

# WYOMING VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH

### **ACADEMIC ENGLISH 9**

#### **Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit**

Course provides instruction in standard written and spoken language, literature, composition, the writing process, and formal speaking and listening skills. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions, figurative language, and literary genre to create, critique and discuss print and non-print texts. The emphasis on multi-genre literature helps students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. Composition instruction assists students to adjust the use of spoken and written language for different audiences and purposes through a wide range of strategies utilizing different writing process strategies and elements. Students will conduct research by gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing data from a variety of sources including technological and informational resources (e.g. print and non-print texts, libraries, databases, computer networks, video), to create and communicate knowledge culminating in a multi-step research project. Students are required to generate a research project orally and in writing through the use of note-taking and the writing process.

### **HONORS ENGLISH 9**

#### **Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit**

Course encourages the students to participate in society as a knowledgeable, reflective, creative, and critical user of language. The student develops a command of language for reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. The student learns a range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate a variety of complex texts including newspaper, magazine, essay, novel, short story, poetry, and drama. Vocabulary and composition assignments are developed in direct connection with the study of literary genres as well as real-life experiences. Technology is utilized to further enhance the reading and writing experience. Students entering English 9 Honors should have a strong command of the English language as demonstrated through grammatically correct, concise, coherent, structured sentences, paragraphs, and essays formatted in the MLA style. Students are expected to be familiar with the MLA style of documentation including works cited pages and internal documentation practices. Previous knowledge of analytical literary skills, the writing process, independent reading skills, and thesis writing are all expected. Students can expect to move beyond remembering, understanding, and applying knowledge into more demanding critical thinking skills including analyzing, evaluating, and creating. The reading of long literary masterpieces outside of class and the completion of research-based writing projects with a focus on the MLA style are central to the course. All students enrolled in the English 9 Honors course must successfully complete an independent reading of the required summer reading assignments prior to the start of the course.

- **Prerequisite : Honors English 8 or an “A” Average in English 8 with teacher recommendation**

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

### **Semester - 0.5 Credit**

This is an elective course that is designed to improve your communication skills and knowledge for both formal and informal speaking situations. The course focuses on several types of public speaking experiences. As a foundation, you will first deal with basic communication theory, including verbal and nonverbal communication, listening skills, and language. Through direct experience, discussion, lecture, and readings, you will increase awareness of the vital roles that the principles of communication play on levels of human interaction. You will develop and practice standards of good oral and aural communication in order to communicate comfortably, clearly and effectively with specificity and precision in all academic, social and professional situations. With this basic knowledge you will then progress to the practical aspects of public speaking through a step-by-step building process that culminates in a variety of presentations. Formal speech presentations will be enhanced by a number of informal presentations that begin at the onset of the course.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **AMERICAN HISTORY II/CIVICS**

#### **Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit**

This is a course in the study of the history, people, and events in the United States. This course will focus on the Industrial Age through the Great Depression. The goal of this course is to develop a knowledge and comprehension of the movements, issues and conflicts that propel the nation during the twentieth century. Students will focus on the development of the American culture, expansionism, political, social, and economic conflicts. In addition, they will study resolutions, industrialization and urbanization and our nation at war and abroad. Civics focuses on the functions of state and local government. Also, covering an introduction to the U.S. political system and justice system.

### **HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY II/CIVICS**

#### **Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit**

This is a course in the study of the history, people, and events in the United States. This course will focus on the Industrial Age through the Great Depression. The goal of this course is to develop a knowledge and comprehension of the movements, issues and conflicts that propel the nation during the twentieth century. Students will focus on the development of the American culture, expansionism, political, social, and economic conflicts. In addition, they will study resolutions, industrialization and urbanization and our nation at war and abroad. Civics focuses on the functions of state and local government. Also, covering an introduction to the U.S. political system and justice system. In addition, students will be required to analyze several Supreme Court case studies, complete current events and creative projects. Students will also have an option to choose between 10 hours of community service or complete a National History Day Project as outlined in the NHD manual.

## **CHARACTER EDUCATION**

### **Semester - 0.5 Credit**

This class will focus on central issues and character virtues that are pertinent in the lives of our school aged students. It will construct and build character and skills that will be applicable for use in the students' everyday lives. The ultimate goal of the program is to provide students with the education and information so they could make wiser choices and not fall victim to the toxic nature of their present culture.

## MATHEMATICS

### **PART 1 ADVANCED ALGEBRA 1 (3110)**

#### **Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit**

Part 1 Advanced Algebra 1 is the first part of the Advanced Algebra 1 course. The content of this course is based on the Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Core standards which are necessary to be successful on the Algebra 1 Keystone exam. Students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam at the end of the next course, Part 2 Advanced Algebra 1.

### **ADVANCED ALGEBRA 1 (3120) \*\*ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM TAKEN DURING THIS COURSE\*\***

#### **Grade 9 or 10, Full Year, 1 Credit**

Advanced Algebra 1 is an accelerated course in Algebra 1. The content of this course is based on the Pennsylvania Algebra 1 Core standards which are necessary to be successful on the Algebra 1 Keystone exam. Students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam at the end of this course.

### **HONORS ALGEBRA 2 (3202) \*\*ALGEBRA 1 KEYSTONE EXAM TAKEN DURING THIS COURSE\*\***

#### **1 Credit and Honors Credit**

Algebra 2 (Honors) is a course for students in the Honors math sequence. Topics include linear and non-linear equations and inequalities, complex numbers, logarithms and series and sequences. The pace is advanced, topics are covered in-depth and additional topics are also covered. Students will take the Algebra 1 Keystone exam halfway through this course.

- **Prerequisites: Algebra 1 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School.**

### **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING 1 (3710)**

#### **Full Year, 1 Credit**

This course is an introduction to the broad and dynamic field of computer science. Students will be introduced to a wide range of issues, such as limitations of computing, and ethical questions in computing. The course will also provide an overview of programming used in problem solving and computer game design. The computer languages to be introduced will include Alice and Python.

- **Prerequisite: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra 1 or Advanced Algebra 1(3120) (all with a minimum grade of C) or students currently taking Advanced Algebra 1 (3120)**

## **SCIENCE**

### **EARTH SCIENCE**

#### **Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit**

Earth/Space Science is a course that integrates the study of Earth as a planet with the characteristics of the solar system. Topics from the disciplines of astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, and geology are explored to develop an appreciation of our planet as an integrated system. The study of the Earth will include its history, interior and exterior, composition, structure, atmosphere, astronomical surroundings and place in the universe. The characteristics of the solar system include the motion of the universe and its structures. The course aims to develop student's skills of solving problems in a logical scientific manner with knowledge of environmental awareness and the responsibility that surrounds them.

The second semester students will change pace and focus on Environmental Science. Environmental Science is a course of study of how the natural world works, how our environment affects us, and how we affect our environment. Students will focus on understanding the interactions between humans and the environment, and focus on solving environmental problems. They will study issues that are important to our world and its future such as Ecology, Evolution, biomes, population growth, resource management and our dynamic climate.

### **BIOLOGY**

#### **Grade 10, Full Year, 1 credit**

General Biology is an introductory course developed for high school students. The course contains selected biological topics and activities that provide students with the opportunities to gain the necessary knowledge and skills needed to demonstrate mastery of course standards. There is no lab period scheduled, however, numerous lab activities are utilized to supplement course concepts. The course content will focus upon: (1) An introduction to biology, (2) Chemistry of life, (3) Cell biology, (4) Flow of energy, (5) Mechanisms of genetics and heredity, (6) Ecology, (7) Evolutionary relationships. Students will experience learning strategies such as inquiry, cooperative-learning and modern technology in developing necessary skills and knowledge. This is a keystone course and curriculum is driven by instructional material given by PDE.

### **HONORS BIOLOGY**

#### **Grade 9, Full Year, 1 Credit**

General Biology Honors is an introductory course developed for high school students with exceptional skills. The course contains selected biological topics and activities that provide students with the opportunities to gain necessary knowledge and skills needed to demonstrate mastery of course outcomes and standards. The course content will focus upon: (1) An introduction to biology, (2) Chemistry of life, (3) Cell biology, (4) Flow of energy, (5) Mechanisms of genetics and heredity, (6) Ecology, (7) Evolutionary relationships. Students will experience learning strategies such as inquiry, cooperative learning, and technology to assist them in developing necessary skills and knowledge. Cross curriculum activities such as reading, writing, research, and math computations will be assessed within the course. The pace of coverage and depth of content provide exceptional rigor to this course along with a double lab period. This is a keystone course and curriculum is driven by instructional material given by PDE.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9**

#### **Grade 9 (.25 credit per year)-Graduation Requirement**

This class is designed to provide opportunities for students to gain efficient motor ability, use motor ability in games, understand team work, develop organizational skill through team work, explore lifetime activities, and gain an understanding that a healthy lifestyle requires a person to regularly be active. These goals are achieved through a variety of different physical challenges from skill development to be used in specific organized and recreational games, to individual challenges such as aerobic movement programs, and weight lifting. Each student is required to complete a physical fitness test twice per year, complete all skill tests, and have a strong participation record to successfully complete this course. This is a Pennsylvania State requirement; therefore, one physical education class per year must be passed to be eligible for graduation.

## **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES**

### **INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

#### **Semester - 0.5 Credit**

Introduction to Family and Consumer Science provides instruction in four areas: Food Science and Nutrition, Financial and Resource Management, Child Development, and Balancing Family, Work and Community Responsibility. The students will have limited hands-on activities in food preparation and sewing. This course is the basis for the Child Development, Teen Living, Independent Living and Culinary Arts courses.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

### **SPANISH 1**

#### **Grade 9, 10, 11 12, Full Year, 1 Credit**

This course will introduce students to Spanish language and culture. Students will gradually acquire a limited proficiency in pronouncing, comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. They will gain a knowledge and appreciation for Hispanic culture. Various aspects of Spanish grammar for the beginning student will be emphasized.

### **HONORS SPANISH 1**

#### **Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit**

This course will introduce students to Spanish language and culture. Students will gradually acquire a limited proficiency in pronouncing, comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. They will gain a knowledge and appreciation for Hispanic culture. Students seeking honors credit are required to study this level of language in greater depth. The honors course will move at a more accelerated pace utilizing written and spoken activities. Students should expect more challenging classwork assignments, as well as an individual research project.

## **SPANISH 2**

### **Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit**

Spanish 2 continues the development of the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills that were taught in Spanish 1. Basic grammatical structures using the present and past tenses will be taught. The cultures of the Hispanic world will also be emphasized.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 1**

## **HONORS SPANISH 2**

### **Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit**

Honors Spanish 2 continues the development and integration of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills as well as comprehension of the language. The students will review structures learned in the first level of Spanish, and develop mastery of thematic vocabulary in context and new grammatical structures. The honors course will be conducted at an accelerated pace. Concepts will be presented in greater depth and assessment procedures will be more rigorous.

- **Prerequisite: Spanish 1 or Honors Spanish 1 (with GPA requirement)**

## **FRENCH 1**

### **Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit**

French I students will learn basic structure, grammar, and vocabulary, with an emphasis on conversation. French culture is also an integral part of this class as students look at differences and similarities between American and French culture. The course will provide the linguistic base as well as speaking and listening skills for the basic communication in French.

## **HONORS FRENCH 1**

### **Grade 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit**

Honors French 1 emphasizes a functional, communicative approach to language learning within the francophone world. Students gradually acquire limited proficiency in listening speaking, reading and writing while developing cultural sensitivity to the activities of French-speaking people. The honors course will move at a more accelerated pace with expanded materials and more rigorous testing.

## **FRENCH 2**

### **Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit**

French 2 continues to build on the basic grammatical patterns and vocabulary introduced in French 1. The students will be provided with language skills (grammar, spelling, sentence structure, capitalization skills) and reading skills (vocabulary and comprehension). Students will be able to communicate with greater fluency on the present and past tenses and write with greater accuracy and understand simple conversations related to survival needs. They will also acquire a greater understanding of the differences between their culture and the Francophone cultures. Students will increase skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as cultural awareness.

- **Prerequisite: French 1**

## **HONORS FRENCH 2**

### **Grade 9, 10, 11, 12, Full Year, 1 Credit and Honors Credit**

Honors French 2 continues to build upon the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in French 1. Basic vocabulary and grammar are reviewed and augmented in thematic units with an emphasis on comprehension and more rigorous testing.

- **Prerequisite: French 1, Honors French 1 (with GPA requirement)**

## **FRENCH AND SPANISH CULTURES**

### **1 Credit-Full Year**

#### **French Cultures (Semester)**

This course is an examination of the various patterns of living of French-speaking people throughout the world. Areas to be highlighted and explored include everyday expressions, current events, social functions, geography, fashion, foods, English derivatives, educational system, sports, holidays, transportation, careers and travel.

#### **Spanish Cultures (Semester)**

Students will study the development and construction of the Spanish culture and civilization from Pre-Roman times, the expansion of the Spanish empire, to the present day Latino culture. This course will focus on history, geography, art, literature, and other cultural manifestations. Students will examine the threads of distinct identities that have been woven together throughout history to visibly influence the design of Spanish society.

## **BUSINESS**

### **ACCOUNTING I USING QUICKBOOKS/TECHNOLOGY**

#### **1 Credit, Full Year**

Emphasis placed on conceptual understanding. New features like Forensic Accounting, Think Like an Accountant, Financial Literacy, and Why Accounting? Are some examples of the opportunities for students to master valued skills, such as critical thinking and technology use, as defined by the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Commercial technology equips students to work with QuickBooks.

- **Prerequisite: Honors Algebra completed in 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS**

#### **1 Credit, Full Year**

Explore modern business practices and examine the following topics: business and its environment; operation and interrelationships with government and society; the place of business in the economy and global economy; management and organization; finance; marketing; production and personnel functions; statistics; budgets; and consumer economic problems.

## **MICROSOFT OFFICE**

### **1 Credit, Full Year**

Exposes students to practical examples of the computer as a useful tool. Acquaints students with the proper procedures to create documents, worksheets, databases, and presentations suitable for coursework, professional purposes, and personal use. Helps students discover the underlying functionality of Office 2016 (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access) so they can become more productive. Develop an exercise-oriented approach that allows learning by doing.

## **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

### **8110 - Fundamentals of Technology**

#### **1 Credit, Full Year**

This course provides prerequisite hands-on experiences in principles and processes essential for the study of the technology systems and develops a foundation for students interested in any technical field of study. Emphasis is placed on utilizing the technological design process for problem solving, design, technical communication, modeling, testing, evaluation, and implications of technology. This course is a prerequisite for all additional courses in Technology Education including all engineering, robotics and architecture courses.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **7130 –INTRODUCTION TO ART**

#### **Semester - 0.5 Credit**

Art 1 is a general art course which teaches the basic principles of art by providing experiences in drawing, design, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and crafts. Introduction to Art is the first step in the four-year art program.

### **7100 – BAND**

#### **1 Credit, Full Year**

This program includes training in intonation, balance, blend, sight reading, and general musicianship as well as reading, studying, and performing all types of band works. Woodwind, brass, and percussion ensemble training is stressed. Public concerts are scheduled throughout the year.

### **7110 – CHORUS**

#### **1 Credit, Full Year**

Training is provided in the singing of choral works, both sacred and secular, of as high a standard as the particular class warrants. Special emphasis is placed on phrasing, interpretation, tone quality, and breathing. Opportunity is provided for participation in small vocal groups.

### **7300- ORCHESTRA**

#### **1 Credit, Full Year**

Orchestral literature, geared to the ability of the group is studied. Emphasis is placed on ensemble playing.

- **Prerequisite:** Demonstration of proficiency in playing an instrument and recommendation of instructor