAGE DESIGN (Webflow)

Credit 0.5; Semester: 9, 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art or Fine Art Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course introduces intermediate to advanced web page design techniques. Topics include customer expectations, advanced markup language, multimedia technologies, usability and accessibility practices, and strategies for evaluating web design. The course will use online web design platforms, including Webflow University, CodeHS, and W3Schools. Students will learn to professionally customize websites. Upon completion, students can employ advanced design techniques to create high-impact, highly functional web pages. Students will also be able to earn certification in Web Page Design through YouScience.

PIRATE MEDIA GROUP (PHSN TV NEWS)

Credit 0.5; Semester: 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art or Fine Art Credit)

Prerequisite: Preferred Graphic Design 1 or 2

Course Description: Pirate Media Group is a hands-on media production course where students create and manage visual media for Polson High School. Working as a professional media team, students produce video news broadcasts, athlete photo shoots, printed materials, vinyl cutouts, and digital content for the school's social media platforms. The course emphasizes videography, photography, printing, branding, and digital marketing while using industry-standard tools and equipment. Students develop real-world skills in storytelling, collaboration, and responsible media production by creating authentic content for the school community.

GRAPHIC DESIGN 1 (Adobe Photoshop + Adobe Premiere)

Credit 0.5; Semester: 9, 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art or Fine Art Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Graphic Design I is an introductory, hands-on course that explores the fundamentals of visual design and digital media creation. Students learn core design principles while developing practical skills in Adobe Photoshop for image editing and graphic design, and in Adobe Premiere Pro for introductory video and film editing. Through an activity-based approach, students complete short, focused projects that build skills progressively and encourage creativity, problem-solving, and technical proficiency. Projects are designed for web, print, and video formats, giving students a foundation in industry-standard tools and workflows used in graphic design and multimedia production.

GRAPHIC DESIGN 2 (Adobe Illustrator)

Credit 0.5; Semester: 9, 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art or Fine Art Credit)

Prerequisite: Graphic Design 1 Preferred - Not Required

Course Description: Graphic Design II is a class that teaches art and technology. In this class, students will use design as a creative process in business communication. Students will also explore various methods for combining words, symbols, and images to create visual representations of ideas and messages. Students will learn the basic elements and principles of art and use Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. This course introduces the fundamentals of graphic design from both illustrative and corporate perspectives.

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING

Credit 0.5; Semester: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is designed to deepen students' knowledge and interest in marketing. This course will cover basic marketing, target marketing, segmentation, sponsorship, event marketing, promotions, sponsorship proposals, and sports marketing plans as applicable to the Sports and Entertainment industries. The co-curricular organization DECA provides students with an opportunity to apply their newly acquired business skills. This organization offers many benefits and exciting activities for marketing students, including competitions, awards, scholarships, job opportunities, and travel. *Participation in DECA is available and encouraged.

A.P. COMPUTER SCIENCE

Credit 1.0; Year; Grades 10, 11, 12 (Practical Art Credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or Instructor Approval

Course Description: Using Python® as a primary tool, students explore and become inspired by career paths that utilize computing, discover tools that foster creativity and collaboration, and use what they've learned to tackle challenges like app development and simulation. Students learn how the internet works and how data is stored and transmitted. This course is endorsed by the College Board, allowing students to take the AP Computer Science Principles exam for college credit.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

Credit 0.5; Semester; Grades 9,10,11,12 (Practical Art Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Introduction to Business is a semester-long course that provides a comprehensive overview of the business world, covering key concepts including management, marketing, entrepreneurship, finance, and the role of business in society. Using the textbook *Introduction to Business*, the class combines theoretical knowledge with practical, project-based learning through Empowered. Topics include entrepreneurship, economics, accounting, business law, and organizational structures, providing students with a strong foundation in essential business principles and practices. This course is ideal for anyone interested in understanding how businesses operate, including those aspiring to own their own business.

INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING

Credit 0.5; Semester; Grades 9,10,11,12 (Practical Art Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Introduction to Marketing is a semester-long course that provides a comprehensive overview of marketing principles and strategies, focusing on how marketing drives business success and influences consumer decisions. Using the textbook *Marketing Essentials* and project-based learning through Empowered, the course covers key topics such as market research, consumer behavior, branding, product development, pricing, promotion, channel management, and sales. Students will gain a basic understanding of the marketing process, with an emphasis on competition in a free-enterprise system. This course encourages involvement in DECA, a co-curricular organization that provides opportunities to apply business skills through competitions, awards, scholarships, employment, and travel.

SCHOOL-BASED ENTERPRISE

Credit 0.5; Semester; Grades 10,11,12 (Practical Art Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: School-Based Enterprise is a hands-on course that teaches students the fundamentals of starting and managing a successful business while providing real-world experience. A key component of the course is working in the school coffee shop, *Pirate Grounds*, during first period and occasionally during lunch, where students gain practical experience in customer service, cash handling, and business operations. The course encourages students to think creatively, solve problems, and develop an entrepreneurial mindset. Students will explore the process of identifying business opportunities, researching markets, and turning ideas into actionable plans. A primary focus is on developing a comprehensive startup business plan that includes defining a product or service, conducting market research, developing a financial plan, and designing a marketing strategy.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

Four Credits of English are required for graduation. These credits must include: English 9 (1 credit), English 10 (1 credit), English 11 (1 credit), English 12 (1 credit). Qualifying juniors may substitute A.P. Literature & Composition for English 11. Qualifying seniors may substitute A.P. Language & Composition for English 12.

Content and Skill Development: All core classes involve students in activities that develop skills in writing, speaking, listening, and reading text and media. Integrated within the four core classes is a process of career development, creative writing, multimedia applications, literature, drama, interpersonal and public communications.

ENGLISH 9 (*)

Credit 1; Year; 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is designed to build on the foundations of reading, writing, and speaking/listening (interpersonal and intrapersonal) introduced in the middle school. Composition, literature, informational text, and media allow the student to develop and strengthen more mature analysis and research skills in these areas.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 9 (*)

Credit 1; Year; 9

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: This class's more extensive reading assignments, analytical writing assignments, public speaking opportunities, and Socratic dialogues will help students build on their foundations in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Coursework will include research & presentations, reading assignments (short stories, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and novels) and writing in a variety of modes (narrative and expository, plus literary analysis). This class is designed to prepare students to continue in advanced courses, culminating in AP Literature and AP Language their junior and senior years of high school. Consequently, students will complete more work independently (outside of the classroom).

ENGLISH 10 (*)

Credit 1; Year; 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students will work to improve reading comprehension and writing through close reading of novels, short stories, poetry, and drama. They will write for a variety of related purposes and audiences, including expository, persuasive, compare/contrast, creative writing, and poetry. While analyzing writing, students will be engaged in daily grammar exercises focusing on sentence structure, spelling, etc. Additionally, through the study of literature and other types of media, the class will focus on rhetorical devices and how rhetoric is used to persuade. This class will compare ancient Greek drama to Shakespeare while also analyzing the themes presented. Narrative styles such as satire and allegory will be covered, along with other literary devices.

ADVANCED ENGLISH 10 (*)

Credit 1; Year; 10

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: This course will offer students accelerated studies in the sophomore curriculum, going deeper into text with more emphasis on writing and more domain specific literary terms. It is faster paced, requires more independent reading and the composition of papers of greater length, and provides less review than English 10. Students will write in a variety of modes, but will concentrate on narrative, expository, and persuasive essays. Throughout the course, group discussion and informal and formal speaking assignments will foster oral communication skills. The assumption is that students plan to continue their education after high school at the college level. The focus will be on perfecting their analytical and synthesizing skills throughout each unit of study.

ENGLISH 11 (*)

Credit 1; Year; 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: English 11 is an American Literature survey course examining major writers who shaped and continue to shape American literary history. The course considers what our literature reveals to us about both the society that produced it and those of us reading it now. Students will read a variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama with a historical context to gain perspective on our society and how it has changed over time. This two-semester course includes a variety of reading and writing assignments, daily work, tests, and projects. The class also includes a study of literary terms and styles and a review of the trends in American history, religion, and thought.

A.P. ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION (*)

Credit 1; Year; 11

Prerequisite: Application Process *Must be taken with A.P. U.S. History*

Course Description: This course will follow curricular requirements outlined by the College Board for AP English Literature and Composition, which require students to carefully read and critically analyze imaginative literature from a variety of time periods, from both the British and American canons. By reading the selected texts closely, students will develop a deeper understanding of how writers use language to create meaningful works that are also enjoyable to read. In this class, students will examine the structure, style, and themes, as well as many other literary elements, of the texts. This course will improve students' understanding of rhetorical and literary techniques as well as close reading timed writing exercises that will prepare them for the AP Literature Exam. The course will take a comprehensive approach, including direct instruction, seminar discussions, small group work and projects, and extensive coaching for writing skills. Students must have a 3.5 GPA in English courses. Admission will be based on GPA, application quality, and teacher recommendations. Exceptions may be made to the 3.5 GPA requirement on an individual basis.

ENGLISH 12 (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students will read and study a variety of novels, plays, and poetry, focused on multicultural literature. Class members will respond to that literature through discussion, writing, projects, and exams. English 12 focuses on preparing students for life after high school, including career readiness and post secondary education. Writing is geared towards formal and informal writing styles, such as: creating resumes, writing research and literary analysis essays, and practicing MLA style citations, or creative writing prompts, personal narrative essays, or poetry. A variety of assessment styles will be used to allow for responses across learning targets.

A.P. ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 12

Prerequisite: Application process

Course Description: This course is designed to help students become skilled readers of rhetoric and writing for purpose, audience expectations, and subjects as well as how rhetorical devices and appeals contribute to the effectiveness of writing. Students will read a heavy course load of mostly nonfiction texts, speeches, short writings, etc. in order to analyze their effectiveness. Afterward, students will write with a focus on synthesis, rhetorical analysis and arguments. Students must have a 3.5 GPA in English courses. Standardized test scores and teacher recommendations will be taken into consideration. In addition, students must complete an application and receive English Department approval. Exceptions may be made to the requirements on an individual basis.

PUBLICATIONS (YEARBOOK) (Practical Art or Fine Art Credit)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: In this course, students will produce a photo history book of Polson High School. Students plan, organize, and design layout spreads depicting all aspects of school life. Taking photographs as well as writing stories and captions will be a significant part of the class. Students will have opportunities to develop photography, leadership, organizational and computer skills. Time beyond the normal school day is required as needed to document school events, meet production deadlines, and complete other assignments. Students may take this English elective multiple years. The course satisfies either the fine arts or practical arts requirement for graduation.

JOURNALISM (SALISHIAN) (Practical Art or Fine Art Credit)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students in the *Salishian* class will complete journalism requirements for a print newspaper and online news coverage. Finding stories, writing stories, and taking and captioning photographs will be a significant part of the class. Students will become familiar with all phases of production including drafting articles, layout in InDesign, selling and creating advertisements, and printing and distributing the final product. There will be opportunities to develop technical skills such as photography and writing, along with soft skills such as leadership and organization. Time beyond the normal school day is required as needed to document school events, meet production deadlines, and complete other assignments. Students may take this English elective multiple years and it is a year-long class. The course satisfies either the fine arts or practical arts requirement for graduation.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is an entry level overview course that will provide a brief history of Family and Consumer Sciences as it relates to the development of well-being for individuals, families, and communities. Topics introduced in this course will include: Hospitality and Tourism, Textiles and Apparel, Housing with Interior Design, Child Development, Mindfulness, Nutrition and Cooking, and an introduction to related career fields.

TEXTILES (*)(Fall of Even Years)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This is a multi-level course for all students interested in exploring fabric and fabric arts. Learn how to operate a sewing machine, discover the sources and test the science of fibers, understand how woven fabrics differ from knit fabrics. Other topics may include dye techniques, beading, jewelry, and career options. This is a project based class.

INTRO TO SEWING (*)(Fall of Odd Years)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This is a beginning to intermediate level course for all students interested in sewing and fashion design. Students will learn how to operate the school sewing machines and sew introductory to intermediate level projects. Emphasis will be on refining basic techniques and attention to detail in preparation for more advanced sewing in Fashion Design. Projects will be selected based on skill level and interest.

FASHION DESIGN (*) (*Spring of Even Years*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical or Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Intro to Clothing

Course Description: This is an intermediate to advanced course for all students interested in developing fashion sewing skills. Learn how to use a pattern, choose the correct fabric for your project, and fit a garment. Other topics include elements of design, fashion history, and using croquis. Project choice will be based on skill level and interests.

INTERIOR DESIGN (*) (*Spring of Odd Years*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical or Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course will explore basic housing options and structure, floor planning, traffic flow, and the elements and principles of design as they apply to interior spaces. Other topics may include, creating a project board, history of architectural design, and production of interior decoration, as well as career exploration in the interior design industry.

CULINARY 1

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: FCS is preferred for 9th grade students

Course Description: This course will focus on understanding home and industry kitchen design, recognizing and using cooking tools, basic kitchen safety and sanitation, basic cooking methods, and knife skills. This is a lab based class.

CULINARY 2

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Culinary 1

Course Description: This course will focus on nutrition, developing food selection and shopping decisions, and exploring global cuisines. Students will gain extended knowledge of cooking methods and knife skills learned in Culinary 1, as well as explore new methods and skills. This is a lab based class.

CULINARY 3

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Culinary 2, Instructor approval

Course Description: This course will focus on developing more advanced skills in culinary arts including, food styling, pastries, and investigating food careers. Students will gain extended knowledge of cooking methods and knife skills learned in Culinary 2, as well as explore new methods and skills. This is a lab based class.

CULINARY 4

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Culinary 3, Instructor approval

Course Description: This course will continue to focus on developing more advanced skills in culinary arts. Students will gain extended knowledge of cooking methods and knife skills as well as explore new methods and skills. Students will assist with planning and organizing industry style events. This is a lab based class.

HEALTH

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9 (*Health Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Personal Health & Wellness class will empower students to identify their health risks, to examine their behaviors, and to come up with a plan designed to make health a bigger priority in their lives. Students will become smarter with making their health decisions, more knowledgeable about personal choices, and more active advocates for healthy changes in their community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I & II (*I & II allows for students to take for multiple semesters*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Physical Education Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This required course teaches the importance of practicing a healthy lifestyle. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills in a variety of activities including individual, team, outdoor pursuits, and strength and conditioning. Basic fitness concepts are taught and students work toward improving cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, agility, coordination, flexibility and balance to maintain their fitness levels.

FITNESS & CONDITIONING I & II (*I & II allows for students to take for multiple semesters*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12 (*Physical Education Credit*)

Prerequisite: Physical Education and/or Instructor Approval

Course Description: This course is designed for students who have or want to develop advanced physical strength and personal athletic ability and skills. The foundation of the class is based on physical conditioning, strength building through weight lifting, and advanced skill development in a variety of individual and team activities throughout the year. Students will work to improve and maintain their fitness levels. (Co-Ed)

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING I & II (*I & II allows for students to take for multiple semesters*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12 (*Elective Credit*) *Class can be repeated for credit*

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students an opportunity to participate in both aerobic and strength conditioning through weight training with the emphasis on learning how to develop an individualized program for physical conditioning.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS / TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**CONSTRUCTION TECH 1**

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Construction Technology is a course designed for beginning to intermediate skill levels in basic woodworking. This course is designed to accommodate those who have taken middle school woods classes, as well as those who have no background in woodworking. Students will learn to properly identify and safely operate tools and shop equipment. Class will cover wood classification, joinery, finishes and project planning and design. Students will then build a wood project of their choice.

CONSTRUCTION TECH 2

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Construction Tech 1

Course Description: Construction Technology II is a continuation of Construction Technology I. First quarter of the semester will cover welding. Second quarter students will be able to build a welding project, woods project, or finish the project they started in Construction Technology I. Welding will cover shielded metal-arc welding, wire-feed welding, oxy-acetylene welding, plasma cutting, and oxy-acetylene cutting.

METAL SHAPING AND FABRICATION

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Construction Tech 1 & 2 or instructor approval

Course Description: This course introduces students to fundamental concepts and practical skills in metal shaping and fabrication. Through a combination of theory and hands-on projects, students will learn to safely use tools, design structures, and apply various metalworking techniques.

CUSTOM PRODUCTION

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*) *Class can be repeated for credit*

Prerequisite: Construction 1 & Construction 2

Course Description: Custom Production is an advanced construction class. Students will develop advanced skills in woodworking, welding, design and planning. Students will have the opportunity to complete individual projects of their own choice, as well as participate in school building projects. Students must be self-motivated to succeed in this class.

CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Credit 1.0; Year; Double Period; 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*) *Class can be repeated for credit*

Prerequisite: Instructor approval, Const. Tech 1, 2, and 1 year of Custom Production

Course Description: This is an introductory course designed to teach the basics of carpentry. This class will prepare students for construction work and combine classroom study with hands-on instruction in using tools, handling materials, job-site safety, and overall construction knowledge. Students will build a small shed, as well as partake in any trades-related projects that are identified as projects for the school or community.

ENGINEERING DESIGN 1

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art or Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The class focuses on basic 2D drawings, orthographic drawings, and 3D drawings using AutoCAD software. Students will also learn the basic drawing commands in Torchmate in order to create a project with the CNC. Students will get the opportunity to use the laser engraver, 3D printer, and CNC plasma cutter.

ENGINEERING DESIGN 2

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art or Fine Art Credit*)

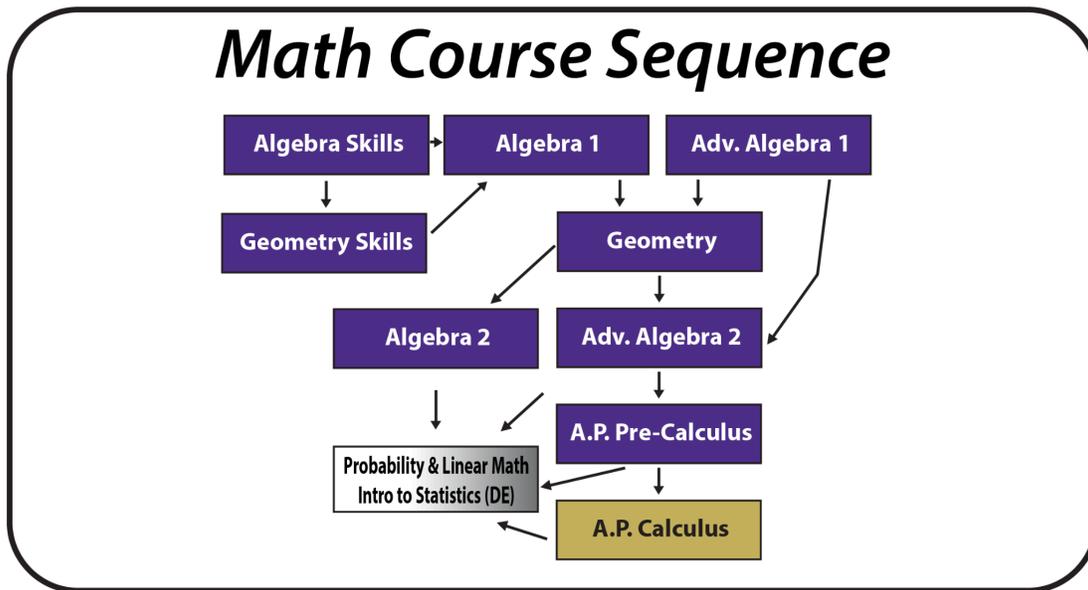
Prerequisite: Engineering Design 1

Course Description: This class introduces students to the engineering profession where they will be creative and solve problems through exercises, activities, and projects. They will use Autodesk CAD programs, to model and apply the design process for a design they will create. Students use the 3D printer and laser engraver and a metal CNC to produce their products. Major Lesson Plan Units 1-Torchmate=Metal CNC project 2-Laser Engraver project 3-3-D printer project 4-Final project=a written tutorial on a complex multiple-step drawing in a Autodesk CAD program.

Two credits of math are required for graduation from PHS; however, the math entrance requirements for the Montana University System are: Three years of mathematics which shall include Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Students are strongly encouraged to take a math course in their senior year.

Placement in math classes is dependent on student’s success in previous math classes and teacher recommendation. Their success is determined by grades and semester final.

Students who are mathematically talented may wish to take 5 credits of math during their high school career. Those students who want to take Calculus will need to take both Geometry and Adv. Algebra 2 concurrently their sophomore year. Students who choose and are accepted to double up will be expected to take math all 4 years of their high school career.



ALGEBRA SKILLS

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10 , 11 ,12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Algebra Skills provides students with necessary algebra skills to be successful in Geometry Skills or Algebra 1. Topics may include simplifying and factoring algebraic expressions, solving equations, graphing lines and solving systems of equations. Students will be expected to complete work in class.

ALGEBRA 1 (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10 , 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to solving equations, systems of equations, inequalities, and graphing on the coordinate plane. Additional topics may include polynomial multiplication, factoring and simplifying rational expressions involving polynomials. Students will use real world applications to develop problem solving skills. They will participate in group work, mathematical explorations, and use computers and graphing calculators where appropriate.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 1 (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval & Placement Test

Course Description: This course includes all of the Algebra 1 topics but will move at a faster pace than regular Algebra 1. Additional topics may include quadratics, radical and rational expressions, and functions. It is the expectation that students who take Advanced Algebra 1 will enroll in Math all 4 years of their high school career.

GEOMETRY SKILLS

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra Skills or Algebra 1

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to plane geometry concepts including angles, congruence, polygons, circles, areas, volumes and right triangle relationships. Geometry Skills is designed to teach and strengthen skills in logical reasoning and apply this approach to practical applications.

GEOMETRY (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or Teacher Approval

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to plane geometry concepts including transformations, angles, congruent polygons, circles, areas, volumes and right triangle trigonometry. Geometry is designed to teach and strengthen skills in logical reasoning and apply this approach to practical applications. Inductive and deductive reasoning skills are emphasized.

ALGEBRA 2 (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1, Geometry & Teacher Approval

Course Description: This is a slower paced version of Adv. Algebra 2 designed for students who need to refine skills from previous courses as well as meet the math requirements for colleges. Students will review basic algebra skills and then study quadratic, polynomial, rational, and logarithmic functions. Other topics include permutations, combinations and probability. Students who excel in Algebra 2 may be allowed to enroll in Pre-Calculus if they pass the proficiency exam for Adv. Algebra 2.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 2 (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1 & Teacher Approval

Course Description: This is a fast-paced class designed to prepare students for further study in mathematics with the anticipated goal of enrolling in Pre-Calculus, and/or A.P. Calculus. It will also meet the math entrance requirements for colleges. Students will do an in-depth study of polynomial, rational, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Other topics may include vectors, sequences and series, and conics. This course is an extension of two successful years of Algebra 1 and Geometry. Students will participate in group work, mathematical explorations and will use graphing utilities where appropriate. **This course is a prerequisite for Pre-calculus.

A.P. PRE-CALCULUS (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 11, 12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2 & Teacher Approval

Course Description: This course provides a deeper study of advanced algebraic concepts with a focus on functions, modeling, and trigonometry. Topics include polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric functions, and introductory limits to prepare for calculus. AP Pre-Calculus is designed to build a

strong mathematical foundation for students planning to continue into AP Calculus or pursue college-level STEM coursework.

A.P. CALCULUS (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 12

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus & Teacher Approval

Course Description: A college-level mathematics course covering limits, derivatives, integrals, early transcendental functions, and real-world applications. Students explore mathematical reasoning, multiple representations, and the use of technology to understand how calculus is used to model change and motion. This course prepares students planning to continue into advanced mathematics, science, or engineering pathways in college.

PROBABILITY & LINEAR MATH (Dual FVCC Enrollment - M115) (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12 (1st Semester)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2, appropriate score on the FVCC Math Placement Test, and teacher approval.

Course Description: Students will understand and apply quantitative concepts and reasoning using numerical data; master the basic concepts of lines, linear systems, matrices and linear programming (graphical method only); understand basic probability concepts: probability models (Venn diagrams, two-way tables) and conditional probability; understand binomial probabilities and probability distributions; perform basic statistics: measures of center and spread and the normal distribution; and apply the concepts listed above to solve application problems (this includes learning to precisely formulate a problem and to interpret solutions). Students in this course will receive 0.5 credits of high school math and 3 Montana University System credits for M115. Tuition costs apply.

INTRO TO STATISTICS (Dual FVCC Enrollment - STAT216) (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12 (2nd Semester)

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Prob. & Linear Math (dual enrollment) or appropriate score on FVCC Math Placement Test, and teacher approval.

Course Description: Graphical methods, measures of location and dispersion, probability, commonly used distributions, estimation, and tests of hypotheses through analysis of variance are introduced. Five major probability distributions are discussed: the binomial, normal, student's t, chi-square, and the F distribution. Students in this course will receive 0.5 credits of high school math and 4 Montana University System credits for STAT216. Tuition costs apply.

COLLEGE ALGEBRA (Dual SKC Enrollment) (*)

Credit .5; Semester; 12 (1st Semester)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Course Description: College Algebra investigates a variety of algebraic techniques, with an emphasis on the ideas and skills necessary to create mathematical models of real world data. Functions as models of change will be represented through geometric, graphic, numeric, symbolic and verbal description and interpretations on linear, quadric, polynomial, rational, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions. Tuition costs may apply.

INTERACTIVE STATISTICS (Dual SKC Enrollment) (*)

Credit .5; Semester; 12 (2nd Semester)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or SKC College Algebra

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to probability models, sampling, descriptive statistics, and statistical inference. Students learn both traditional methods (normal and t-distributions) and simulation approaches while exploring confidence intervals and hypothesis testing for one-sample, two-sample, and paired data. Real-world examples are drawn from the biological and social sciences. This course is designed for students who do not plan to pursue a STEM-focused college major. Tuition costs may apply.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MUSIC

CONCERT BAND

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Band

Course Description: Concert Band is a combination of musical instruction and performance for school, community events. The class is an all-in-one incorporation of marching band, pep band, music appreciation, music history, music theory, aural training, instrumental pedagogy, music technology as well as study and performance of traditional, educational and contemporary wind band literature. The band and student groups also compete and travel for district and state music festivals.

SYMPHONIC BAND

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Concert Band, Audition

Course Description: Symphonic Band is a large ensemble consisting of wind and percussion instruments. This band is open to students, grades 10-12 that have met the requirements of the proficiency playing test and have the approval of the director. Rehearsals are oriented toward the seasonal performance demands of the group. Symphonic band is a combination of musical instruction and performance of school, community and state events. The class is an all-in-one incorporation of marching band, pep band, music appreciation, music history, music theory, aural training, instrumental pedagogy, music technology as well as study and performance of advanced, traditional and contemporary wind band literature. The band and student groups also compete and travel for district and state music festivals. Symphonic Band also may include student opportunities to tour, with funds raised by students.

PERCUSSION

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Middle School Band and Director Approval

Course Description: This class is designed to strengthen student's abilities on a variety of percussion instruments. Counting techniques, stick and mallet control, and ensemble playing will be stressed. Primary emphasis will be on reading musical notation as applied to melodic percussion instruments such as marimba, xylophone, vibraphone, etc. Percussion students will perform at band concerts as an ensemble. They will also assist Concert and Symphonic Band with percussion needs.

CHORALE

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Through this class the student will develop an understanding and application of good vocal technique, tone quality, and musical skills. This class seeks to improve student confidence in singing while increasing the knowledge of basic music reading skills, the ability to interpret/perform music symbols and music of many varied styles.

SELECT CHOIR

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Audition (Grade 9 with Instructor Approval)

Course Description: Throughout this class, singers will learn to adjust the color of their voices and improve their sight-reading skills and understanding of basic music theory. Singers will participate in concerts and festivals throughout the year with some travel involved. Students will increase the speed with which they perform and interpret music symbols and learn to sing in a stylistically correct manner.

CONCERT CHOIR

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Audition (Instructor Approval)

Course Description: Students in this class will develop choral leadership skills through independent and choral singing of advanced choral literature. The Concert Choir travels to different festivals throughout the year and is revered as the top choir among students and faculty in the Polson Schools. Students participate in advanced choral reading and interpretation, sing collegiate level vocal literature, and perform in many styles and languages, often without piano accompaniment.

BEGINNING PIANO & MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Beginning Piano and Music Technology is a one-semester course covering the basics of the instrument and an application of essential music fundamentals. Students will learn the basics of playing piano at a beginning level through the study of music notation, chord symbols, and peer modeling. Students will work on beginner music theory, finger mechanics, rhythm, melody, chords, and building their ears to excel in music. These piano skills will then be applied to music composition, sound recording, editing, and live mixing on a soundboard and various other applications. The main objective of this course is to create an enhanced appreciation for the music through the playing of the piano.

EXPLORATION OF POPULAR MUSIC

Credit 0.5; Semester or Year: 9,10,11,12 (*Fine Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course examines popular music from the **1900s through 2020**, and how that music connected with the time period. Through discussions, projects, and activities we will learn: what styles of music were popular during the decade, popular artists songs, what was going on in the world and our country during each decade, how people listened to music, the fashion of each decade, inventions and other firsts of each decade, and how music connects to your life.

EARTH SCIENCE (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This is an activity oriented science course focusing on the earth. Students will investigate such topics as; the earth's rocks and minerals, landforms, erosional processes, history, climate, weather, oceans and resources. Earth's place in the universe - its galaxies, stars, and planets, will also be explored.

BIOLOGY (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9*, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Earth Science

Course Description: Biology is the study of life. Various living systems will be covered from an environmental, cellular and evolutionary perspective. Also included will be cell reproduction, molecular biology and genetics. There will be an emphasis on problem solving and application of the scientific method as we explore these topics.

CHEMISTRY (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Biology & Algebra 1

Course Description: Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure, and properties of matter, as well as the changes that occur in matter. Units will include atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, ionic and molecular compounds, nomenclature, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gases, liquids and aqueous solutions, thermochemistry, chemical kinetics, acids and bases, electrochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. This college-preparatory course will include the completion of weekly laboratory experiments.

PHYSICS (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 11, 12

Prerequisite: Chemistry

Course Description: The course curriculum will cover the following fields of study: (1) Mechanics, which involves motion, forces, momentum, energy, and gravitation; (2) Wave Physics, which includes sound, light, and other wave-related phenomena; (3) Electromagnetism, which investigates electricity, simple circuits, and magnetism; and (4) Modern Physics, which includes relativity and quantum mechanics. Students will engage in mathematical problem-solving activities and numerous laboratory investigations throughout the course.

ASTRONOMY 1 (*) (Fall of 2025-2026)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Earth Science, Current Biology Enrollment or Completion

Course Description: What is space like? How can humans go there? In this class, students will look at what steps are taken so that humans can go to and survive in space. How do we learn about objects in space that are unfathomably far away? This course will explore how astronomers learn about space by using gravity, light, telescopes and observatories. Finally, students will develop a fundamental understanding of stars.

ASTRONOMY 2 (*) (Fall of 2026-2027)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Earth Science, Current Biology Enrollment or Completion

Course Description: Black holes, colliding galaxies, Cosmology, these are huge objects and huge ideas. Students will learn about the formation and impact of these objects. The Earth is a unique planet. How do we use Earth to learn about other planets in our solar system? What about planets that orbit other stars? Is there

any type of life somewhere other than Earth? How do we find out? Robotic spacecraft are powerful tools to answer many of these questions, students will explore these spacecraft.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Earth Science, Current Biology Enrollment or Completion

Course Description: Students in this class will explore the resources on Earth and the importance each resource has for humans. Scientists know that many of these resources are finite. Scientists also know that human actions can affect these resources. In this class students will look at the human causes and effects of resource management on Earth. Students will also look at what can be done to maintain and sustain the resources on Earth while still meeting the human demand for those resources.

FORENSIC SCIENCE (*) *(Offered Fall and Spring of 2026-2027)*

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12

Prerequisite: Biology, Current Chemistry Enrollment or Completion

Course Description: Forensics is the science of solving crimes. Students will learn and apply scientific techniques and interviewing skills to establish motives, collect circumstantial evidence, identify trace materials, and match identifies. Topics will include fingerprinting, DNA analysis, hair and fiber comparisons, blood spatter, toxicology, anthropology, entomology, ballistics, medical examination, crime scene investigation, and much more.

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY 1(*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 12

Prerequisite: Biology, Current Chemistry Enrollment or Completion

Course Description: Physiology will include a comprehensive study of the skeletal system and the muscular system of the human body. Other systems of the body will be covered as special topics of discussion on a weekly basis. The course will conclude with a dissection and comparative analysis of fetal pig anatomy.

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY 2 (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 12

Prerequisite: Anatomy & Physiology 1

Course Description: This course will cover topics that include the normal response of a human body to exercise. The students will study how a body responds to strenuous activity, how muscles, blood circulation, breathing and body heat are affected. How training and diet can enhance these responses by your body will also be covered. This class will also cover basic first aid along with athletic injuries and prevention of these injuries.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL STUDIES

Required classes Junior year: Full year of US History OR AP US History

U.S. HISTORY (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: U.S. History covers the establishment of colonies in North America to modern times. The course includes such topics as the English heritage, independence, formation of the U.S. Constitution, manifest destiny, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction, the Gilded and Progressive Era, both World Wars, the Cold War Vietnam and culminating in the unprecedented developments brought on by the September 11th terrorist attacks. This course will make use of various primary documents, textbook readings, videos and class discussions.

A.P. U.S. HISTORY (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 11

Prerequisite: Application Process *Must be taken with A.P. Literature & Composition*

Course Description: This year-long class will help students improve their ability to critically evaluate scholarly work and methods in the field of American History. The AP US History curriculum will reflect national standards for college-level work in order to prepare students to take the AP US History Exam in the spring. Students must be prepared for a rigorous course with a strong emphasis on reading and writing. Students must submit an application and receive departmental approval. Exceptions to the GPA requirement will be made on an individual basis.

Required classes Senior Year: Government and Economics OR AP Government

GOVERNMENT (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course will foster a depth of knowledge requisite of a citizen in a free society. With that title comes the various rights and responsibilities that this course explores through such foundational documents as the United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence and others. Through reading, writing, and discussion students will interrogate the philosophical and historical foundations of American government with a particular focus on the national and tribal levels. Foundational understandings such as limited government, ordered liberty, and natural rights will permeate every unit of the course. This course will make use of current events to explore the more tangible and immediate applications of the aforementioned subjects.

ECONOMICS (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of the important relationships of economics to our social and political system. The course emphasizes the philosophy, development, and operation of our American economic system and its important influence upon the individual and society. With an emphasis on entrepreneurship and personal finance students will apply concepts in class to the real world through various assignments and projects.

A.P. GOVERNMENT (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 12

Prerequisite: Application Process, U.S. History

Course Description: AP Government and Politics follows the curriculum set forth by the College Board. The course work is divided into five units, fifteen required United States Supreme Court cases, and nine foundational documents. Students taking this course can be expected to take the national exam in the spring of each year. That test consists of multiple choice questions, free response questions and an argumentative essay. Therefore, course work will assess students on both depth of knowledge and writing skills following the rubrics set forth by the College Board. Successful completion of AP Government fulfills the district's graduation requirements for Government and Economics.

The following Elective classes fulfill the Montana University system Global requirement:

A.P. WORLD HISTORY (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: This year-long class will investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

GLOBAL HISTORY (OF THE 20TH CENTURY) (*)

Credit 1; grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The first half of this class will examine the political, social, economic, effects of major 20th century world events such as World War I, The Great Depression and World War II. The second half of the course will examine the roots, course, and results of the Cold War and decolonization in the latter half of the Twentieth Century. Students will examine issues such as the space race, espionage, nuclear weapons, economics, and civil rights to gain an understanding of the continuing impact of this century on today's world.

GLOBAL ISSUES (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Global Issues is a yearlong elective that promotes a global mindset through research and reflection on current circumstances and conditions around the world. Students explore global challenges, enhance geographical literacy, developing critical thinking skills with a deeper sense of awareness of their role in the world today.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY (*)

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: World Geography is concerned with the physical and cultural realities of our world. A study of geography begins with knowing where things are located on a map. More importantly, geography requires a knowledge of why things are located in particular places and how those places influence our lives. To provide a framework for such questions, students will investigate the following themes—earth, water, sky, life forms, human population, gender, race, language, culture, religion, politics, economy, resources and impacts. By using these themes as a basis for understanding geographic information, students will gain a better appreciation of cultural and environmental differences around the world.

WESTERN CIVILIZATION 1 (Dual FVCC Enrollment) (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12

Prerequisite: Completion of the COMPASS test and teacher approval

Course Description: Prehistoric days to the mid-15th century, with emphasis on the political, social, cultural, and economic aspects of the great civilizations of the earlier period, and the revolutions in politics, commerce, industry and science which ushered in the modern era. Tuition costs do apply.

WESTERN CIVILIZATION 2 (Dual FVCC Enrollment) (*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12

Prerequisite: Completion of Western Civilization 1, COMPASS test and teacher approval

Course Description: Early modern period to the present with emphasis on the rise of national systems, and the on-going revolutions in Western Civilization with attendant philosophic, economic and political conflicts and influences. Tuition costs will apply.

Other Electives:**PSYCHOLOGY I (*)**

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11 and 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In Psychology, students will explore introductory topics such as: learning, memory, sensation and perception, personality, life-span development, physiological basis of behavior, stress and health, psychological disorders, social psychology, and research methods.

A number of special courses or programs are available to students. All require prior approval to register for them. Some qualify for graduation credit; others do not. Advanced Studies, Special Education Assistant, Independent Study, School to Work and LINK receive high school credit. Office aides and library aides do not receive credit.

AVID ELECTIVE

Credit 1.0; Year; 9, 10, 11 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Course Description: Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success, and it is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum provided by AVID Center, tutor-facilitated study groups, strengthen metacognitive development, analytical reading and writing, communication skills, and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. Students will increase awareness of their personal contributions to their learning, as well as their involvement in their school and community. Students will prepare for and participate in college entrance and placement exams, while refining study skills and test-taking, note-taking, and research techniques.

EDUCATION OCCUPATIONS INTERNSHIP

Credit 1.0; Year; 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The primary goal of the Polson Education Occupations Internship program is to provide motivated students, interested in pursuing a career in education, a perfunctory introduction into PK, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education. This class consists of a dual credit program in collaboration with Flathead Valley Community College. Some career paths might consist of but are not limited to pre-kindergarten teacher, elementary teacher, middle and high school teacher, school counselor, support staff, administration, and professorships.

Fall Semester: FVCC EDU 101 - Teaching and Learning (3 credits): A critical analysis of public education and the role of classroom teachers in today's public schools. This course examines how public schools developed and changed over the last 100 years and how teachers' roles have evolved accordingly. Current challenges facing teachers, societal expectations of teachers and public schools, as well as the expectations of teacher candidates and teachers are discussed.

Spring Semester: PRACTICUM: Students will participate in observation and practical experience in specific classrooms under the guidance of a cooperating teacher or staff member. Students will use what they learned in EDU 101 and apply it in the classroom from January to May. Following the practical experience, a culminating project will be required.

INTRO TO HEALTH CAREERS (Dual Enrollment)

Credit .5; Year; 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is designed for any student who may be interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. This course will introduce and explore the wide spectrum of healthcare occupations. Students will understand the knowledge and skills that will allow them to pursue an education and future career.

LEADERSHIP & LITERACY

Credit: 1.0; Year; 10, 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Leadership & Literacy is a year-long course designed for students interested in education, leadership, and working with young learners. Students will explore the science of reading and evidence-based literacy practices while developing foundational skills for teaching and supporting children's language and literacy development. The course includes hands-on experiences such as collaboration with Cherry Valley Elementary School, planning and delivering literacy activities, practicing effective instructional strategies, and strengthening communication and leadership skills. Emphasis is placed on social-emotional learning, relationship-building, and culturally responsive instruction. This course is ideal for students considering careers in education, childcare, or social services. Dual enrollment credit through Flathead Valley Community College may be available.

OFFICE AIDE ~ (NO CREDIT)

Credit 0.0; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Office Staff Approval

Course Description: This program is designed for the student who wishes to learn the skills involved in the day to day operation of a professional office environment. These skills include: the exercise of communication skills in person and telephonically with students, parents, teachers and the general public, assisting in the keeping of accurate records dealing with all facets of attendance, the development of positive relationships with co-workers, hone character traits of punctuality, dependability and trustworthiness and develop skills on a variety of office machines. ** No Credit **

LIBRARY AIDE ~ (NO CREDIT)

Credit 0.0; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Library Staff Approval

Course Description: Students who would like to learn more about the library and are interested in working with students and staff should apply. Library aides assist the library staff with many essential tasks. Everyday duties include re-shelving books and magazines, stocking supplies, operating the copiers and printers, and completing various tasks assigned by the library staff. Punctuality, dependability and communication skills are encouraged and developed in this position. **No Credit**

SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT I & II (*I & II allows for students to take for multiple semesters*)

Credit 0.5 or 1.0; Semester or Year; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Elective Credit*)

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Course Description: Do you like to laugh and have fun? Do you like helping others? Are interested in Education, Childcare, Psychology, or Medical fields? Then this is the class for you. As an assistant you will be working with high school special education students, who have disabilities, helping them with Reading, Writing, Math, Science, PE, elective classes, school and community jobs, Special Olympics, Life Skills curriculum, and so much more. Due to each class period having different requirements you may elect to work more than one class period and still earn credit. To earn credit in your first semester you will complete an independent study course to learn about the students you are working with, write a paper, treat the class as a professional opportunity, keep confidential all sensitive material you may be exposed to, be punctual and dependable, be courteous, cooperative and willing to assist the teacher and Paraprofessionals, and follow all rules of the classroom. After your first semester, you will write a paper or create a lesson plan, treat the class as a professional opportunity, keep confidential all sensitive material you may be exposed to, be punctual and dependable, be courteous, cooperative and will to assist the teacher and Paraprofessionals, and follow the rules of the classroom. Students, who do not need the credit, may choose to use it as a SERVE project.

MTDA (MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY) *Original Credit Courses

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Credit varies based on completed course*)

Prerequisite: Counselor Approval

Course Description: The Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) provides innovative online coursework to Montana's K-12 students 24 hours a day 7 days a week. MTDA offers many online high school courses ranging from core subject areas to unique electives. The courses are delivered via the Internet and are available to students throughout the entire state of Montana. Course content is taught by Montana-licensed, qualified instructors and aligned to state educational standards, including Indian Education for All. MTDA will provide the final course grades and PHS will grant credit to students passing with at least a 60%. MTDA original credit courses may be used to meet Honors Curriculum requirements with counselor approval. *MTDA course fees may apply.

ALTERNATIVE ED (EDMENTUM) *Credit Recovery Courses

Credit 0.5; Semester; 10, 11, 12 (*Credit varies based on completed course*)

Prerequisite: Counselor Placement Only

Course Description: Students who fail required classes will receive a recommendation from their classroom teacher as to whether they should retake the class or enroll in credit recovery. Students who have been recommended by their classroom teacher to attend credit recovery need to first meet with their counselor for a referral to the program. Credit recovery must be completed in the credit recovery classroom. When scheduled in a credit recovery class, students are expected to complete the coursework within the Semester. Adequate weekly progress is a requirement for continued enrollment in credit recovery. Classes not completed during the term will not receive credit and must be started over the following term.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12 (*Credit varies based on completed course*)

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: Independent Study allows students to go beyond the regular course of study under the supervision of a faculty member. A student may be scheduled into Independent Study to do advanced work on a project, to work in specialty areas, such as shops or labs, to receive advanced training in a particular field, or to do academic research. Students must have semester grades of a "B" or better in related courses and submit an Independent Study Plan for approval.

LEADERSHIP I & II (*I & II allows for students to take for multiple semesters*)

Credit 0.5 or 1.0; Semester or Year; 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*)

Prerequisite: Admittance into LINK program

Course Description: This lab type course is designed to give students leadership experience in planning and carrying out student body activities for the year. Students will be assigned small groups of freshmen to mentor throughout the school year and be responsible for planning homecoming activities, assemblies, and activities designed to promote school spirit and communication between students, staff and community. Direct instruction in leadership pertaining to leadership techniques, team building, publicity, program planning, budget procedures, discussion, speaking and listening skills will take place.

SCHOOL TO WORK I & II (*I & II allows for students to take for multiple semesters*)

Credit 0.5; Semester; 11, 12 (*Elective Credit*) *Class can be repeated for credit*

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The School to Work Program provides students with hands-on experiences that enhance their learning and assist them in developing professional work-place skills. By connecting the classroom to the “real world”, this program also helps students explore their skills and abilities in the context of career options. Students are required to complete a minimum of 90 hours of work experience during the term and complete all of the requisite paperwork including weekly time logs. The expectation is that a student remains employed throughout the duration of the semester.

CAREER EXPLORATION & CERTIFICATION

Credit 0.5 or 1.0; Semester or Year; 11, 12 (Credit varies based on Learning Plan)

Prerequisite: Application Process & Instructor Approval

Course Description: Career Exploration & Certification is a personalized learning course that allows students to explore career interests while earning industry-recognized certifications through certification coursework and/or participating in internships, apprenticeships, or other Work-Based Learning experiences. The course is designed to meet each student's individual needs and goals and supports multiple post-secondary pathways, including college, workforce, and technical training. Students will develop an individualized learning plan in collaboration with school staff and community mentors, and the course is structured as an outcomes-based learning experience that may include a combination of independent study, certification coursework, and work-based learning. Students must submit a Learning Plan for approval.

JUNIOR RELEASE (NO CREDIT)

Credit 0.0; Semester; 11

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: Juniors who have attained 11 credits, are passing all classes, have completed the required application, and have parental permission may register for Junior Release for a maximum of 1 period. Junior Release will only be allowed during period 7. Junior release may be taken during period 6 if the student is in an early bird course. Students granted Junior Release are expected to leave campus. Those who do not do this or utilize an appropriate study area (library) will lose their Junior Release and be placed in a study support. **No Credit**

SENIOR RELEASE (NO CREDIT)

Credit 0.0; Semester; 12

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: Seniors who have attained 17 credits, are passing, all classes, have completed the required application, and have parental permission may register for Senior Release for a maximum of 2 periods. There is no guarantee that students will be granted Senior Release during the period(s) they request. Senior Release will only be allowed during periods 1&7 or 6&7. Students granted Senior Release are expected to leave campus. Those who do not do this or utilize an appropriate study area (library) will lose their Senior Release and be placed in a study support. **No Credit**

SERVE PROJECTS (NO CREDIT)

Credit 0.0; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: SERVE Projects are an excellent way to get involved, to help others, and to address community needs. When applying for jobs, colleges, and scholarships, it is helpful to have documented volunteering experience. In order to officially complete a SERVE project and to have volunteer hours listed on their PHS transcript, students must identify a community need or find an organization in need of volunteers, submit a SERVE Project Proposal on the PHS website, volunteer and document at least 20 hours, and type up and submit a reflection about their experience. More information is available in the PHS Counseling Office.

****No Credit****

CORRESPONDENCE STUDY

Credit 0.5; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Credit varies based on completed course*)

Prerequisite: Application Process

Course Description: A Student may apply two credits of correspondence study from an accredited school toward graduation requirements. Correspondence credit may be used to meet distinction requirements with counselor approval or to meet eligibility requirements for activities and athletics. Students completing three college credits will be granted .5 credit toward graduation.

STUDY SUPPORT I & II (NO CREDIT) (*I & II allows for students to take for multiple semesters*)

Credit 0.0; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Study supports allow students to have a period during their schedule to focus on daily assignments and classwork.

DENTAL OCCUPATIONS INTERNSHIP

Credit 1.0; Summer; 11, 12 (*Practical Art Credit*) (**Dual SKC Enrollment**) (*)

Prerequisite: Application/Interview Process

Course Description: Students who participate in the Dental Occupation Internship will learn basic entry level skills needed to work as a chairside assistant. Some of these skills include basic dental anatomy, disinfection and sterilization techniques, transferring instruments, oral hygiene instruction, how to assist with a variety of dental procedures, taking x-rays, taking impressions, pouring and trimming study models. At the completion of the course a student will have the basic skills to qualify as an entry level dental assistant.

BLUE BAY CULTURAL ENCAMPMENT (SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY) JULY 7-10, 2026

Credit 1.0; Summer; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*General Elective Credit*)

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Course Description: CSKT Tribal Education - Project Aware will be hosting a summer cultural encampment for students who reside on the Flathead Reservation. Students who participate will experience activities such as traditional tool making, fish traps, fire making, traditional games, beading, hide tanning, doll construction, tipi construction, plant identification, stick game, traditional clothing construction, water quality sampling, tribal fisheries, basket making, cedar bark, and learn language and stories with tribal elders.

The World Language Program is designed to develop student proficiency in a second language. Students may earn the Montana State Seal of Biliteracy on their transcript and diploma if they pass a language proficiency test (the STAMP test) as a junior or senior. Students who complete four years of second language study will receive the Jose Martí Award and be eligible for the Humanities Distinction at graduation.

SPANISH 1 (*)

Credit 1.0; Semester; 9, 10, 11, 12 (*Elective Credit*)

Prerequisite: none

Course Description: The first year of Spanish covers the basic skills of language learning: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Emphasis is on understanding the sounds, vocabulary, grammar, and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will become familiar with the useful, everyday language associated with likes and dislikes, interests and hobbies, school, sports, recreation, family, food, etc. They will acquire the elementary listening, reading, writing and speaking skills necessary to understand and express related ideas on these subjects. Students will strive for a performance proficiency rating of Intermediate Low by the end of the year. Recommended passing grade in previous English class.

SPANISH 2 (*)

Credit 1.0; Semester; 10, 11, 12 (*Elective Credit*)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

Course Description: The second year course is a continuation of Spanish I with a deeper emphasis on all four language skills using a variety of formats to introduce new vocabulary, grammar, and culture. Students will become familiar with the useful, everyday language associated with summer and winter activities, festivals, health, and topics of cultural interest such as movies, stories, environmental science, and art. They will be able to communicate about a variety of topics in the present and past tenses. Students will strive for a performance proficiency rating of Intermediate Mid by the end of the year. Recommended 70% or better in all assessment categories in Spanish 1 (tests/quizzes, boletos, projects/classwork, and diligence).

SPANISH 3 (*)

Credit 1.0; Semester; 11, 12 (*Elective Credit*)

Prerequisite: Spanish 2, Instructor Approval

Course Description: Students are expected to demonstrate advanced ability in all four language skills. Course work will include a variety of resources, including cultural topics, short novellas, short stories, poetry, art, Spanish-language films, plays, and current news media. Students will strive for a performance proficiency rating of Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High by the end of the year. Recommended 70% or better in all assessment categories in Spanish 2 (tests/quizzes, boletos, projects/classwork, and diligence), teacher recommendation.

SPANISH 4 (*)

Credit 1.0; Semester; 12 (*Elective Credit*)

Prerequisite: Spanish 3, Instructor Approval

Course Description: Continuation of Spanish 3 curriculum. Course work includes a variety of resources centered on various cultural topics, including advanced reading, listening, and discussion material, excerpts from various literature and poetry, art, Spanish-language films, plays, current news media, and other authentic materials. Students will strive for a performance proficiency rating of Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High by the end of the year.