



SLHS 9th GRADE COURSE SELECTION OPTIONS

Required Freshmen Courses:

- ENGLISH 9 (1 credit): ENGLISH OR HONORS ENGLISH
- 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY (1 credit)
- BIOLOGY (1 credit)
- MATH (1 credit): ALGEBRA 1, GEOMETRY* OR ALGEBRA 2*

Elective Choices Open to Freshmen:

Applied, Visual, & Performing Arts options

Performing Arts

Drama (.5 credit)

Music

Piano Lab (.5 credit)

Symphonic Band* (1 credit)

Wind Ensemble* (1 credit)

Women's Chorus (1 credit)

Men's Chorus (1 credit)

Women's Chamber Choir* (1 credit)

Art

Fundamentals of Art (.5 credit)

Ceramics (.5 credit)

Drawing (.5 credit)

Painting (.5 credit)

Business and Computers

Desktop Publishing (.5 credit)

Digital Imaging and Multi Media Computing (.5 credit)

Introduction to Business (.5 credit)

MS User: *Word Processing, Excel, PowerPoint and Access* (.5 credit)

Visual Basic I*: *Beginning computer programming* (.5 credit)

Design and Technology

Modern Technology (.5 credit)

Electronics & Controls* (.5 credit)

Engineering Projects* (.5 credit)

Robotics & Automation* (.5 credit)

Technical Drawing/CAD (1 credit)

World Language options

Chinese 2* (1 credit)

German 1 (1 credit)

Japanese 1 (1 credit)

Spanish 1 (1 credit)

Spanish 2* (1 credit)

Health & PE options

☞ Foundations of Health & PE (.5 CR)

☞ Healthy Life Habits* (.5 credit)

English options (aside from English 9)

Journalism (1 credit)

☞ **Required for graduation**

***Has a prerequisite**

Freshman Course Options

Applied, Visual & Performing Arts:

Performing Arts

DRAMA

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Students will learn basic acting, speaking and improvisational skills, as well as techniques for speaking in front of others to gain poise. Students will study various forms of dramatic productions and perform skits in class. Students will be required to see the SLHS main stage production if they are not part of the cast or crew.

Music

PIANO LAB

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

No prerequisite. With instructor's permission, this course may be repeated for credit.

Piano Lab is an individualized beginning piano class for students who wish to learn how to read music. Students begin with basic notation and work toward the use of two hands. Keyboards and pianos will be available for student use during school hours and on a limited basis after school. Students do not need a keyboard or piano at home to be successful in this course. Some performance outside of class may be necessary later in the semester.

SYMPHONIC BAND

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Middle School Band or audition

Symphonic Band is open to all students who want to continue their study of instrumental music. While the overall goal is to develop comprehensive musicianship through performance of quality musical literature, the class will focus on building the techniques that are necessary to play a musical instrument well, individually and as a part of a larger performance. Symphonic Band students will participate in four to five concerts throughout the school year.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Audition Required

Wind Ensemble is the most advanced instrumental ensemble. It is open by audition only and is very competitive. Music performed in this ensemble is only of the highest quality and is quite challenging. Application of learned musicianship skills is practiced every day. Expectations are very high; good attitude and dedication are necessities. Auditions for this ensemble will be held in the spring and will include all major scales from memory, chromatic scale and sight-reading.

WOMEN'S CHORUS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisites: None

Students of all ability levels are welcome in this non-auditioned female choir. The concentration of the class is on building vocal technique and skill in singing. Students will study a broad range of music; learn basic sight-reading skills, and introductory music theory and history. Students will participate in all home concerts, festivals and local events.

MEN'S CHORUS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: None

Students of all ability levels are welcome in this non-auditioned male choir. The concentration of the class is on building vocal technique and skill in singing. Students will study a broad range of music; learn basic sight-reading skills, and introductory

music theory and history. Students will participate in all home concerts, festivals and local events.

WOMEN'S CHAMBER CHOIR

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 semesters (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Audition Required

Chamber Choir is open to female students by audition only. The Chamber Choir will perform medium to advanced levels of choral literature and develop comprehensive musicianship. Students will be expected to prepare their music at a high level and should be extremely dedicated and self-motivated in their music-making. Private lessons are highly recommended for members of this ensemble. Students will participate in all home concerts, festivals and local events. Auditions for this ensemble occur in the spring.

Art

FUNDAMENTALS OF ART

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester each (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: None

This course affords students the opportunity to learn the language of design. Emphasis will be on the use of various media to effectively communicate the elements and principles of design. Both courses will provide foundation skills for students who plan to enroll in other studio art courses.

CERAMICS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

This class focuses on traditional and alternative methods for constructing clay vessels, with an emphasis on developing craftsmanship. Students will be introduced to hand-building, the potter's wheel and glazing techniques.

DRAWING

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Students will explore the foundations of drawing in a two-dimensional studio setting. The course will emphasize foundational drawing skills and techniques as well as introduction to various media. The focus will be to use drawing media to strengthen visual communication skills.

PAINTING

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Students will explore the foundations of painting in a two-dimensional studio setting. The course will emphasize foundational painting skills and techniques as well as introduction to various media. The focus will be to use painting media to strengthen visual communication skills.

Business

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Desktop Publishing is increasingly prevalent in our high-tech society. In this class, students will learn the fundamentals of graphic design and will use Adobe InDesign to do a variety of projects. Students will create flyers, brochures, newspapers, posters, magazine covers, CD case inserts, games, books and more. Good keyboarding skills are strongly recommended.

DIGITAL IMAGING AND MULTI MEDIA COMPUTING

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Students will gain hands-on experience and a solid understanding of sophisticated software and peripherals as they learn to

produce a variety of computer images. They will also learn to integrate video, text, audio and graphics to deliver superior interactive presentations and web pages.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Students will gain a general understanding of business, with emphasis on personal finance concepts. Students will develop an understanding of how our economy works and the opportunities available to us in the Free Enterprise System. In addition to the various aspects of the business world, topics will include: The New York Stock Exchange, Stocks and Bonds, Savings, Investments, Risk Management, The Banking System, Managing a Checking Account, and Credit-How to get it, Keep it and Manage it.

MS USER: WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT AND ACCESS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Students who complete this course will be prepared for success on the MOUS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access certification tests that are given at area test centers. Whether in the job market or in education, students who hold MOUS certification gain significant advantages over their non-certified competitors. Good keyboarding skills are important in this course.

VISUAL BASIC I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

This course may be taken as the 12th grade Mathematics experience.

This is an introductory level course designed to familiarize students with beginning concepts and skills in computer programming. This course incorporates experience with the VISUAL BASIC language. During the course, students are exposed to programming language, procedures, design, and problem solving. Students are expected to work independently and demonstrate their problem solving skills through the use of computer operation and program planning. Students are engaged in proficient demonstration of their skills by constructing appropriate algorithms and code for computer-assisted problem solving.

Design and Technology

ELECTRONICS & CONTROL

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Modern Technologies

This course may be counted as a 12th grade Mathematics experience.

The Electronics and Control class will provide each student with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in electronics and associated applications, enabling him/her to successfully enter this exciting and constantly changing career field. Students will be exposed to fundamental electronics and associated control concepts. The operation of components such as batteries, switches, resistors, potentiometers, LEDs, capacitors, logic gates, solenoids and relays will be examined. Also covered in this course is bread boarding, soldering, use of hand tools, and the proper usage of a wide array of testing equipment. Project based instruction will provide the student with opportunities to take part in extensive hands-on group and individual laboratory activities.

MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

The Modern Technologies class is designed so that students can blend the creative design process with realistic problem solving activities, giving them an opportunity to fully realize ideas. Students will discover their place on the engineering team

and determine if their aptitudes and interests are in the realm of the scientist, the engineer, the technician, or the craftsman. The course will cover the engineering team; the process of design; technical communications; materials science; modeling processes and prototyping; and realistic design projects. Projects relating to several engineering fields are included so students can experience different roles within the team and advance their career awareness and direction.

ENGINEERING PROJECTS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Modern Technologies

This course may be counted as a 12th grade Mathematics experience.

The Engineering Projects class builds on skills taught in the Modern Technologies with emphasis on designing and implementing a student project. Students will be able to fully realize their ideas by blending the creative design process with realistic problem-solving activities. Students will continue to develop their technological problem solving skills as they work with structural, mechanical, electrical and computer-control activities. To encourage creativity, most assignments are open-ended and range from instructor-planned to student-generated, with students gradually assuming more control over projects as the course progresses. Each student's final project will be based on personal interests and will incorporate problem-finding, as well as problem solving.

ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Modern Technologies

This course may be counted as a 12th grade Mathematics experience.

The Robotics and Automation class introduces concepts that will allow students to function productively in industrial automation both from an applications (engineering) position, as well as a service (maintenance) type position. Students use robotics with programmable controllers, as well as conventional control systems to solve problems in an industrial flexible manufacturing laboratory. The Robotics curriculum trains students on various types of electrical equipment, such as DC and AC motors, transformers, state-of-the-art test equipment, computer-based robot control, and programmable logic controllers. Troubleshooting hardware and software systems of an automated system, along with concepts of how the two are integrated are important parts of the training.

TECHNICAL DRAWING/CAD

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters (*Will count toward the Visual, Applied and Performing Arts graduation requirement*)

Prerequisite: Algebra I (may be concurrent)

Technical Drawing/CAD is recommended for students interested in engineering, technical drawing, animation, graphic design, architecture, interior design or any of the construction or manufacturing areas. At some point in our lives all of us will need the ability to communicate an idea graphically. This course presents the various basic fundamentals of drafting and computer-aided drawing (CAD). Areas covered are: sketching, use of drawing equipment, sectional views, 3D pictorials, and dimensioning. Students will complete drawings using both traditional instruments and Auto Cad software. Employability skills are emphasized. This course and the succeeding courses show relevant math tie-ins and real life application of math principles.

Physical Education

FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (***Required for graduation***)

Students are introduced to health and fitness concepts through a unique combination of classroom and physical education

facilities. What is learned in the classroom is experienced through various fitness, swimming and cardiovascular fitness. Students become aware that decisions they make about their health affect them today and the rest of their lives. At the conclusion of the class, students will use data collected and information learned to begin to develop a personal fitness program.

HEALTHY LIFE HABITS

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Semester (*Required for graduation*)

Prerequisite: Foundations of Health and PE

Students will apply the information learned in Foundations of Health and Physical Education to write, implement and evaluate a personal fitness program. Pre-fitness assessments will determine short and long-term goals. The students will be active primarily in the Fitness Center but will also participate in other facilities in the physical education area. Data logs will be maintained as students track their progress. Post-fitness assessments will be performed at the end of the semester to evaluate success in the fitness program. The class also includes CPR certification.

World Languages

CHINESE 2

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Chinese 1

Chinese II continues to introduce students to the Chinese language and culture. The emphasis is placed on developing authentic communication in Chinese relating to everyday topics such as weather, clothing, school, transportation and food. Instruction and assessment will be aligned to district, state and national world language standards. Reading and writing instruction will focus on simplified Chinese characters.

GERMAN 1

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Motivation, a strong work ethic, an interest in and an acceptance of cultural diversity.

This course is an introduction to the German language through the development of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. German culture, history and contemporary life are also examined.

SPANISH 1

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Motivation, a strong work ethic and interest in and an acceptance of cultural diversity.

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language through the development of the four basic language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Hispanic culture, history and contemporary life are also examined.

SPANISH 2

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 or approval of instructor

Fundamentals learned in Spanish 1 are reviewed and developed with the same emphasis on listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will further examine the culture, history and contemporary life of Spanish speaking people.

JAPANESE 1

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: An interest in non-Western cultures, motivation, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to try chopsticks.

This course is an introduction to the Japanese language and culture. Students will learn to read and write the two phonetic scripts and develop basic oral communication skills in formal Japanese through dialogues and role playing activities. By examining the history, culture and contemporary life of Japan, you will gain an appreciation of this fascinating Asian nation.

English

ENGLISH 9

Grade 9

2 Semesters (***Required for graduation***)

Students will develop literature, public speaking, language, and composition skills by exploring major literary themes in a variety of genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama). Themes include: Reality Perception, Relationships, Expectations and Turning Points. Particular emphasis is placed on student's ability to draw conclusions and support their opinions. A personal and analytical composition is required for each major theme examined. Students are introduced to current research techniques. At least one Shakespearean play is read.

ENGLISH 9 HONORS

Grade 9

2 Semesters (***Meets the English 9 graduation requirement***)

Students will develop literature, public speaking, language, and composition skills by exploring major literary themes in a variety of genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama). Themes include: Reality perception, Relationships, Expectations and Turning Points. Particular emphasis is placed on student's ability to read a variety of selections on a related theme, draw conclusions and support their opinions. A personal and analytical composition is required for each major theme examined. Students are introduced to current research techniques. At least one Shakespearean play is read. Students will be assigned reading, writing and research not required in the regular English 9 class.

Current English teachers should approve this selection.

JOURNALISM

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters

Meets the English 12 requirement.

This is a course for students who like to write! It emphasizes journalistic writing styles and skills necessary in publication production. Students will practice interviewing techniques and editing skills as they write news stories, features, sports stories, editorials and reviews. They will also examine the role of the press, journalistic law and ethics, in addition to learning such production skills as copy reading, headline writing, page design, typography, photography, and advertising. This course prepares students to work on the school yearbook. While it is open to seniors, students interested in journalism are advised to elect it before their senior year so they may advance to work on a publication.

Mathematics

ALGEBRA 1

Grade 9

2 Semesters (***Required for graduation***)

Algebra 1 is a high school graduation requirement that begins to build the comprehensive mathematical knowledge base students need to move on to higher-level mathematics courses. This course is rich with mathematical investigations and applications that encourage exploration of number systems, number sense, data, patterns, and relationships. There is also an introduction to geometry, data analysis, discrete mathematics, and statistics.

GEOMETRY

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters (***Required for graduation***)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

In this course, students explore geometric concepts analytically, inductively, and finally deductively, after learning

definitions, properties of congruencies, and postulates of geometry. Students will practice algebra skills independently and in applications to geometric figures. Concepts covered include mathematical reasoning, geometric figures and properties, and transformations.

ALGEBRA 2

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

2 Semesters (*Required for graduation*)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 & Geometry

This is a preparatory course for entrance into college. The increasing use of Algebraic methods in all disciplines and professions has made algebra the fundamental tool for mathematical applications. This course will focus on the analytical use of algebra to solve both theoretical and real world problems. This course builds upon concepts taught in Algebra 1 and Geometry while adding new concepts to the student's repertoire. Algebra 2 continues the study of exponential and logarithmic functions and expands student's use of function families to include rational and trigonometric functions. The topic of conic sections fuses algebra with geometry. The purpose of Algebra 2 is to give students a rigorous understanding of the theoretical study of mathematical patterns and relationships and the language that allows us to make sense of the mathematical symbols.

Science

BIOLOGY

Grade 9

2 Semesters (*Required for graduation*)

This introductory course will focus on five major topics: cells, heredity, evolution, living things, and ecosystems. Emphasis will be placed on the student's ability to use scientific knowledge to describe and explain real-world objects, systems or events, predict future events, and design systems or courses of action that enable people to adapt to and modify the world around them. This course will help students develop critical thinking and interpretive skills that can be applied in other areas of their education.

Social Studies

20th CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade 9

2 Semesters (*Required for graduation*)

Students will examine the history of the United States from its emergence as a world power (late 1800s) to present day. Major eras studied will include: Imperialism, WWI, the 1920s, The Great Depression, WWII, Cold War and Contemporary America. Students will learn to place major events of the century on a timeline and analyze their causes and effects. Students will use a variety of methods for historical evaluation and will begin to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to interpret present day events.