

Junior & Senior Electives 2019-20

Art Electives

1. Art 1 - 5 credits

Art I is an introductory course at the secondary level that will foster an understanding of art as it is primarily related to the expression of ideas and to develop avenues for the expression of these ideas. A wide range of media will be explored through the applications of the elements of art and principles of design. Students shall use the skills acquired to become mature, productive members of society in order to further develop a portfolio incorporating techniques and media of their choice.

2. Calligraphy - 2.5 credits

Calligraphy is a semester course that enables the student to learn the correct letter formation and word spacing from the basic to the advanced hands in lettering. The Simple Hand, Bookhand, Chancery Cursive and Old English are lettering styles, which shall be introduced to the student as well as the foundational, italic, uncial and gothic style script.

Through the study of calligraphy, the student will develop a vocabulary unique to the craft and gain skill with the use of tools necessary for correct letter formation. In addition, the student will gain an understanding of the relationship between pen size and letter proportions in width and height.

Along with technical skills, the student also develops creativity and inventiveness while adhering to the exactness and beauty of calligraphy through lettering projects and the production of an original hand created by the student. Exploration of career opportunities and information concerning the field of calligraphy shall also be provided.

3. Ceramics - 2.5 credits

The purpose of *Ceramics* is to provide students with an understanding of the basics of ceramics/pottery. This will be accomplished by focusing on three basic methods of hand built pottery: pinch, coil and slab method. Students will develop a ceramic vocabulary as well as become adept at throwing on the potter's wheel. This is a semester course that will progress from the preparation of the clay for the firing process to learning the decorative techniques of glazing and under glazing. By combining various hand-building methods and glazing techniques to create new and unusual results, students become aware of career opportunities available to the ceramic artist.

4. Dramatic Arts - 2.5 credits

This elective half-year course is intended to introduce students to the various aspects of dramatic arts. The course will include an overview of theater history and fundamentals of stage production such as scenery construction, stage design, costuming, makeup, and lighting. Topics will include the origins of drama in the Greek and Roman theater/Elizabethan theater/Shakespeare; the practices of the great tragedians; the talents of silent movie actors; the development of modern theater; and various movements in theater history. Students will independently chart the development of theater throughout history by independent study and projects of cultural exploration throughout the world. By studying and practicing mime and pantomime, students will appreciate non-verbal communication while developing bodily poise and the art of effective body language and facial expression. Throughout this process, the class

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will consider various acting techniques as well as study the general concept of developing a character through text, body, and voice. Students will examine the theories of effective characterization, as well as the attributes of tragedy and comedy through varied readings, philosophies, and practice.

5. Drawing Watercolors - 2.5 credits

Drawing and Watercolor provides the student with an intensive study of drawing as well as the development of technical skill with watercolor. The student will be presented with a variety of methods and will explore a variety of media in drawing including pencil, colored pencil, charcoal and marker. Instruction will further develop drawing skills and techniques needed to become better at drawing. Some of these techniques include observational, figure, still life, portraiture, and technical applications. The development of watercolor skills such as understanding the use of color, applications of techniques and the use of media with watercolor will be addressed. The emphasis of the course will be strengthening to student's ability to "see" and therefore, draw and paint accurately along with his/her handling of the drawing/watercolor materials.

6. Introduction to Theater - 2.5 credits

This half-year course is designed to introduce students to the world of theater and performance. Students will participate in exercises and theater games to build self-esteem, trust, and empathy. With focus on bodily and oral communication and interpretation, the course will provide students with a strong foundation for the college or professional theater experience. Throughout the course extensive stage terminology, vocal production, philosophies of creating character, and varied script readings will be examined. This course focuses on improvisational training, interpretation skills, critical evaluations, and a variety of performances. By developing stronger observation/listening skills, learning to accept corrective criticism, and fostering a compassion for others, a student will be better prepared for the road ahead of him in college or the workforce. Students will also gain practical experience by working on the high school musical in a variety of positions such as acting, publicity, lighting, sound, stage design/construction, scenery, or costuming. Toward the end of the course, students will attend the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival where students may perform dance routines, musical numbers, and/or acting scenes and/or participate in a variety of self-selected workshops.

7. Multimedia - 5 credits

The *Introduction to Multimedia* course is a full year, 5-credit course offered only to the students in 11th and 12th grades. This course is designed to help our youth develop the powers of literacy and the competencies for living in the 21st century. Literacy in the future will demand more than knowledge of books and letters, and more than knowing how to read and write. To be literate and competent in our changing society it will require understanding the complexities of the technological world: how it works, how one relates to it, how one influences its direction and what are reasonable expectations for the future.

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Business Electives

1. Accounting - 5 credits

In a challenging employment market, this course will provide students with the foundation skills necessary for entry-level employment in the business world. At the same time, this course will provide college-bound students with the foundation necessary to be successful in an introductory college accounting course. Managing finances, including payroll, banking, recordkeeping and preparation of financial statements for a service/merchandising business are the core activities of this course.

2. Computer Applications - 5 credits

This course is designed to introduce the student to the beginning, intermediate, and advanced capabilities of various programs that expose students to different technology applications over an array of careers and industries. Exploring the Internet and Internet safety is also discussed/taught. Students will develop skills in information gathering, compilation, sorting, and calculation. Students are expected to develop the necessary skills to seek, obtain, maintain, and change jobs.

3. Marketing - 5 credits

The Marketing curriculum will provide students with opportunities to gain an understanding of marketing as it relates to both the business marketplace and the retail consumer marketplace. The subject of Marketing will aid students in becoming responsible citizens. Students will evaluate concepts involving the functions of marketing, including promotion, selling, distribution, and finance, relating to buying and selling goods and services.

In addition students will be provided to an introduction into international trade, world economics, case studies, ethical decision-making and domestic business situations. In this course students will use technology resources for project based learning assignments, for inquiry and assessment. The marketing course will include learning opportunities pertinent to the application of marketing to lifelong learning and our lifelong consumption of marketed goods and services.

Finally, students will develop and exhibit the proficiencies and attitudes necessary for the successful transition into college or career through multidisciplinary activities that examine the principles of marketing.

English Electives

1. 21ST Century Research & Technical Writing - 5 credits

This course is designed to challenge twelfth-grade students by allowing them to work independently to practice the forms and purposes of writing in various technical, scientific, and any such field requiring research and reports. Students will locate, evaluate and manage research materials. He or she will conduct research adhering to all MLA format rules. The student will be expected to do extensive research, with the final products including a thesis paper, formal emails, resume, employment letter, and oral presentation.

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2. Creative Writing - 5 credits

Creative Writing is a full year course that helps students become empowered writers with 21st century skills. Students are encouraged to become more observant, to make new associations, and to exercise imagination in expressing ideas. Experimentation of many forms of writing is emphasized. Students will expand and refine their writing skills through both self and peer evaluation. Various technological applications are incorporated as a means of enhancing student learning.

3. Journalism - 5 credits

This half year, 2.5-credit course is designed to encourage students to discover aspects of print journalism. The importance of political and social awareness is gleaned through reading newspapers, news magazines, and books via hard copies and electronic versions. Audio and visual media is used in the discussion of current events. Students will learn to access, view, evaluate and respond to print, non-print, and electronic texts and resources.

Journalism theory and techniques are presented to enable students to understand, gather and write news, features, sports stories, and effective editorials. Interviewing skills, research, and observation combine to enhance student appreciation and awareness of international current events, so that the student will appraise media more intelligently and interpret more intuitively.

4. Literature & Media - 5 credits

This course closely examines the role that popular culture plays in the development of identity, and how literature and the media representations shape our understanding of reality, the world in which we live and our roles in it. This course is designed to develop student critical literacy and writing, to promote critical thinking, to challenge students' existing beliefs and to empower students with the tools needed to negotiate a complex global environment.

5. Mythology - 5 credits

Mythology and Allusion is an elective course designed for students who enjoy mythology and its progression through literary history as it comes from the ancient world and is reused and adapted for the modern world. Students will explore ancient myths from many cultures and will explore corresponding treatments of that myth through both creative and analytical exercises, oral tradition and art. A variety of skills will be emphasized which support the New Jersey Student Learning Standards such as literary analysis, research writing, reflective writing, and public speaking.

History Electives

1. 20th Century Conflicts - 2.5 credits

This 2.5 credit course is designed to increase student awareness of domestic and international conflicts during the 20th Century. The Students will study major conflicts from and including the World War II, the Far East and recent events in the Middle East, and various assassinations/conspiracies throughout the 20th Century. The Students will understand the social, economic, and political issues that brought the United States into these wars and the effects the effects on world affairs. This course evaluates the politics and major global conflicts

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in the 20th Century. It examines the diplomatic attempts by world leaders to prevent the wars and examine peace settlements. It examines and analyzes the conflicts, the results of each conflict; determines the reasons for victory, and the long-term impact of wars on the nations involved. It lastly examines the impact of conspiracy theories, assassinations, and genocide on nations around the world during the 20th Century.

2. American Government - 2.5 credits

The purpose of this course is to promote citizen participation in government. The course will prepare the college and no college bound student by providing the democratic skills needed to participate intelligently in public affairs. The course will promote loyalty and pride for one's country as well as direct the students toward the challenges of emerging global communities. The course will introduce political science, explore various forms of government, study the history and development of our government, and examine the methodology employed by our current political system.

3. Crime & Punishment - 2.5 credits

Crime and Punishment provides a comprehensive overview of the American justice system. Students will explore how crime and punishment have an impact on their lives. Students will actively participate in such topics as: current crime issues, gangs, organized crime, police conduct, prison life, juvenile delinquency, and much more. Activities will include field trips, guest speakers, debates, and roundtable discussions. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to the various careers related to criminal justice.

4. Current Affairs - 2.5 credits

This course will introduce learners to important political, economic and cultural issues facing the United States and the world. Issues will be evaluated from historical, cultural, political, and economic perspectives. In addition, through extensive research and class discussions, students will be acquired to articulate positions and proposed solutions to the problems.

5. History of Sports - 2.5 credits

This 2.5 credit course is designed to increase student awareness of the role of sports in American Society. Sports have become a microcosm for American society and culture, and have come to reflect the major trends, frustrations, fantasies, and values in the society at large. Studying about sports in any time period gives an extraordinary insight into the mind and mood of the people. The fact that three-quarters of the American people daily participate or watch sports reveals that sports pervades every facet of American life. Sports infiltrate our educational system, the economy, and political life, and have become the most popular form of mass entertainment. Students will come to recognize the parallels between sport and society. Topics to be covered include: Sport, Socialization, Competition, and Winning in Children's and Other Organized Sports; Reforming Big-Time College Sports, Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in Sports; Mass Media and Sports Culture in America; Legal Issues in Sports; Sports and Big Business; and Baseball and American Culture.

6. Holocaust & Genocide Studies - 2.5 credits

The vision of this class begins by focusing the student's attention not only the Holocaust but on a more broad analysis of human behavior. It is important for students to explore the

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phenomenon of prejudice and its potential for venomous and ultimately lethal expression. Essential questions must be raised regarding how and why fear can lead to abusive, violent behaviors. An essential part of this course is for students to explore different acts of resistance during the Holocaust, to defeat the myth that all prisoners of Nazi Germany were like “sheep led to the slaughter.” Students must analyze society’s moral codes and assess issues of conscience and moral responsibility and their effect. Human rights will be a continual theme.

7. International Relations - 2.5 credits

This course is designed to increase student awareness of domestic and international policies as they relate to the United States as a global Super-power. The students will acquire historical understanding of societal ideas and forces throughout the history of New Jersey, the United States and the world. The program is based, in part, upon America’s historical role in the world, as well as examination of emerging developments in the realm of American foreign policy.

8. Middle Eastern Studies - 2.5 credits

This course will provide students with an opportunity to learn about the regions past and present and become familiar with the land, people, culture and politics of what makes up the Middle East.

9. Psychology - 5 credits

This *Psychology* course introduces the scientific study of human and animal behavior through analyzing the influences of heredity, environment, and life experiences. This course explores the various psychological schools of thought and examines the methodology employed by professionals in this area. This course surveys human development, the brain and behavior, personality, feelings and emotions, learning, altered states of awareness, stress and coping, intelligence, memory and abnormal behavior. Each of these topics will be explored to gain insight of personal behavior as well as the behaviors of others. Such skills as developing effective ways of communication, recognizing the psychological needs of others, learning a variety of research methods, evaluating research studies, and understanding the role of nature and nurture on behavior, will be stressed. To enhance these skills, technology will be implemented along with multi-sensory teaching and learning strategies. The ultimate goal of the course would be to improve the psychological and educational quality of life for each student.

10. Sociology - 2.5 credits

Sociology is a course based on the study of the relationships between the individual and the groups and institutions that shape our society. The purpose of the course is to understand the social world around us, and how to deal with social problems. The students will understand the multiple influences of gender, family background, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic position, and nationality as the basis for analysis of individual identity. Various methods and activities will be utilized to implement this course of study. Special attention will be given to an examination of the social patterns and problems within our nation and the manner in which society deals with them. This survey course will provide a better understanding of the student’s own social behavior and group relationships. In a world that is moving and changing very rapidly, an understanding of how to be a positive and interactive member of society is an

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essential skill. A better understanding of social forces through the study of Sociology provides an opportunity to develop this essential skill.

11. US History Through Film - 5 credits

The US History Through Film curriculum offers students a unique way to view American history through the Hollywood lens. Through film analysis, students will gain a new insight into the historical events that occurred from the American Revolution through recent US history. The course will demand 12th grade-level composition work, honing student writing and revision skills as they write reaction and analysis papers to films viewed in class. In addition to learning the historical accounts, student will explore character development, conflict, theme, symbolism, foreshadowing, and geographical/social/cultural settings.

Music Electives

1. Band - 5 credits

The *Instrumental Music/Band* program in the Elmwood Park Public Schools, grades 4 through 12, is designed to allow each student to continually progress as a musician and achieve musical independence at a high level. Students build upon previously learned musical concepts and knowledge regarding note reading, pitch, melody and rhythm to name a few. Mastery of a musical instrument is a lifelong pursuit and regularly scheduled playing time is essential for the success of any musician.

2. Music Theory - 5 credits

This course is designed for those students interested in furthering their skills in the theoretical (e.g. written) aspects of music. Concepts included are clef and note identification, key and time signatures, intervallic relationships and elementary chord study. A foundation is provided for students seeking to continue in music as a career.

3. Vocal Performance - 5 credits

Instruction in *Vocal Performance* and participation in the High School Chorus provide students the experience singing various styles of music. The choral music program should exist to enhance performance skills such as melody, harmony, pitch, range, and breathing. Students will enjoy expressing themselves vocally through a variety of school and district concerts. These include the following: winter and spring concerts, library concert, music festivals, county and region choral auditions, participating in the Memorial Day parade by singing the National Anthem, and graduation. Students may also develop "honors" ensembles such as madrigals, choir ensembles, and a vocal jazz group.

Physical Education Electives

1. Athletic Training - 5 credits

This course prepares students to work in consultation with and under the supervision of physicians to prevent and treat sports injuries and associated conditions. Included is instruction in the identification, evaluation, and treatment of athletic injuries and illnesses;

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first aid and emergency care; therapeutic exercise; anatomy; exercise physiology; kinesiology and biomechanics; sports psychology; knowledge of various sports and their biomechanical and physiological demands; and applicable professional standards and regulations.

2. Concepts of Physical Education - 2.5 credits

Students will be able to develop an understanding of fitness concepts and design a personal fitness program while developing an individualized level of health-related activities to complete assessments of their health-related fitness. Students will learn the relationships between physical activity, physical fitness, group interaction, cooperation, an appreciation for the abilities and limitations of self and others, and various health-related outcomes. Throughout the course, students will gain knowledge and skills needed to develop a lifelong pattern of physical activity.

3. First Aid & Safety - 2.5 credits

First Aid and Safety is a course that offers students valuable information and skills crucial for emergency situations in which emergency care is needed, but medical attention is not immediately available. Students will learn skills such as basic first aid, CPR, rescue breathing, and cardiac care. Students will have the opportunity to obtain American Red Cross certifications upon completion of the course proficiencies.