

DIXON HIGH SCHOOL

HANDBOOK REVISIONS

September 29, 1970

Revised: March 15, 1972

Second Revision: April 21, 1975

Third Revision: April 25, 1977

Fourth Revision: September, 1978

Fifth Revision: September, 1987

Sixth Revision: January, 1990

Seventh Revision: January, 1992

Eighth Revision: January, 1994

Ninth Revision: March, 1996

Tenth Revision: March, 2000

Eleventh Revision: January 2002

Twelfth Revision- Online: January 2004

Thirteenth Revision- Online: January 2005

Fourteenth Revision-Online: January 2006

Fifteenth Revision-Online: January 2007

Sixteenth Revision-Online: January 2008

Seventeenth Revision-Online: January 2009

Eighteenth Revision-Online: January 2010

Nineteenth Revision-Online: January 2011

Twentieth Revision – Online: January 2012

Twenty-first Revision – Online: September 2014

Twenty-Second Revision – Online: January 2016

Twenty-Third Revision – Online: February 2018

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LETTER TO STUDENTS

The purpose of this publication is to provide the student and the parent with the necessary information for planning a sound, consistent, and beneficial program of studies for the student's four years at Dixon High School. The plan should be based on a clear vision of academic and career goals and the courses should be chosen based upon the student's abilities and interests.

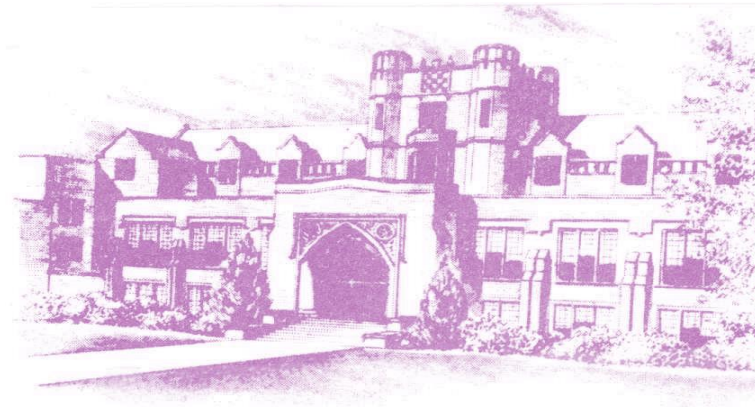
It is both the student's and the parent's responsibility to read the handbook and to discuss jointly its contents. Our goal is to insure each student the best possible education, and this can only be done through a cooperative approach involving students, parents, counselors, and teachers.

New editions of this handbook are annually updated on line to reflect the changes that have taken place since its last revision. We hope that these changes represent positive opportunities for our students at Dixon High School.

As you read through the information, you are likely to have questions or concerns that need answers or clarification. Email your questions and concerns or contact our Counseling Office. Our staff is very willing to serve you and wants you to make wise choices and to be successful. The time you spend now in planning your education will pay dividends throughout your years at DHS and will pave the way for future opportunities after you leave high school.

I wish you good luck and success as a student at Dixon High School.

Dr. Mike Grady
Principal



DHS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Dixon High School is to provide all students with the opportunities to achieve academic and personal success in the school setting and to prepare them to be contributing members of society.

In order to accomplish this mission, the school is committed to maintaining high expectations for all students, regularly assessing learning, and establishing a learning climate which affirms the worth of students and education.

This mission is the shared responsibility of staff, students, parents, and community.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Mission Statement

The mission of the DPS counseling program is to work with parents, faculty, and community to assist all students in learning skills and setting goals to reach their potential in academic, social/ emotional and career areas.

Introduction

It is our belief that a counseling program be an integral part of the total educational program, and that it reflect the unique needs and characteristics of district students, staff and community. The Illinois Developmental Model was used as our framework. From this was developed a systematic set of components including goals, student competencies and suggested activities essential to our students' growth, development and academic success. Program domains and components follow.

Program Domains

The Personal/Social Domain is intended to assist students in understanding and expressing self, how they relate to others, and how their thinking, feelings, and behaviors shape their personalities. Students need to be assisted in learning how to make appropriate decisions, interact effectively, and assume responsibility as they develop.

The Career/Vocational Domain targets those activities that will assist students in exploring career possibilities and opportunities; helps students with career decisions and a successful transition from school to college or to the world of work.

The Academic/Educational Domain provides activities and experiences that develop competencies leading to educational success so that each student develops to his/her maximum potential.

Program Components

Our model consists of the four basic components that serve to provide the means by which counseling is accomplished.

1. The Counseling Curriculum Component consists of structured developmental experiences presented systematically through classroom and group activities for students in grades K-12. The purpose of this curriculum is to provide students with knowledge of normal growth and development, to promote positive mental health, and to assist them in acquiring and using life skills.
2. Individual Student Planning Component consists of activities that help all students monitor and direct their own learning, personal/social, and career development. Within this component, students develop and evaluate personal goals, educational and career plans. Activities of this component can be delivered on an individual or small group basis.
3. Responsive Services Component consists of activities designed to meet the immediate needs of students. This component is available to all students and is usually student initiated but may occur through parent, teacher, or other referral. Responsive services are delivered through consultation, personal and small group counseling, crisis counseling and referrals.
4. The System Support Component consists of activities which establish, maintain, and enhance the school counseling program as well as other educational programs, and consists of the following functions: professional development, staff and community relationships, consultation with teachers, parent outreach, advisory councils, program management and research and development.

College, Career, and Scholarship Software and Websites

The following is a list of resources available as Internet hookups for post-secondary schooling, careers and scholarships. Handouts on these and other web sites can be found in the Counseling Office.

- www.fastweb.com Financial Aid Information, Scholarship Search, College Cost Projector, and Loan Calculators
- www.fafsa.ed.gov FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- www.collegeillinois.com Illinois college tuition plans
- www.ed.gov US Department of Education
- www.act.org ACT
- www.number2.com Free ACT/SAT preparation
- www.collegeboard.org SAT

CAREER PLANNING, INTEREST INVENTORIES, COLLEGE SORTS

- Career & College View www.collegeview.com
- Career Cruising www.careercruising.com Username: dixon
Password: highschool

Check out the Dixon Public Schools Home Page at www.dps170.org

TESTING

PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE/NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFYING TEST (PSAT)- Administered in the fall to college-bound juniors. It measures verbal and mathematical abilities and is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Program. There is a test fee.

PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10: Administered to all Freshman and Sophomores as preliminary SAT tests. Scores can be linked with Khan Academy for additional skill building and test prep.

ACT/SAT- These are standardized tests required by colleges for admission. These tests provide an indicator of how prepared the student is for college. The ACT measures skills in English, mathematics, reading, and science. The ACT tests are given on specific Saturdays throughout the year. Students must register for the ACT online, not through the school. The SAT will be given during the school day to all juniors. Currently all students must take an SAT test prior to graduating high school.

IMPORTANT TERMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO KNOW

1. **SEMESTER** - A semester represents ½ of a school year, or two quarters.
2. **CREDITS** - Some courses are completed in one semester. These are one-half credit courses. Other courses are not completed until the end of two semesters. These are one credit courses. One-half credit is earned for each semester of any course successfully completed (receipt of a grade of “D” or higher). All students should earn a minimum of six credits per year.
3. **REQUIRED COURSES** - Certain courses are required for graduation. See “Graduation Requirements” section.
4. **ELECTIVE COURSES** - Any course which the student selects in addition to the required courses is called an elective. Electives may be chosen from any department in the school.
5. **PREREQUISITE** - Some courses have prerequisites. This means that there is another course which must be successfully completed before a student may enroll in this particular course.
5. **CURRICULUM** - All courses offered by the school make up the curriculum.
6. **DEPARTMENTS** - Subject areas are divided by departmental groups. These are: Art, Business, English, Family Resources, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Industrial Education, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science and Social Studies.
7. **REPORT CARDS** – Credit is only awarded at the end of each semester. However, parents and students are able to access grades at any time through Parent Portal, which can be found on the district website.

COURSE CHANGES

Schedule changes are made only because of failure in class, scheduling errors or unbalanced class size. Schedule changes must be completed by the end of the third school day of any semester.

Withdrawal Passing (dropping a class to add a study hall with no grade penalty) must be completed by Friday of the sixth week of any semester. The student must currently be passing to receive a “Withdraw Passing.”

Any courses dropped after the end of six weeks, regardless of the student’s average, will have the grade of “Withdraw Failing” recorded. This will impact a students’ GPA, the same as if the student had earned an F in the course.

CREDITS

Credits are issued at the end of each semester. A student who has completed a semester’s work in any course will receive one-half credit.

Students will be considered Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors based on the number of credits they have earned, not on the number of years they have attended high school. Students must earn 5 credits for Sophomore status, 11 credits for Junior status and 17 credits for Senior status.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Students who are sixteen and have attained junior or senior status must have the approval of the counseling department to participate in dual enrollment. Students must also meet college minimum ACT, SAT or placement score requirements. Students may receive DHS credit for courses taken through an accredited college or university. One half credit will be granted for a three semester hour course successfully completed. Unless otherwise indicated, college tuition fees will apply.

HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll students are determined on a basis of grade point averages earned for semester grades. Grade point averages are computed using the following scale:

Regular Scale	Honors Scale	Advanced Placement Scale
A+ = 4.40	A+ = 4.9	A+ = 5.40
A = 4.00	A = 4.5	A = 5.00
A- = 3.60	A- = 4.1	A- = 4.60
B+ = 3.40	B+ = 3.9	B+ = 4.40
B = 3.00	B = 3.5	B = 4.00
B- = 2.60	B- = 3.1	B- = 3.60
C+ = 2.40	C+ = 2.9	C+ = 3.40
C = 2.00	C = 2.5	C = 3.00
C- = 1.60	C- = 2.1	C- = 2.60
D+ = 1.40	D+ = 1.4	D+ = 1.40
D = 1.00	D = 1.0	D = 1.00
D- = 0.60	D- = 0.60	D- = 0.60
F = 0.00	F = 0.00	F = 0.00

Five courses must be taken to qualify for the Honor Roll. Community Service and Driver's Education are not included in the 5 courses needed to be eligible for Honor Roll.

To be on the Honor Roll a student's grades must average the following:

Superior.....3.81 to 4.00+

Outstanding.....3.41 to 3.80

Honorable Mention.....3.00 to 3.40

DHS GRADE SCALE

A+	99-100	D+	68-69
A	92-98	D	62-67
A-	90-91	D-	60-61
B+	88-89	F	0-59
B	82-87		
B-	80-81		
C+	78-79		
C	72-77		
C-	70-71		

CLASS RANK

Class Rank is determined on a basis of weighted grade point averages earned for semester grades. GPA is calculated by adding the GPA points earned from each letter grade (see Honor Roll) and dividing by the total number of courses taken. Driver's Ed and Community Service are excluded from GPA calculation.

SCHOLASTIC HONOR BANQUET

The Dixon High School Scholastic Honor Banquet is held annually to honor those students who have been consistently outstanding in academic work. To be invited to the Honor Banquet, students must be in at least one of three categories:

1. Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors who were on the Superior Honor Roll the first semester of the current school year and the last semester of the previous year.
2. Seniors who are in the top ten percent of the end of the class at the end of seven semesters.
3. Seniors with the highest grade point average in a specified number of courses in the following departments: Art, Business, English, Foreign Language, Industrial Arts, Mathematics, Music, Science and Social Studies.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

Any student who is interested in competing in a sport at an NCAA accredited college or university should go to www.ncaa.org for information in regards to required courses and test scores. If you have any questions, please speak with your school counselor and/or coach.

COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM PLANNING

In order to meet college entrance requirements students should plan to include a minimum of 4 years of English, 3 years of Social Studies, 3 years of Mathematics, 3 years of Laboratory Science and 2 years of Foreign Language or Fine Arts in their high school curriculum. There are a number of ways students can arrange their courses in order to meet these requirements. The curriculum shown below is merely an example by which this can be accomplished. (*Graduation Requirements)

<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
*English	*English	*English	*English
*SS Elective	*SS Elective/Civics	*U.S. History	Elective
*Math	*Math	*Math	Math
*Science	*Science	*Science	Science
Language/Fine Arts	Language/Fine Arts	Language/Fine Arts	Language/Fine Arts
Elective	Drivers'Ed/*Keyboarding	*Cons Ed or Econ/Elective	Elective
*Health/*P.E.	*P.E.	*P.E.	*P.E.

An example of a four-year program that would include the maximum number of college preparatory courses offered is shown below. However, a student who attempts this type of curriculum would need to be academically strong.

<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
English 9/9 Honors	English 10/10 Honors	AP Language & Comp	AP Lit and Comp
SS Elective	SS Elective/Civics	AP U.S. History	Elective
Math II	Math III	Pre-Calc./AP Stats	AP Calculus
Biology	Chemistry	Physics/Medical Bio AP Chemistry	Biology II
Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Foreign Language
Elective	Comp. Apps I/Dr. Ed	Elective	Elective
Health/P.E.	P.E.	P.E.	P.E.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. A student must complete all required course work and tests before participating in the Commencement exercises and receiving a Dixon High School diploma.
2. Twenty four (24) credits are required for graduation and the required credits by department are as follows:

Department	Credits
English	4.0
Social Studies	1.0 U.S. History 0.5 Civics 1.5 SS elective
Math	3.0
Science	3.0
Consumer Education or Economics	0.5
Computer Tech	0.5
Health	0.5
Physical Education	3.5
Electives	6 credits

3. A student must pass a test on the subject of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the proper use and display of the American flag.
4. Students are encouraged to attend the full eight semesters, regardless of the number of credits earned; however, students may be considered for early graduation upon completion of seven (7) semesters of school attendance and when they have met all graduation requirements. Students must be approved for Early Graduation. There is no mid-term graduation exercise, however students are encouraged to participate in the end of the year graduation ceremony.

ART

INTRO ART

Grades 9-12
1/2 Credit

Art Survey will prepare students to be a critical consumers of visual culture through thought provoking experiences in art viewing and making. Throughout the semester, the students will be introduced to multiple forms of two and three dimensional media while exploring meaningful postmodern-concepts to develop their capacity for individual expression.

DRAWING AND DESIGN

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

Drawing and Design is a semester course that focuses on effective communication through well thought out compositions and other informed aesthetic choices. Through the semester, the students will be analyzing commercial advertising, graphic novels, films, and other mass produced media in an effort to better understand how to visually communicate ideas.

FIBERS AND CERAMICS

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

Fibers and Ceramics is a one semester course that will focus on the fundamentals of ceramics and fibers in art making. The projects will present the students with the opportunity to explore how the media can be manipulated to create functional and aesthetically pleasing pieces.

PAINTING

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

Painting is a semester long course designed to instruct students in the use of acrylic and watercolor paints to create original works. Through exercises and projects, the students will learn a variety of painting skills and techniques as well as material maintenance and care.

ADVANCED ART: TWO-DIMENSIONAL

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

Advanced 2D is a semester course that focuses on two dimensional art-making. Through this course the student will continue to develop their observational drawing skills, be introduced to alternative drawing and painting media, and explore a variety of two dimensional art-making techniques.

ADVANCED ART: THREE-DIMENSIONAL

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

Advanced 3D is a semester course that focuses on three dimensional art-making. Throughout the semester the students will explore various 3D media, be introduced to a variety of sculptural styles, and develop their capacity for individual expression.

Senior Artist Studio is a semester long course designed to be the capstone of the high school art curriculum. Any senior interested in taking this course must have successfully completed at least three high school level studio art courses with a C or better and proven themselves to be enthusiastic in developing and completing their own artistic endeavors. This course is an opportunity for these students to develop their artistic prowess in an individually tailored fashion and work towards a comprehensive portfolio of their work. The senior artist is responsible to plan, research, and complete projects that are challenging both conceptually and technically. Each proposed project will require a completed project proposal sheet and preapproval by the instructor before it can be begun. Upon completion, the project will be assessed based upon the criteria outlined on its project proposal sheet. A sketch book/journal will be maintained by the student as a collection of references as well as a fluid record of their problem solving methods. In addition to personally developed projects the student will complete at least one special project for the school/ community.

BUSINESS

ACCOUNTING

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

Accounting is a one-year course designed to give students background information on the accounting system for a sole proprietorship and corporation. **This course is highly recommended for any student pursuing a business-related career or college degree.** Students will learn how to start an accounting system, analyze transactions into debit and credit parts, journalize and post business transactions, and prepare month end reports. Students will also learn to use an automated accounting system. This course gives students an accounting foundation for college accounting or for working in a small business. There is an articulation agreement with Sauk Valley Community College that would allow you to receive college credit for students earning an A or B in the course when they enroll at SVCC in the future. The course is taught using a computer program. It is highly recommended, but not required, that a student have a computer at home.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

This course provides a one-semester overview of computer applications including Word 2013, Excel 2013, Access 2013, and PowerPoint 2013. No experience with a computer is assumed, and no mathematics beyond the high school freshman level is required. Basic keyboarding skills are expected for students to complete projects in a timely fashion. Students will be exposed to practical examples of the computer as a useful tool for education and work, students will be acquainted with the proper procedures to create documents, worksheets, and databases suitable for coursework, professional purposes, and personal use. Students will discover the underlying functionality of Office 2013 so they can become more productive. An exercise-oriented approach will be used so the students will learn by doing. There is an articulation agreement with Sauk Valley Community College that would allow you to receive college credit for students earning an A or B in the course when they enroll at SVCC in the future.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS II

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

This is the second course on Office 2013 and is one semester in length. Students will have completed Computer Applications I and be familiar with the fundamentals of all the Office products. This course will go beyond the fundamentals and offer an in-depth presentation of Word 2013, PowerPoint 2013, Excel 2013, and Access 2013. Students will be exposed to practical examples of the computer as a useful tool for education and work, students will be acquainted with the proper procedures to create documents, worksheets, and databases suitable for coursework, professional purposes, and personal use. Students will discover the underlying functionality of Office 2013 so they can become more productive. An exercise-oriented approach will be used so the students will learn by doing with the emphasis on professional examples so students have a higher level of proficiency for careers using Microsoft Office.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

Digital Media is a one semester course that will be divided into two main topics: creating and editing digital photographs and creating and editing digital videos. Students will work with Adobe Photoshop Elements 10 in editing photos and Adobe Premiere to make movies using video. The culminating project will be to make a video for the school to use for promotional uses by the sports, fine arts, and Dixon Pride. The students will work with the Publications class to take photographs of school activities for use in the Dixini and Dixonian.

ECONOMICS

Grades 11-12
½ Credit

Economics is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to real-world economic issues. Students will study different economics systems, the role of entrepreneurs in our market society, demand and supply curves, productivity and labor issues, global economics and the role of government in our economy. Students will also focus on consumer issues ranging from insurance, investments, and credit. During an 8-week period of time students will devote their attentions to a Junior Achievement program. A community business leader will volunteer in the classroom guiding the students in their program. **This course will meet the consumer education requirement AND the social studies elective requirement and is highly recommended for any student who wishes to pursue a business-related career.**

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS I

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

Students develop an understanding of how business affects their everyday lives. They learn about the economic system and its role in business, how private enterprise works, how businesses are organized, how prices are determined and what role the government plays in business. This course is an introductory study of various aspects of business and society in our economic system dealing with organizations, methods of operation, forms of ownership, functions, and problems of management. The students will also focus on marketing, advertising, and human resources.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS II

Grades 9-12
½ Credit

This course is designed to prepare students to make decisions as consumers, wage earners, and citizens within the economy. The students will focus on career planning, buying goods and services, consumer rights and responsibilities, credit, money management, and risk management.

ENGLISH

<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
English 9	English 10	English 11	Applied Communication
English 9 Honors	English 10 Honors	AP Language	Intro to Research
*Publications	*Publications	*Publications	Modern Literature
			World Literature
			AP Literature
			*Publications
			English 101/103

ENGLISH 9

Grade 9

1 Credit

English 9 is designed to offer the student an opportunity to increase skills in writing, speaking, and reading comprehension. Major emphasis is placed on students developing an increasingly large sight-word vocabulary, as well as honing their skills in sentence and paragraph composition. Literature covered will include non-fiction, epic poetry, short stories, and novels. The goal of English 9 is to produce students who are gaining competency and confidence in English/Language Arts, as well as life.

ENGLISH 9 Honors

Grade 9

1 Credit

English 9 Honors is designed for the advanced language arts student, focusing on deeper literary analysis and advanced writing skills. Students must be independent, voracious readers who read above grade level. The course is rigorous and functions at a faster pace due to the number of works of literature that will be read and explored. Students will be required to read outside of the classroom and asked to consistently contribute to class discussion. Writing experiences will include a variety of essays and a research paper. Students will present an informative speech. The course requires summer reading and is not weighted. The goal of English 9 Honors is to empower students to be competent and confident in English/Language Arts, as well as life.

ENGLISH 10

Grade 10

1 Credit

English 10 is designed to offer the student an opportunity to increase skills in writing, speaking, and reading comprehension. Major emphasis is placed on students developing an increasingly large sight-word vocabulary, as well as honing their skills in sentence and paragraph composition. Literature covered will include non-fiction, fiction, and a drama by William Shakespeare. Writing experiences will include a variety of essays and a research paper. Students will present a number of speeches including a researched persuasive speech. The goal of English 10 is to produce students who are gaining competency and confidence in English/Language Arts, as well as in life.

ENGLISH 10 Honors

Grade 10

1 Credit

English 10 Honors is designed for the advanced language arts student, focusing on deeper literary analysis and advanced writing skills. Students must be independent, voracious readers who read above grade level. The course is rigorous and functions at a faster pace due to the number of papers that will be written. Students will be required to read outside of the classroom and asked to consistently contribute to class discussion. Writing experiences will include a variety of essays and a research paper. Students will present a number of speeches including a researched persuasive speech. The goal of English 10 Honors is to empower students to be competent and confident in English/Language Arts, as well as life.

ENGLISH 11

Grade 11

1 Credit

English 11 is a course designed to improve a student's ability to read critically, write critically, and think critically. The material used to produce these effects is the great works and genres of American Literature. Students will understand the great works, authors, and movements of American Literature history, 1600-2000.

APPLIED COMMUNICATION

Grade 12

1 credit

Applied Communication is an elective course for the twelfth year. The major purpose of this course is to assist students in developing the fundamental skills necessary to be successful in the business world. Emphasis will be placed on learning specific information that has real-life applications. Students will be required to complete many different forms found in the workplace. Also required for this course will be a resume and a detailed career report. Reading comprehension skills will be stressed using job-related materials. Community members may be invited into the classroom to talk about their careers.

INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

Grades 12

½ Credit

This is a one semester course. One quarter will be spent learning to write the types of essays many colleges require for different subject matter courses. Several of the essays studied will be persuasive and expository in nature. The students will study these essay types and then produce essays of their own. The other quarter students will write a research paper using the MLA style and complete a literary analysis paper. All papers will be written using the computer. Some vocabulary and sentence structure will be studied. This course is intended for students who seek to develop basic research skills prior to taking a college-level writing class.

WORLD LITERATURE

Grade 12

½ Credit

This course is designed for both the average and college-bound student. The purpose is to acquaint students with well-known ancient writings from which modern allusions are drawn. The content, including material from the major mythologies and the King James Bible, will give the students relevant insight into their human condition

MODERN LITERATURE

Grade 12

½ Credit

Modern Literature is designed for the senior student who wishes an additional elective English credit. The student will be reading Twentieth Century literature. Building on the skills mastered in previous English classes, the student will be involved in writing, vocabulary studies, and discussion activities. This course is not restricted to college-bound students.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

Grade 11-12

1 Credit

AP Language and Composition is an elective, year-long course for the student who seeks a college-equivalent writing experience. The course assists students in becoming skilled readers of prose covering the entire span of the American literary tradition. Students will also become skilled writers able to compose for a variety of purposes. The assignments will include formal essay writing using a variety of modes including research-based writing. The student may choose to take, at his/her own expense, the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition examination, thereby possibly gaining college credit for the course. Tests are in the form of essays preparing the student for the AP exams. There will be required summer reading.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Grade 12

1 Credit

AP Literature is an elective, year-long course for the student who seeks college level experiences in literature. The vast majority of the literature read is one of the forms of poetry, since prose forms developed secondarily to poetry. The literature reflects the events and philosophy of each age in the novels, short stories, poetry, and essays. The student will be prepared to take the optional AP exam in English Literature and Composition (at his/her own expense), thereby possibly gaining college credit for the course. Tests are in the form of essays, preparing the student for the AP exam. The student, in the spring before taking this class, must obtain from the teacher the required summer reading assignment.

PUBLICATIONS

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

The course provides a step-by-step approach to the fundamentals of journalistic writing and the production of publications. Writing assignments include, but are not restricted to, personality profiles, news stories, editorials, and sports reporting. Students are required to interview subjects and complete several stages of editing for assignments intended for publication. Students will design pages, write headlines, and edit copy for both the yearbook and newspaper. Students will also be required to sell and design advertising for the two publications, as well as take photos. This course is designed to teach journalistic principles and develop skills in the production of newspapers and yearbooks.

SVCC ENGLISH 101

Grade 12

Prerequisite: ACT standard score in English of 20 or above; suitable scores on the current English placement test

½ credit

A SVCC dual enrollment basic course in essay writing with emphasis on exposition, English 101 stresses knowledge and application of the rhetorical modes. English 101 presupposes competence in grammar, usage, and mechanics. Tuition and book fees may apply.

SVCC ENGLISH 103

Grade 12

Prerequisite: ENG 101 or qualifying score on AP Language test

½ credit

A SVCC dual enrollment advanced course in essay writing with emphasis on formal research, serves to develop proficiency in the collection and selection of data as applied to the completion of a formal research paper. In addition, students receive instruction in logic and reasoning, including the fundamentals of argumentative and persuasive writing. Tuition and book fees may apply.

FAMILY RESOURCES

ORIENTATION TO FAMILY RESOURCES

Grades 9-12

½ Credit

An introduction to various areas of Family and Consumer Science is the purpose of this class. The class will consist of units that fall under the following topics:

1. Family
2. Careers
3. Child Care and Development
4. Self Discovery
5. Resource Management
6. Interior Design
7. Housing
8. Foods and Nutrition (No lab)

PARENTING

Grades 9-12

½ Credit

This course is designed to help students think through the responsibilities, roles, satisfactions and stresses of parenthood. Many types of parenting situations are examined. The course content includes applying parental decision-making, practicing health and safety standards, making the most of available resources, improving human relation skills and analyzing the effect of work on the family. Attention is given to the needs of parents and to the importance of readiness for parenthood.

ADULT LIVING

Grades 9-12

½ Credit

This course is designed to develop individuals and families to achieve maximum potential through home, community and workplace. Emphasis is placed on the development of personal growth strategies that will assist the individual in responding to situations in terms of identified values and goals. The course content includes the duty areas of: developing short and long range plans, demonstrating goal setting and decision making skills; evaluating and adapting basic needs to assume roles and responsibilities; recognizing and following health practices that assist in coping, selecting and using resources to enhance individual growth and development; developing effective relationships to promote communication with others; and evaluating family career changes as to the impact on individuals. Various resources to assist with life problems are explored.

FINE ARTS

CONCERT CHOIR

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This group is designed for the incoming 9th grade student, with no middle school/junior high experience, or still at a beginning to intermediate level, or 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students with no prior high school choral experience, and they should enter in the fall semester. (*Second semester entry prerequisite = entry exam and voice placement.) This performance ensemble is a preparatory choir to train young voices for future advancement. Students will learn basic vocal music skills and fundamentals, and develop previously learned music knowledge. This group performs at all the department concerts and will have several evening and weekend commitments as part of their grade. Students are required to wear appropriate concert attire at each performance. At the end of second semester, students who have not demonstrated improvement as evaluated by the director will repeat Concert Choir. Those students that demonstrate improvement as evaluated by the director, and decide they would like to audition for Honors Choir will prepare for that and try out.

HONORS CHOIR

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

Prerequisite: Vocal audition with instructor

This advanced group is considered the “top” ensemble; membership is comprised of 9th – 12th grade students. Students are expected to exceed basic music skills and develop the voice to its maximum potential, and should be leaders for the department. This group performs at all department concerts, graduation, and some community events. Students will have several evening and weekend commitments as part of their grade. Students are required to wear appropriate concert attire at each performance. Students do not re-audition to maintain membership.

BAND

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Previous Instrumental Experience
1 Credit
and/or Consent of Director

The Dixon High School Concert/Marching Band rehearses one period per day. In addition, each member has the opportunity to attend one sectional rehearsal each week. The band performs at home football and basketball games. Concert Band performances include the Holiday, Mid-Winter, and Spring concerts. Festivals, parades, and off-campus performance events provide opportunities for travel and for students to perform individually as well as in large groups. Select musicians have the opportunity to participate at the conference, district, and state levels through the NCIC conference and the IMEA. The Dixon High School band program is strongly performance oriented. Rehearsals emphasize the development of each individual’s maximum musical potential. Band provides many excellent opportunities for students to grow musically and socially.

Foreign Language

SPANISH I

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

Spanish I is an introductory course introducing students to the basics of the Spanish language. Students will progress through various grammatical concepts while learning level-appropriate vocabulary. Additionally students will be introduced to cultural elements through class presentations and discussions in order to further their appreciation and understanding of the Hispanic world.

SPANISH I HONORS

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

Part of the *Honors Track* for the Foreign Language Department, Spanish I Honors will focus on the cultivation of skills pertaining to reading, writing, and speaking Spanish. Students will learn various grammatical concepts of the present tense as well as level-appropriate vocabulary. Cultural elements of the Hispanic world will be presented and discussed in class. As an AP preparation course, there will be a greater emphasis on Spanish usage by both the instructor and students.

SPANISH II

Grades 10-12

1 Credit

Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Students will also broaden their knowledge and understanding of Hispanic cultures through regular discussions and activities and be able to note the similarities and differences between them and those of the United States. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concepts, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural readings and discussions, and interactive activities and practices, which reinforce vocabulary and grammar.

SPANISH II HONORS

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Students will also broaden their knowledge and understanding of Hispanic cultures through regular discussions and activities and be able to note the similarities and differences between them and those of the United States. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concepts, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural readings and discussions, and interactive activities and practices, which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning throughout this course. This course will be weighted and guiding the students toward AP Spanish Language and Culture during their senior year.

SPANISH III

Grades 11-12

1 Credit

This course is the next course after Spanish 2. In this expanding engagement with Spanish, students deepen their focus on four key skills in foreign language acquisition: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Concepts and vocabulary from Spanish 2 are re-introduced and considerably expanded. Learning and utilizing multiple tenses will be a main component to this class as well. Students will also broaden their knowledge and

understanding of Hispanic cultures through regular discussions and activities and be able to note the similarities and differences between them and those of the United States. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concepts, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural readings and discussions, and interactive activities and practices, which reinforce vocabulary and grammar.

SPANISH III Honors

Grades 11-12

1 Credit

This course is the next course after Honors Spanish 2. In this expanding engagement with Spanish, students deepen their focus on four key skills in foreign language acquisition: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Concepts and vocabulary from Spanish 2 are re-introduced and considerably expanded. Learning and utilizing multiple tenses will be a main component to this class as well. Students will also broaden their knowledge and understanding of Hispanic cultures through regular discussions and activities and be able to note the similarities and differences between them and those of the United States. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning throughout this course. By the end of this course, the students will have been exposed to almost all Spanish grammar concepts that they will work on perfecting in next year's AP Spanish Language and Culture course. This course is weighted.

SPANISH IV

Grade 12

1 Credit

This course is the next course after Spanish 3. In this expanding engagement with Spanish, students deepen their focus on four key skills in foreign language acquisition: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Concepts and vocabulary from Spanish 3 are re-introduced and considerably expanded. Learning and utilizing multiple tenses will be a main component to this class as well. Students will also broaden their knowledge and understanding of Hispanic cultures through regular discussions and activities and be able to note the similarities and differences between them and those of the United States. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning throughout this course. By the end of this course, the students will have been exposed to almost all Spanish grammar concepts.

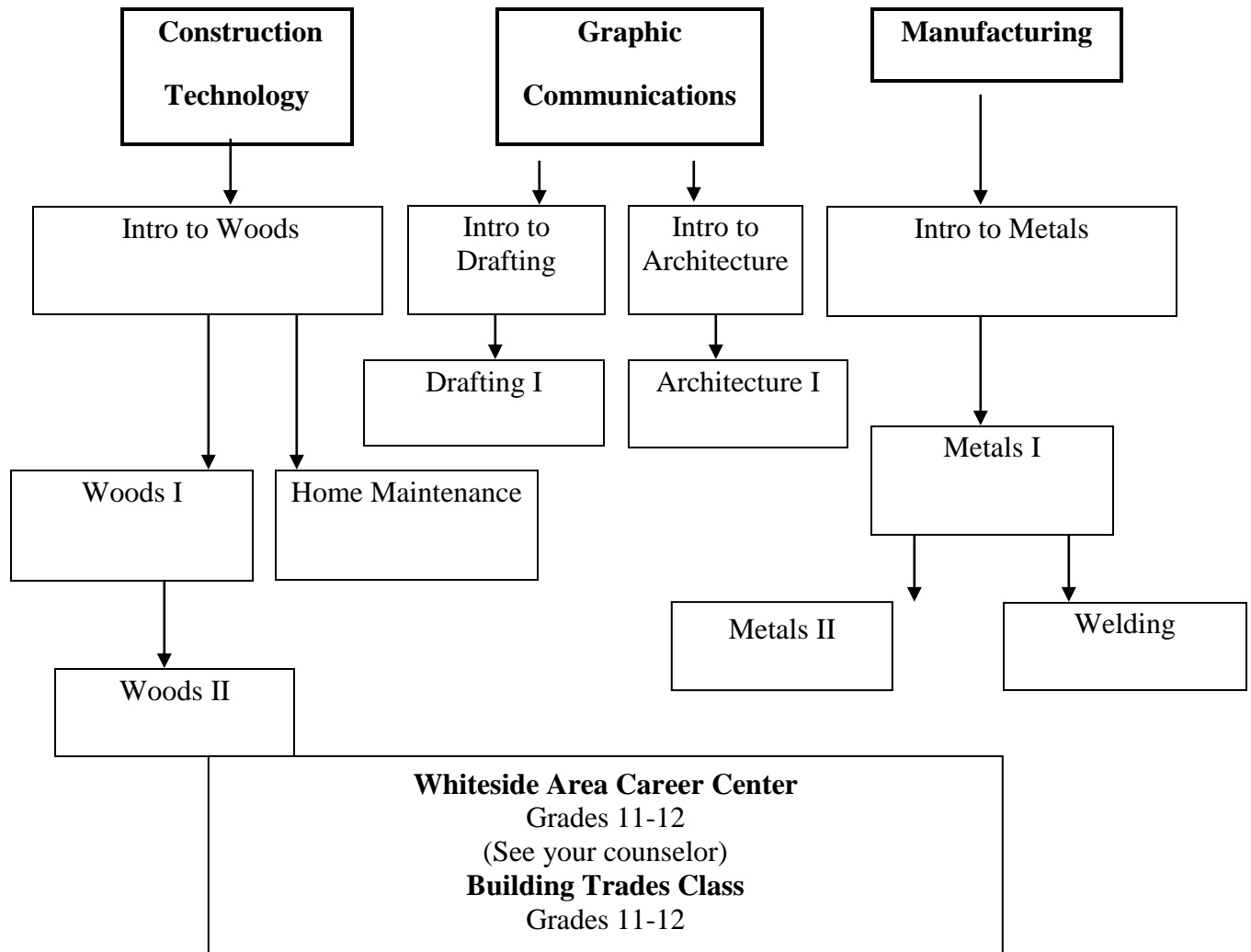
AP SPANISH

Grade 12

1 Credit

This class involves an in-depth review and enrichment of reading, writing, speaking, and listening in Spanish along with numerous aspects of Hispanic cultures. This course provides students with an extensive variety of Hispanic literature through readings as well as audio and video recordings for discussion and writing. Advanced grammar concepts will also be addressed. Language lab work is required. The course is taught at a college level in Spanish and will help prepare students for the AP test given at the end of the school year. Based on the results of the Advanced Placement exam, college credit may be awarded by participating colleges and universities.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS



INTRODUCTION TO WOODS

Grades 9-12
1/2Credit

Intro to Woods is the first woods class offered at DHS and serves to promote interest and confidence in the applied area of basic woodworking. Measurement skills, safety, and a high level of objectivity are emphasized through the Intro to Woods class.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAFTING

Grades 9-12

1/2 credit

This course starts at the ground level and introduces students to the very basics of drafting and builds on that foundation. Units include lettering, orthographic drawing, and dimensioning. Students will perform most of their work with pencil and paper, but will be introduced to Computer Aided Drafting towards the end of the semester.

INTRODUCTION TO METALS

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course is designed to give a student a good exposure to the field of metalworking. Instructional units include engine lathe operations, precision measurement, oxyacetylene welding, foundry casting, bench metal work, heat treating, reading print and safety. Students who enjoy the class and want to continue are encouraged to take Metals I and II and eventually welding.

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course starts at the ground level and introduces students to the very basics of drafting and residential home construction. Students will gain a solid understanding of how to design a residential home and how to put those designs on paper. Students will pencil draw for half the class and use Computer Aided Drafting the other half.

WOODS I

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Introduction to Woods

Woods I is the second woods class in sequence offered at DHS. Woods I serves to further promote interest and confidence in the applied area of basic woodworking while also challenging students to further utilize thinking skills. A higher level of creativity is emphasized in the Woods I class while continuing to reinforce measurement skills, safety, and objectivity.

WOODS II

Grade 10-12

1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Woods I

The purpose of this course is to provide an advanced format dealing with construction techniques. Areas of work will include a full plan of construction techniques from plan through completed project and mass production techniques. Students are expected to pay for materials used.

DRAFTING I

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Introduction to Drafting

Students who had success in Introduction to Drafting are encouraged to take this course. Advanced work in drafting will cover lettering, auxiliary views, revolutions, sectional views, threads and fasteners, working drawings, pattern developments and architecture. Students will start to use Computer Aided Drafting more in this course. Students are expected to pay for materials used.

METALS I

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Introduction to Metals

This course is designed for those students who show special interest and ability in the metalworking field. Heavy emphasis is placed on the metal machining area and exposure to many machine operations. Instructional units include milling operations, surface grinding, drilling, tap and die work, heat treating, and print reading.

METALS II

Grades 10-12

1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Metals I

This course is designed for those students who show special interest and ability in the metalworking field. Students who had success in Metals I are encouraged to take this course. Heavy emphasis is placed on the metal machining area. Advanced project work involving a wide range of machines will be completed. Milling operations, lathe turning, drilling, surface grinding, cutting, heating treating, print reading, sheet metal, welding, precision measuring, and shop mathematics will be covered. Students are expected to pay for materials used.

WELDING

Grades 10-12

No Prerequisites

1/2 Credit

This course is designed to give a student a good exposure to the field of welding. General welding safety will be stressed throughout the semester. The five basic welding joints will be emphasized throughout the class and in the different areas of welding. Arc welding will receive the majority class time, followed by oxy-acetylene welding and MIG welding. Flame cutting, print reading, and out of position welding will also be introduced. This course will help the student who plans to enter the welding industry, welding certificate program, or for his or her own use at home.

HOME MAINTENANCE

Grades 10-12

1/2 Credit

Home Maintenance is a course that is designed to give the student a basic background in general household repair jobs and basic home maintenance chores that the average home owner should be able to handle on their own. Areas of work will include basic carpentry skills, general electrical work, and hand tool usage.

ARCHITECTURE I

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Intro to Architecture.

1/2 Credit

Students who had success in Introduction to Architecture are encouraged to take this course. Students will have more freedom to design a residential home of their choosing and complete a full set of prints for that home. All of the student's drawings will be completed with Computer Aided Drafting.

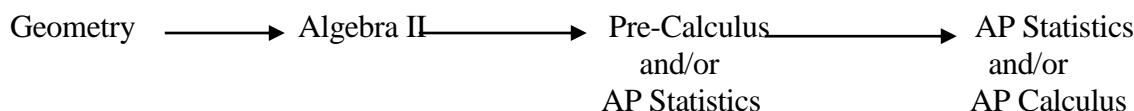
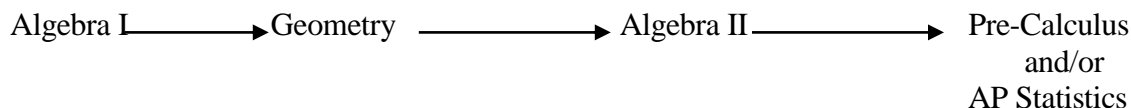
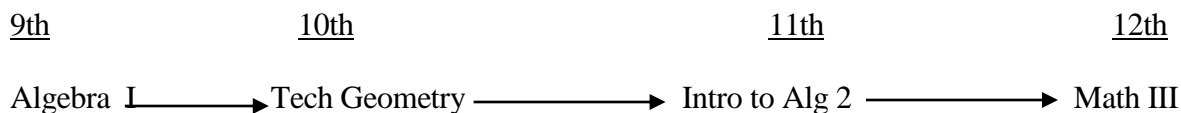
BUILDING TRADES

Grade 11-12

2 credits

This course will provide an opportunity for students who are planning on entering a post secondary educational program in construction or enter into the workforce at entry level. The focus of the class will be the construction of residential type structures in the community, with an emphasis on foundations, framing, exterior and interior finish, and roofing. Students will develop workplace skills in basic math, hand and power tools, basic blueprint reading, safe work habits, proper job attitudes, technical jargon and learn about the wide variety and opportunities in the field of construction.

MATHEMATICS 9-12 CURRICULUM SEQUENCES



Algebra I

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

Algebra I involves the study of linear and exponential functions (with domains in the integers) including application and interpretation of statistics and real-world situations. Students reason about functions and the number and nature of solutions to equations, systems of equations, inequalities and systems of inequalities. Students define congruence using transformational geometry. Students apply transformations to linear, exponential, piece wise, absolute value, square root and cube root functions. They explore these function types represented algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables and by verbal description.

TECHNICAL GEOMETRY

Grades 10-12
1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

The concepts usually presented in the traditional college preparatory geometry will be investigated. Exploration will be done using the traditional tools of geometry along with the appropriate computer/calculator software. The course is offered to those students who earn below a C- in Algebra I or to those recommended by staff. Students cannot proceed to Algebra II from this course. Illinois colleges do not accept this course as a high school math credit for purposes of admission.

Geometry

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students write equivalent radical, rational and quadratic expressions to reveal information using properties of exponents, completing the square and/or factoring. Students define similarity using transformational geometry and use this definition to prove geometric theorems. Students learn and apply trigonometric ratios, the Pythagorean Theorem and the relationship between sine and cosine to solve problems. Students recognize, calculate and use conditional probability and independence. Students make geometric constructions and apply geometric concepts and trigonometric ratios to describe, model and solve problems.

INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA 2

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Geometry or Tech Geometry

1 credit

Introduction to Algebra 2 involves the study of linear equations and functions, linear systems, quadratic functions and factoring, and polynomials. Students write equivalent forms of quadratics by completing the square and /or factoring. Students will apply transformations to all graphs of all functions.

Algebra II

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: Geometry

1 Credit

Algebra II involves the study of polynomial, rational, logarithmic and trigonometric functions represented algebraically, graphically, numerically in tables and be verbal descriptions. Students write equivalent polynomial, rational, trigonometric and logarithmic expressions to reveal information and key features. Students will distinguish among sample surveys, experiments and observational studies to determine and interpret data.

PRE-CALCULUS

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

1 Credit

Pre-Calculus is a one-year course which includes the study of trigonometry, advanced algebra, theory of equations and analytic geometry. The trigonometry functions are first presented as circular functions. The traditional point of view of the trigonometric functions is also presented. Knowledge of trigonometry is a prerequisite for most technical college courses. The other topics from advanced mathematics should prepare the student for calculus and other college mathematics courses.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

1 Credit

Advanced Placement Statistics is a course in mathematics that is equivalent to a one semester, introductory, non-calculus based, college course in Statistics. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The topics for the course are divided into four major themes: exploratory analysis, planning a study, probability, and statistical inference. The course is not a replacement for other courses in the mathematics curriculum. Students who will need to take Calculus should include Pre-Calculus as one of their high school math courses. AP Statistics will prepare students for the Advanced Placement Statistics Examination. This exam is optional and requires a student paid fee. Successful completion of the exam entitles the student to college credit at over 2000 colleges and universities.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS

Grade 12

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

1 Credit

Advanced Placement Calculus is a course in mathematics that consists of a full academic year of work in calculus and related topics. The course is comparable to the first year calculus course taught in college. Calculus is the reformulation of elementary mathematics through the use of the limit process. The course is intended for senior students who have a thorough knowledge of college preparatory mathematics, including algebra, geometry, trigonometry and analytic geometry. The course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement Calculus Examination. This exam is optional and requires a student paid fee. Successful completion of the exam entitles the student to college credit at over 2000 colleges and universities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH/DRIVER EDUCATION

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This course is designed to enhance students' skills in a variety of competitive/recreational sports, and physical fitness activities. Students will participate in various physical conditioning activities. Rules and regulations for multiple units will be reviewed while expanding to more advanced skills and strategies necessary for one to participate in lifetime sports and activities. Activities may include but are not limited to volleyball, badminton, floor hockey, soccer, basketball, team handball, flag football, softball, kickball, pickle-ball, bags, fitness and conditioning. This class will include written tests and performance based assessments. A cumulative exam will be given at the end of each semester.

INTRODUCTION TO WEIGHTLIFTING

Grades 9-12

1.0 Credit

This class will introduce students to lifting and teach proper lifting technique. This class is geared toward students who want to improve strength, endurance, and conditioning.

ADVANCED WEIGHTLIFTING

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This class is geared toward student athletes to improve strength, endurance, and conditioning but is open to any student wishing to incorporate weightlifting in their everyday life. Students who take this course should have a strong desire to improve one's fitness level. Basic and advanced lifting and agility techniques will be emphasized. Strength testing will be completed throughout the semester for the exercises introduced. This will be accompanied by a cumulative exam at the end of the semester. Class activities include, but are not limited to strength/endurance training, agility skills training, flexibility exercises, and periodic competition days.

TOTAL BODY FITNESS

Grades 9-12

½ Credit

This course engages students in various ways to be active in a group fitness setting while learning to adapt fitness into everyday life. Students will be introduced to Cardio Kickboxing, Step, Pilates, and Yoga as well as other fitness-based classes. The class will also incorporate weekly personal journals to reflect on fitness levels, goals, and healthy lifestyle influences. This class will include written tests and performance based assessments. A cumulative exam will be given at the end of each semester.

SPORTS PE

Grades 9-12

½ Credit

Must Be out for the following sports-

Football, Boys and Girls Basketball, Volleyball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Baseball and Softball.

It is recommended that athletes competing in football, volleyball, basketball, softball and baseball enroll in Sports P.E. The class will provide an opportunity for student athletes to further develop the physical fitness levels needed to compete in interscholastic athletics while further developing the specific fundamental skills required in each of their sports. This course consists of activities organized into an alternating schedule of advanced weightlifting sessions and Sports P.E. skill sessions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXEMPTION

- Any student enrolled in Band 1st semester can exempt from PE during that semester.
- Junior and Senior Varsity athletes can exempt from PE during one semester in which the sport is in session
- Academic PE exemption are given on a cases by case basis. Speak with a counselor for more information.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course is a requirement for graduation. It is a coeducational course required of all freshmen unless there is an unusual schedule problem. In this case, it may be taken the sophomore year. It will include all of the critical issues in health today--instruction on substance abuse (tobacco, alcohol and drugs) is included. Human relationships and personality development are taught in regard to peer groups, family members and the opposite sex. A unit on sexuality is emphasized. There is a unit on disease including emphasis on heart disease and cancer. Nutrition, physical fitness, environmental pollution, safety and first aid are topics that are also covered. Interesting visual aids are employed and community guest speakers are used whenever possible. The primary purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with factual information pertaining to individual and community health.

DRIVER EDUCATION

Grades 9-12

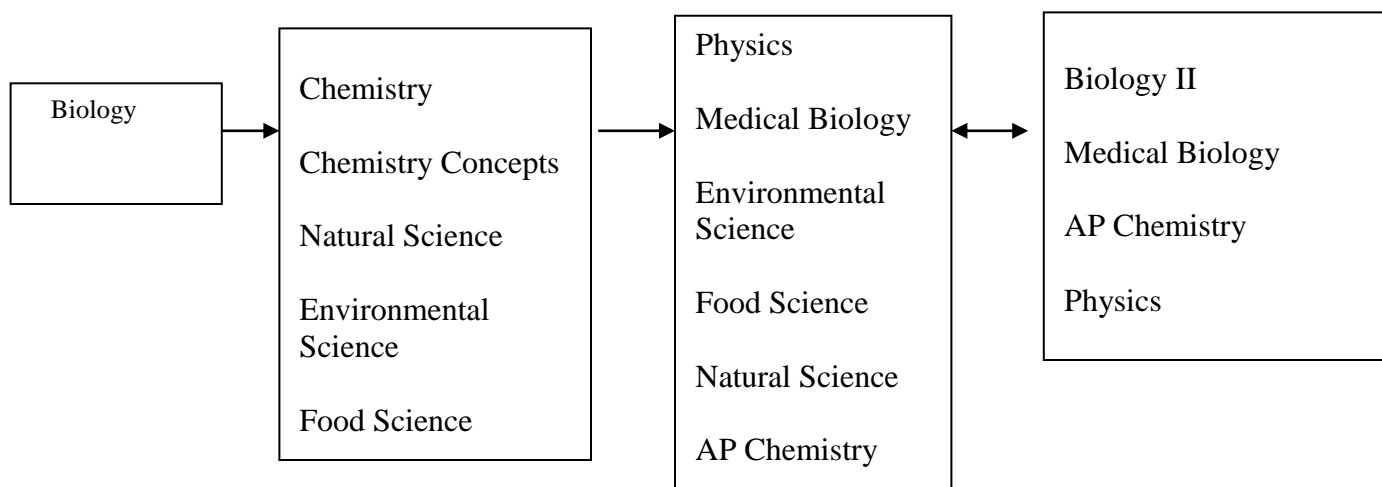
Prerequisite: 15 years of age, \$200 course fee

1/2 Credit

Must have passed 8 courses in the previous two semesters of schooling
Social Security Card

Driver Education is a nine-week classroom course offered when the student is 15 years of age. This course grade is not calculated in a student's GPA. Students who miss more than 5 class periods, excused or unexcused, will be dropped from the course and will have to retake the course at a later time. Students completing this course will be awarded ¼ credit for completion of the classroom portion and ¼ credit for completing the Behind the Wheel portion.

SCIENCE



NATURAL SCIENCE

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This lab-based course covers material in the areas of Geology, Meteorology, Physics and Astronomy. Laboratory activities will prepare students for further study in science and will enhance their decision-making skills.

BIOLOGY

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

Biology is a study of living things. Emphasis is placed on concepts applicable to all living systems, both plant and animal. The course is activity-oriented with both laboratory and fieldwork. Laboratory activities include both investigatory experiments and those more confirmatory in nature.

BIOLOGY II (SVCC Bio 103)

Grades 11-12

Prerequisites: A or B in Biology and Chemistry recommended

1 Credit

Meet minimum ACT or SVCC Placement score

This is a full year, laboratory based, college-level introduction to biology class. Students who successfully complete this class will be given credit through DHS and credit for Biology 104 through Sauk Valley Community College.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

No Prerequisites

Grades 10-12

1/2 Credit

The course includes a study of the principles of ecology, the pollution of our environment and its remedies and the wise use of our energy resources. Activities include field studies of the Rock River and the nearby woods, viewing of audio-visual materials, reading related reference materials and class discussions. This course applies to the two-year science requirement for high school graduation but does not count as a laboratory science toward the college entrance requirement.

FOOD SCIENCE

Prerequisite: Biology

Grades 10-12

½ Credit

This course will look at the biochemistry of food and nutrition. Students will explore the chemical makeup of food and the nutrients found in food. Students will also research how nutrients and food substances affect the human body.

CHEMISTRY

Grades 10-12

1 Credit

This is a basic course in Chemistry with emphasis on a general understanding of both the theoretical concepts and mathematical relationships involved in chemical reactions. The course is laboratory-oriented with experiments being both investigatory and confirmatory in nature.

CHEMISTRY CONCEPTS

Grades 10-12

1 Credit

This is a one full year conceptual chemistry course. Chemistry concepts are developed with less emphasis on memorization and algebraic problem solving. Exercises and simple laboratory activities will prepare students for further study in science and will enhance their critical thinking skills. This course is designed for, and limited to, students who have not yet developed the math skills needed for the college preparatory chemistry class. While this course will provide a full credit toward the DHS science requirement, it will not fulfill the high school chemistry requirement of many colleges or universities.

PHYSICS

Grades 11-12

1 Credit

This is a fundamental course in Physics with emphasis on a general understanding of theoretical concepts and the mathematical relationships involved in the basic rules of nature. The course is laboratory-oriented with experiments being both investigatory and confirmatory. In this course, comprehension of concepts before calculation is the key to understanding the topics in the science of Physics.

MEDICAL BIOLOGY I

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology

Grades 11-12

1 Credit

This course focuses on body chemistry and the normal function of body tissues and systems with an emphasis on abnormal conditions and their treatment. Career opportunities within the medical field also will be explored. Course content and technical applications will be explored through laboratory experiences, guest speakers and demonstrations by local medical professionals. This course may or may not be followed by Medical Biology II.

SOCIAL STUDIES

9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
Modern WH	CIVICS ***	US HISTORY ***	US HISTORY ***
Contemporary WH	SOCIOLOGY	SOCIOLOGY	SOCIOLOGY
GCS	Modern WH	PSYCHOLOGY	PSYCHOLOGY
	Contemporary WH	CWI	CWI
	GCS	APUSH	APUSH
	ECONOMICS	ECONOMICS	ECONOMICS

Three credits in Social Studies are required for graduation. One of the credits must be in U. S. History, 1.5 credits of social studies electives, and 0.5 credits of civics.

CONSTITUTION TEST

The State of Illinois requires that all students must pass a written test on the Federal Constitution, Constitution of the State of Illinois, Declaration of Independence and the rules of the American Flag. Dixon High School will cover this material and will give this test in all U.S. History classes.

WORLD HISTORY - MODERN

Grade 9-10
0.5 Credit

World History – Modern is the study of developments which have shaped history and affected modern political, economic and social systems from 1700-1900. The emphasis will be on the development of history and the evolution of modern nations from a global perspective.

WORLD HISTORY - CONTEMPOARY

Grade 9-10
0.5 Credit

World History – Contemporary is the study of developments which have shaped history and affected contemporary political, economic and social systems from 1900 to the present. The emphasis will be on the development of history and the evolution of contemporary nations from a global perspective.

U.S. HISTORY

Grade 11
1 Credit

A survey course of American History, including, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Era of Industrial Growth, Immigration, Progressive Era, and World War I, Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, The Civil Rights Movement, The 1970's, The Conservative Revolution, and recent American history to the present. The Constitution Test is taken in this course.

AP U.S. HISTORY

Grade 11-12
1 credit

The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP U.S. History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively

in essay format. AP US History will meet the graduation requirements for US History. Students enrolled in AP US History may not take US History.

CIVICS

Grades 10-12
½ Credit

Government is a practical, hands-on course organized around the function and role of government concentrated around three levels. Those three levels of government are federal, state, and local. The course will have an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois State Constitution, and the operations of local government concentrating on city, township, and the county. Other topics will include comparing the United States form of government to forms of government in other countries.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Grades 11-12
½ Credit

This course or the passing of a proficiency exam is required for graduation. Consumer Education is the study of the role of the consumer in the nation's economy. It teaches reasoning and decision making, while providing reliable information for purchasing, use of goods and services and management of personal finance. Classroom topics are: Federal income tax, budgets and financial records, checking accounts/banking services, saving for the future, investing in stocks, credit in America, and the role of the consumer in a free enterprise system.

ECONOMICS

Grades 10-12
½ Credit

Economics is a practical, hands-on course organized around three unifying experiences: The student-company, computer management simulations, and economic trade-off case studies. Topics are studied from the perspectives of business, the consumer, labor, and government. The course uses a microcomputer in the classroom to publish company financial reports, conduct management games, and create economic simulations. The course features a business executive one day a week in the classroom and audio-visual learning. The successful completion of this course also meets the Consumer Education graduation requirement. This course and Consumer Education may not be taken concurrently.

PSYCHOLOGY

Grades 11-12
½ Credit

This course is designed to help the student understand himself. Special emphasis will be placed on stress, intelligence, conflicts, adjustment mechanisms, personality, mental disorders, and psychological concepts.

SOCIOLOGY

Grades 10-12
½ Credit

This course is a semester introduction to Sociology and social problems in American society. The emphasis is placed upon students' developing an understanding, both in depth and in breadth, of social systems and the individual's changing role in these systems. This course will investigate different sociological theories while exploring practical applications of these basic theories and other important sociological concepts. Students will use this sociological knowledge and these skills to investigate social issues pertinent to modern American society.

GLOBAL CULTURAL STUDIES

Grades 9-12

½ Credit

Global-Cultural Studies is a semester course with the major objectives of giving the students a basic understanding of both physical and cultural geography. This class will help students broaden their understanding of social science concepts and terms and develop a program of work study and map skills as well as extend their reading and writing skills. North America and regional world geography will be the main focus of the course. The course is designed to meet the needs of all students, both those attending college and those going directly into the work force.

CURRENT WORLD ISSUES

Grades 11-12

½ Credit

Current World Issues is a semester course. The skills taught will include the reading and writing skills of inferring the main idea of passages, using context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words, identifying details that support the author's purpose or message, identifying cause-effect relationships, and drawing generalizations using details that support the main ideas of a passage. Math skills taught will include working with estimation, solving arithmetic problems that involve rates, proportions, and percentages, reading tables and graphs, translating information into a table, graph, or diagram, and determining probability. Public speaking skills will include debating local, state, and federal decisions in the news, house or senate bills from Springfield or Washington D.C., and current financial issues.

INSTRUCTIONAL AND LEE COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION

Admission to this program is based upon the recommendation of a multi-disciplinary team, which is composed of the student, parent(s), teachers, administrators, counselor, social worker, and psychologist. The team meets annually to determine appropriate goals, to develop the Individual Education Plan (IEP), and to determine the least restrictive environment in which the student will be successful. The curriculum is then designed to fit each student's individual needs. Students are included in regular education courses whenever appropriate and as much as possible.

LCSE LIFE SKILLS

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

The Life Skills class is designed to give the student practice in developing his/her needs to live independently. Emphasis is made on household skills such as cooking and cleaning skills. The students' individual needs and skill levels in this area determine the activities.

LCSE MATH

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

This course is designed to develop the students' efficiency in daily functional math skills and develop those skills for practical applications.

LCSE READING

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

This course is a functional reading program using the Edmark Functional Reading programs. Additional reading programs will be provided for individual students. Real life situations will be provided to increase knowledge of the functional reading words learned. Methods associated with vocabulary and language development are part of this course. Or an individual program will be set up from the student's IEP, if reading is determined to be insignificant to the student's education needs by the multi-disciplinary team.

LCSE SOCIAL SKILLS

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

This class is designed to teach students skills that they can use during their free time. It includes indoor and outdoor social activities and games such as horseshoes, Frisbee, dancing and basketball. A variety of group table games are made available. Each student also works on individual projects for seasonal holidays and Special Olympic activities and practices.

LCSE VOCATIONAL SKILLS I and II

Grades 9-12
1 Credit

The purpose of this class is to train students in skills that could be used in the work place. Those skills would include sorting objects of color, size and shape, packaging, making boxes, working on an assembly line, folding and stapling. Vocational Skills II has the same objective, but with an added emphasis on working over a longer time span.

LCSE COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Grades 9-12
1/2 Credit

Using a computer program, students will learn letter placements on the keyboard. All basic keyboarding skills will be taught. Requirements are to demonstrate a minimum 80% accuracy rate.

LCSE CONSUMER EDUCATION

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

The Basic Living course teaches basic skills to survive in the world today. Budgeting, household management, purchasing, and other skills are taught. Vocational skills include looking for a job, applications, interviewing skills, and ways to keep your job. Basic Living and Vocational classes are taught on a 2-year rotation.

LCSE COOKING

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course studies basic nutrition along with techniques and proper procedures in food preparation. Students will learn proper measuring, care of equipment, how to read recipes, meal planning, and various terms of cooking. The class may plan and prepare a meal weekly for their lunch. This course is offered one semester each year, with the contents being rotated on a 4-year cycle.

LCSE ENGLISH

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

A basic English program is presented along with reading development, a variety of writing experiences, spelling checks, and grammar. Reading a selection of "classic" novels increases students' exposure to literature. Students learn the practical application of their reading and writing skills.

LCSE HEALTH

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course will be taught on a 4-year cycle. The cycle begins by teaching interpersonal relationships. This course teaches the importance of having good interpersonal skills in school, at work, in the community and with family and friends. The students practice working on a team to complete a project. They also learn about the skills needed to be a good volunteer and a good friend. The second and third Health courses taught are basic Health. Topics such as sex education, healthy eating and body awareness are covered. Of great importance are the subjects on drug and alcohol abuse, smoking, mental health and the systems of the body. The fourth Health course is divided into two topics. The first one is on personal hygiene, attitudes, dress, and grooming. This is taught with the emphasis being how the student presents himself in the work place. The second topic is Basic First Aid. The student is taught how the knowledge of First Aid might be needed in school, in the community and in a family.

LCSE MATH 2

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This math program is presented to the student to review and premeditate his/her knowledge of the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division for whole numbers. Also included are sections on fractions, decimals, place value, money, measurement, and time. Much time is spent on problem solving and the practical application of these skills.

LCSE SCIENCE

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course studies basic science topics. Year one covers general science, covering physical science, earth science, life science, and chemistry if time allows. Year two covers the study of the human body and land animals. The third year covers plant life and water life. The fourth year studies space travel and the solar system, along with units decided according to the interests of the students.

LCSE SOCIAL STUDIES

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course will be taught on a 4-year cycle. The first course begins by with students learning about their Government at the federal, state and local levels. This course will cover the Constitution, citizenship, and our country's laws and how they apply to us. The second and third course will be World Geography. They will cover five major themes of geography including, location, human and environmental interactions, population migration, and geographic regions. The fourth course will be United States History. This course highlights our country's major historical events and the people who helped to shape history.

LCSE CONSUMER EDUCATION

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course covers a basic introduction to consumer skills that is intended to make the student aware of and comfortable with the responsibility of being an adult consumer. It is a developmentally sequenced course designed to implement the student's I.E.P.

LCSE COOP I

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing or Recommendation of the IEP Team

1 Credit

Coop I is the introductory course for junior/senior special needs students who are entering the world of work.

Students are involved in a related instruction class to develop work adjustment skills to prepare them for the world of work.

LCSE COOP II

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing or Recommendation of the IEP Team

1 Credit

Coop II is the second year course for junior/senior special needs students to prepare the students for competitive employment/supported work employment following graduation from high school. The major emphasis of this course is to prepare the students for transition from the school environment to the world of work.

LCSE COOP WORK I/II

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Enrollment in Coop I or Coop II Class
or recommendation of the IEP Team

1 Credit

Junior/Senior special needs students may be released one to period of the school day to participate in a work experience situation, if employed. The work experience component of the program may be in one of the following work sites: in-school work and/or community job sites. Students are evaluated at regular intervals to determine progress/success. Students are required to complete monthly time cards signed by their current employer. If not employed, students are required to complete weekly employment contact reports.

ENGLISH 4/5

Grades: 9-12

1 Credit

English 4/5 will emphasize grammar, mechanical skills, writing, and composition skills. Areas of concentration will also be placed on vocabulary, word usage, and reading comprehension. Developing five paragraph essays and public speaking will also be emphasized.. This is a developmentally sequenced course designed to implement the student's IEP, as determined by the multidisciplinary team.

MATH 3/4/5

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This course is designed to develop the student's efficiency in the performance of the basic operations of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, and to develop those skills for practical application.

RESOURCE STUDY HALL

Grades 9-12

1/2 Credit

This course allows students to receive structured help on their class assignments while gaining Dixon High School credit at the same time. Students must bring work from other classes to RSH, in order to receive a passing grade. If other work is not available, study packets will be provided for the student. Students will be required to complete an assignment notebook.

SCIENCE 4/5

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This course parallels the mainstream science curricula. Year one covers the Natural Science areas of Geology, Meteorology and Astronomy. The second year covers Biology concepts: the study of living things. Year three involves the study of Physical Science: basic concepts in Chemistry and Physics. Each year includes laboratory activities which will further students' understanding of the concepts being studied, as well as enhance their critical thinking skills. Each course is adapted and modified yearly according to the needs of the enrolled students.

WACC Courses

Whiteside Area Career Center offers a variety of courses. Please visit their website at www.wacc.cc to see the most up to date course listings.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE
No Prerequisites

Grades 11-12
½ Credit

Community Service is a non-academic, elective course taken on a pass-fail basis. A student can only choose to take Community Service twice for up to one credit. There are two ways to earn Community Service credit:

1. A student can choose to do their Community Service within the school day. They will be assigned a class period and will earn a Passing grade and ½ credit provided they meet the attendance requirements and complete a 500 word essay describing their experience.
2. A student can choose to complete 70 hours of Community Service out in the community. The placement must be approved by the Community Service Supervisor. The student will earn a passing grade and ½ credit when they provide confirmation of hours completed and a 500 word essay describing their experience.