

MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT



**9TH GRADE
COURSE OFFERINGS
AND INFORMATION**

Morris Hills Regional District

9th Grade Offerings and Information

Index- Click on the title to be taken directly to the page.

School Counseling.....	2
Art.....	6
Business.....	7
English.....	8
Mathematics.....	9
Music.....	10
Physical Education/Health.....	11
Science.....	12
Social Studies.....	13
Technology Education.....	14
World Language.....	15
Administrative Contacts.....	17



For additional information on Morris Hills Regional District course offerings, please visit the Program of Studies linked above.



Look for the icon above throughout the magazine for links to additional video content.

Class of 2028
Requirements for High School Graduation

Subject	Credits
English	20 credits, 5 credits for each year of enrollment
Mathematics	15 * credits, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 credits of Algebra 1 • 5 credits of Geometry • 5 credits of Algebra II or content that builds on Algebra 1 and Geometry
Science	15 ** credits, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 credits of Biology or Life Science • 5 credits of Chemistry, Environmental Science, or Physics • 5 credits of additional lab science
Social Studies	15 credits, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 credits of World History/Culture • 10 credits of U.S. History
World Language	5 credits
Phys. Ed/Health	5 credits for each year of enrollment
Personal & Financial Literacy	2.5 credits
Visual & Performing Arts	5 credits
21 st Century Life & Careers or Career/Tech Ed	5 credits
Additional Electives	32.5 credits
Total Credits Required for Graduation	140 credits

In order to graduate, all students need a total of 140 credits. Five credit courses run the entire year and two and a half credit courses are semester offerings.

Morris Hills Regional District encourages all students who have otherwise met all requirements for graduation to pursue additional coursework in Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and World Language in order to be better prepared for post-secondary programs and 21st century careers.

* Students who have taken Algebra 1 or Geometry in the 8th grade must still complete 15 credits at the high school level.

** Students who have taken Biology at Copeland or Valleyview must still complete 5 credits of Biology or Life Science at the high school level.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES


The MHRD [Program of Studies](#) is your guide to the 200+ courses offered in the District. This website provides accurate and timely information about courses offered in the district, as well as related policies and procedures (schedule changes, rank/GPA, etc.)

COURSE SELECTIONS

Selecting subjects for the high school years is extremely important. As early as it may seem, the decisions made now can have a tremendous influence on the future. Students and parents are encouraged to get all of the assistance possible to help them in this decision-making process. Your teachers and eighth grade school counselors are the professionals who will assist you in selecting subjects which best fit your needs and abilities. Do not hesitate to seek their advice. All incoming 9th graders (current 8th graders) are scheduled by their 8th-grade school counselors; course selections are based on their 8th-grade teachers' recommendations.

2024-2025 Freshman Course Selection Sheet

Sample of Front Page

MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT 9th GRADE COURSE SELECTION SHEET 2024-2025			 MHRD Program of Studies
Student Name: _____	Counselor: _____	MH MK	
English- 5 Credits (Check 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> EN310 English 9 H (R)<input type="checkbox"/> EN210 English 9 CPA<input type="checkbox"/> EN110 English 9 CPB<input type="checkbox"/> English 9<input type="checkbox"/> WL050 ESL Beginner<input type="checkbox"/> WL051 ESL Intermediate<input type="checkbox"/> WL052 ESL Advanced	Mathematics- 5 Credits (Check 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> MT210 Algebra I CPA<input type="checkbox"/> MT110 Algebra I CPB<input type="checkbox"/> Algebra I<input type="checkbox"/> WL063 ESL Integrated Math 1<input type="checkbox"/> MT310 Geometry H (E)***<input type="checkbox"/> MT220 Geometry CPA (E)***<input type="checkbox"/> MT320 Algebra 2 H (E)***<input type="checkbox"/> MT320 Algebra 2 CPA (E)***	Science- 5 Credits (Check 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> SC310 Biology H (R)<input type="checkbox"/> SC211 Biology CPA (R)<input type="checkbox"/> SC200 Environmental Science CP<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science<input type="checkbox"/> SC320 Chemistry H (E)<input type="checkbox"/> Copeland/Valleyview students in Biology H only	
Social Studies -5 Credits (Check 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> SS310 World History H (R)<input type="checkbox"/> SS210 World History CPA<input type="checkbox"/> SS110 World History CPB<input type="checkbox"/> World History	<div>**In District Students will take the placement test in their respective middle schools ***Out of District Students currently enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry must take a placement exam to move to the next level of math. Please indicate your exam date. (Check one)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> June 7th at 1:00pm at Morris Hills<input type="checkbox"/> June 10th at 1:00pm at Morris Knolls<i>These dates can not be rescheduled</i></div>	Key (R) = Teacher recommendation REQUIRED (E) = Eligibility based on placement exam or standardized test results	
Physical Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Students will be scheduled for 3.75 credits of P.E. and 1.25 credits of Health		ESL Students ONLY English as a Second Language (ESL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> WL000 ESL Newcomer<input type="checkbox"/> WL060 ESL Literature & Lang<input type="checkbox"/> WL061 ESL Beginning Comp.<input type="checkbox"/> WL062 ESL Composition	
ELECTIVES: RANK (in order of preference) Your TOP 5 Electives Using numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (1 Being the TOP choice)			
World Language- 5 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> WL210 French 1<input type="checkbox"/> WL211 German 1<input type="checkbox"/> WL212 Spanish 1<input type="checkbox"/> WL110 Spanish Language 1<input type="checkbox"/> WL220 French 2 (R)<input type="checkbox"/> WL221 German 2 (R)<input type="checkbox"/> WL222 Spanish 2 (R)<input type="checkbox"/> WL310 Accelerated French H (R)<input type="checkbox"/> WL311 Accelerated German H (R)<input type="checkbox"/> WL312 Accelerated Spanish H (R)<input type="checkbox"/> WL330 French 3 H (R)<input type="checkbox"/> WL332 Spanish 3 H (R)	Visual & Performing Arts - 5 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none">... VP970 Introduction to Art... VP973 Digital Art & Design... VP975 Cartooning & Animation... VP977 Mixed Media Sculpture... VP980 Band... VP981 String Ensemble... VP982 Music Appreciation... VP984 Music Theory/Composition... VP990 Concert Choir... EN920 Theatre Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">... TC952 Intro to Graphic Communications... TC953 Intro to Woodworking... TC954 Metalworking... TC967 Engineering Maker Lab... TC970 TV Production 1*	
<div>**Some students may opt to delay World Language for 1 year **In District students will need a teacher recommendation for enrollment in Year 2 or 3 of a World Language. ***Out of District Students interested in starting a 2nd or 3rd year of a World Language are required to take our placement exam. Please indicate your preference for exam date: (Check one)<ul style="list-style-type: none">June 5, 2024 1:00 pm at Morris Hills/Morris KnollsJune 6, 2024 1:00 pm at Morris Hills/Morris Knolls<i>These dates can not be rescheduled</i></div>	21st Century Life & Careers- 5 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none">... BN910 Digital Foundations... BN911 Intro to Computer Applications... BN912 Intro to Business... BN913 Personal Finance... BN915 Marketing... BN924 Game Development... BN950 Yearbook Publication 1... MT421 AP Computer Science Principles... TC911 Computer Aided Design 1*... TC951 Electricity	Other - 5 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none">... EN952 Public Speaking & Writing... EN957 Art of Film... SC212 Intro to Aviation*... SS960 Anthropology **Half Year Courses - 2.5 credits (Are paired & must be taken together) <ul style="list-style-type: none">... SS952 Intro to Economics & SS954 Sports in American Culture... SS951 African American Studies & SS950 Criminology... SS950 Criminology & SS956 Military History... SS956 Military History & SS951 African American Studies	Study Hall/Support Study *Year 1 of CTE Sequence

Things to Consider When Selecting Your Courses

1. Course Levels:

- In the Morris Hills Regional District, courses are offered at the college preparatory level (CPA and CPB), honors level (H), and an Advanced Placement level (AP).
- You may refer to the "[Choosing Your Grade 9 Core Courses](#)" page in the [Program of Studies](#) in helping this decision-making process.

2. Teacher Recommendations:

- Current 8th grade core teachers will make recommendations for the appropriate levels for you. They will base their recommendations on your grades, homework, class work, tests and quizzes, and school attendance. They will also consider how motivated you are to learn and your self-discipline. Your teachers know the academic performance level required to be successful in certain classes in high school and will give a lot of thought as to your recommended placement.

3. Scheduling Process:

- Middle School Counselors meet with 8th grade students to review the teachers' recommendations and will highlight them on the Freshman Course Selection sheet.
- Completed Freshman Course Selection sheets may be sent home for parents/guardians to review and sign. These sheets are to return to the middle school counseling office.
- You may refer to the "[Planning Your High School Sequence](#)" page in the [Program of Studies](#) in helping this decision-making process.
- Students admitted to speciality programs (Magnet, AVID, IB) will be contacted to make adjustments to their original selections based on program requirements.

4. MHRD Alternate Day Block Schedule:

- The district has an alternating A/B day block schedule format including lunch; therefore, every student should select enough credits to fill a minimum of seven blocks (eight blocks are possible). Students with only 7 selections will be assigned a study hall.
- English, world history, mathematics, and science levels are determined by 8th-grade teacher recommendations (current performance and previous standardized testing results are considered).
- All 9th graders must take Physical Education and Health.
- Additional course selections will depend upon a student's interest and ability.
- Parents and students should refer to the [Program of Studies](#) for program suggestions and course descriptions.
- Students are strongly encouraged to select a course in world language, visual/performing arts, and/or twenty-first century life and careers to fulfill state and district requirements.

5. Schedule Changes:

- Parents and students should be aware that there may be minor changes in a requested schedule due to a conflict in scheduling some courses. In these cases, students may not be scheduled for their first or second elective course selections to complete the schedule. If you are contemplating a change to your recommended academic (core) courses or electives (non-core), please refer to the "[Schedule Change Calendar](#)" section located in the general information page of the [Program of Studies](#). Careful planning and knowledge of course offerings will help avoid such requests.

Common Pathways for Core Areas*

Below you will find the Common Pathways for Core Area. Please Note: This table only reflects common pathways in core areas and does not reflect the depth and breadth of coursework available.

Common Pathways for Core Areas*				
Subject	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Science	Biology CPA/H	Chemistry CPA/H	Physics CPA/AP Physics 1 AP Sciences/Science Electives	AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics C, AP Environmental
	Environmental Science CP	Biology H/CPA/CPB	Chemistry H/CPA/CPB Science Electives	Physics CPA/AP Physics1 Science Electives
Math	Geometry H/CPA	Algebra 2 H/CPA	Precalculus/Precalculus H Data Science	Calculus/AP Calculus AP Statistics Data Science
	Algebra 1 CPA	Geometry CPA	Algebra 2 CPA	Precalculus/Precalculus H College Math Topics AP Statistics or Stats/Prob Data Science
	Algebra 1 CPB	Geometry CPB	Algebra 2 CPB Financial Algebra	Stats/Prob or Data Science College Math Topics
English	English 9 H	English 10 H	English 11 H AP Literature AP Language	AP Language or Literature English 12: Service Learning English 12: Creative Writing
	English 9 CPA/CPB	English 10 CPA/CPB	English 11 CPA/CPB	English 12 CPA/ CPB English 12: Service Learning English 12: Creative Writing
Social Studies	World History H	U.S. History 1 H	AP U.S. History	AP Social Studies courses Social Studies electives
	World History CPA/CPB	U.S History 1 CPA/CPB	U.S. History 2 CPA/CPB	
World Language	Accelerated French/German/Spanish H French/German/Spanish 2	French/German/Spanish 3 H	French/German/Spanish 4 H	AP French Language AP Spanish Language AP German (Ind. Study)
	French/German/Spanish 1			
	Spanish Language 1	Spanish Language 2	Spanish 2	Spanish 3 H

*Motivated, high-achieving students may choose to accelerate the pacing of their education by doubling up on certain Honors or CPA classes in some academic areas with departmental permissions or by taking an AP Elective in science, math, or social studies in their sophomore year. Students may also move from level to level (CPB to CPA, CPA to H, etc.), depending on prerequisites and/or individual student needs.

COURSE LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS

At the end of 8th grade, middle school teachers will collaborate with the high school staff to make final recommendations for course placement. Grades, standardized test scores, teacher recommendations, and scores on any placement exams (mathematics) will be taken into consideration to determine if any adjustments need to be made to course recommendations. **Parent requests to waive their child into a higher level academic course will ONLY be considered up to June 30th.**

Art Department Course Offerings for 9th Graders

These courses meet the graduation requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Introduction to Art – 5 Credits

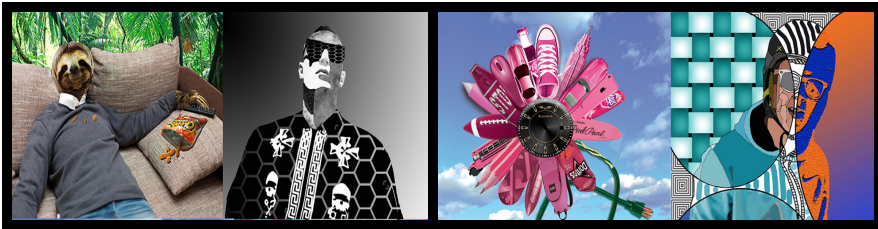
Do you like doodling in class? Do you enjoy drawing or painting? In this class we find creative ways to use the elements of art & design to create original pieces of artwork. A variety of drawing and painting mediums are explored, such as colored pencils, charcoal, pastels, watercolors, gouache, acrylic paints, pen/ink, and collage.



[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

Digital Art and Design – 5 Credits

Are you a creative person who enjoys working with technology? Does the idea of working in graphic/web design, advertising or animation appeal to you? In this class, creative ideas are combined with the power of technology to design original artwork and graphics. Project examples include photo manipulations, digital illustrations, stylized portraits, shape scapes, digital collages, micrography, digital painting, and design contests.



[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

Mixed Media Sculpture – 5 Credits

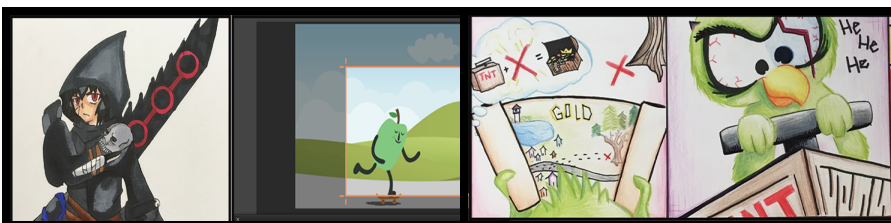
Do you like the idea of sculpting, carving, modeling and assembling art in 3D? Would you like to make art using different types of surfaces, materials and objects? In this class we use a variety of sculptural materials and methods to construct three dimensional forms, such as clay, wire, cardboard, plaster, upcycling, carving, modeling, sketching, and painting.



[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

Cartooning and Animation – 5 Credits

Do you like watching cartoons and animated movies? Would you like to create your own characters and make their stories come to life? In this class we use a combination of hand drawing and computers to create different types of cartoons and animation. Project examples include cartoon merges, character creation, concept art, panel gags, comic strips, splash pages, storyboards, flip books, and digital animation



[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

Business Education Department Course Offerings

Elective Courses Available to 9th Graders

Digital Foundations – 5 Credits

Digital Foundations will teach students valuable Digital Citizenship tools. Students will learn about their Digital Footprint and how to safely utilize internet resources. Life-long skills such as basic document and letter formatting will be covered. Additionally, word-processing will be emphasized through online applications. Students enrolled in Digital Foundations can earn Word professional certification.

Game Development - 5 Credits

The need for skilled multimedia workers is rising in the fields of business, education, and entertainment. This course will develop multimedia skills in the operation of graphics, animation, sound as they relate to game development. This course allows students to develop their creative skills. It also helps students think conceptually and problem solve in graphic design terms. The goal of this course is to help produce future professionals who possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to enter and advance in these fields. *Three college credits may be earned through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Early College Program. Course alignment varies on a year-to-year basis- check with your instructor.*

Introduction to Business – 5 Credits

Introduction to Business introduces the student to the field of business and presents the occupational opportunities in business. An introduction to economic activity, business laws and ethics, types of business ownership, entrepreneurship, business organization and management, production of goods, marketing and promotion, and a variety of personal financial topics are included in the curriculum. This course is designed to provide the student with a satisfactory, usable knowledge of the activities of the world of business.

Introduction to Computer Applications – 5 Credits

Intro to Computer Applications is designed to help learners become proficient in the many digital resources available to them. Students will become well versed in The Google Suite including web page development utilizing Google Sites. This is a project based course. Students will have the opportunity to choose the content of their projects. Intro to Computer Applications includes cloud based applications as well as full software exploration. **This course satisfies the Personal Financial Literacy requirement.**

Marketing – 5 Credits

Whether we realize it or not, marketing is all around us. Marketing has a direct effect on the purchases we make and the services we use. This course is designed to provide an overview of basic marketing principles and how they are applied. Topics covered in this class will include: pricing, branding, packaging, evaluating market opportunities, market segmentation, targeting and positioning, research, market strategy and planning. *Three college credits may be earned through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Early College Program. Course alignment varies on a year-to-year basis- check with your instructor.*

Personal Finance – 5 Credits

This course is designed to provide the knowledge needed to solve a wide variety of financial issues. The students are given the tools necessary to address the challenges of living on their own; such as bringing home a paycheck, utilizing a checking and savings account, renting an apartment, purchasing a house, purchasing a car, budgeting, and using credit. Personal Finance is a practical course that helps students become more informed consumers and avoid common mistakes. **This course satisfies the Personal Financial Literacy requirement.** *Three college credits may be earned through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Early College Program. Course alignment varies on a year-to-year basis- check with your instructor.*

Yearbook 1– 5 Credits

This course is intended for students interested in learning layout, design, graphic arts, and computer skills applicable to the production of a yearbook. Students will be required to develop proficiency in the publisher's design program as part of the yearbook creation and production. This course will require active and dedicated participation in all facets of yearbook production throughout the school year. Students are strongly encouraged to have some knowledge of Desktop Publishing, Social Media Marketing or Digital Art & Design.



*All Business Education classes meet the 21st Century Life and Careers graduation requirement.

**Please note that students may not use one course to satisfy both Personal Financial Literacy and 21st Century Life and Careers

English Department Course Offerings

Required Course for 9th Grade

English 9 – 5 Credits

This course consists of several integrated areas of learning for the college-bound student. The literature portion is approached thematically and includes short stories, poetry, drama, novels, essays, and nonfiction exploring topics including American voices, survival, civil rights, star-crossed romances, journeys of transformation, and our future world. Reading and language skills are developed utilizing a variety of instructional strategies and online resources. An emphasis on the writer's workshop explores various approaches to analytical, argumentative, and narrative essays. Students gain experience in the research process and produce a short research paper. Written pieces reflect an awareness of the audience and task, expressive use of language, organization, supportive details, and the degree to which writing demonstrates attention to grammar and mechanics. Students participate in a variety of collaborative discussions and deliver oral presentations to enhance speaking and listening skills. Vocabulary and high-stakes test preparation are infused into unit design in partnership with the literature and also through the use of the [Reading Plus/MHRD Reads Program](#). Instruction is designed to assist the student in building the foundation for language, literature, and composition studies that may be encountered in future coursework. **This course can be taken at Honors, CPA, or CPB level. Please refer to page 4 of the booklet regarding level selection.**

All English courses have a required district-wide summer reading assignment.



Elective Courses Available to 9th Graders

All elective classes are grouped heterogeneously. The following courses are available to students in grade 9. Each course is a full year course-5 credits.

Theatre Arts - 5 Credits

For those who enjoy performing or have ever considered it, this class provides the opportunity. Students will learn the skills required of an actor or public performer. The course includes pantomimes, storytelling, and improvisations. Additionally, students gain exposure to foundational techniques of dramatic production by designing sets, writing original scripts, adapting existing scripts, and directing and producing plays for presentation. Attending and critically evaluating a theatrical performance allows students to apply learning. The course culminates in a performance of work produced in class. This course meets Visual and Performing Arts graduation requirements and can be taken during each year of enrollment if desired.

The Art of Film - 5 Credits

The Art of Film is a course devoted to promoting critical viewing skills. This film study course encourages the application of critical viewing strategies to selected films. It explores film history, film criticism, and film appreciation through a combination of chronological and genre-oriented approaches. The course also exposes students to an understanding of the film industry and the economics of filmmaking and distribution. The structure of the course allows for independent practice in addition to student collaboration and oral presentation.

Public Speaking and Writing - 5 Credits

In this course, students will learn how to effectively conquer nerves and deliver a variety of speeches. Students experience many different public speaking opportunities, from demonstrations to poetry readings. This course develops fundamentals of effective voice, diction, body control, poise, and ease. Preparation and practice are provided in making short speeches including those to inform, to convince, to incite, to actuate, and to entertain. Introductions, conversations, demonstrations, poetry and prose readings, discussions, impromptu, and prepared oratory and debate procedures are also major elements of this course.



Mathematics Department Course Offerings

Courses for 9th Grade

Algebra 1 – 5 Credits

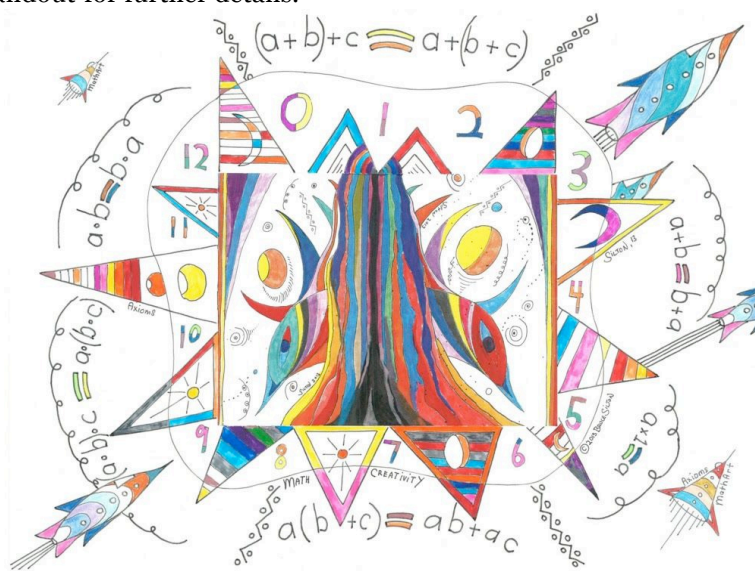
Algebra 1 is the first college preparatory course offered in the high school mathematics sequence. It builds upon prior knowledge from elementary and middle school mathematics and serves as the foundation for the courses that follow. Topics focused on in this course include linear equations and inequalities, quadratic and exponential functions, other non-linear graphs, and one variable and bivariate statistics. Algebra 1 can be taken at the CPA or CPB level. Please refer to "Things to Consider When Selecting Your Courses" on page 4 in this handout for further details.

Geometry – 5 Credits

Geometry is the second college preparatory course offered in the high school mathematics sequence and is available to incoming 9th graders who have successfully completed Algebra 1. Topics focused on in this course include geometric constructions and congruence, similarity and dilations, geometric properties and equations, and circles and geometry measurement. Incoming 9th graders can take Geometry at the Honors or CPA level. Please refer to "Things to Consider When Selecting Your Courses" on page 4 in this handout for further details.

Algebra 2– 5 Credits

Algebra 2 is the third college preparatory course offered in the high school mathematics sequence and is available to mathematically talented students who have an interest in pursuing a math-related career. This course is available to incoming 9th graders who have successfully completed Algebra 1 and Geometry. Topics focused on in this course include linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions, rational exponents, complex numbers, statistics and probability, sequences and series, conic sections, and an introduction to trigonometry. Incoming 9th graders can take Algebra 2 at the Honors or CPA level. Please refer to "Things to Consider When Selecting Your Courses" on page 4 in this handout for further details.



Elective Course Available to 9th Graders

AP Computer Science Principles – 5 Credits

The only math elective available to incoming 9th graders is Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles. This course can be taken by any student who has successfully completed Algebra 1. The curriculum is aligned with the College Board curricular units and prepares students for the AP Computer Science Principles Exam and AP Computer Science Principles Performance Tasks. This course meets the 21st Century Life and Careers graduation requirement.

Music Department Course Offerings for 9th Graders

These courses meet the graduation requirement for Visual and Performing Arts

Concert Choir– 5 Credits

This course is open to all students without audition and regardless of experience. All chorus classes sing a variety of literature including secular, sacred, popular, and show music. Choir classes afford all interested students an opportunity for pleasurable vocal music experience and training. In addition to class instruction each marking period, students are required to attend choral lessons during lunch blocks. Opportunities exist for students who are highly motivated to audition for a number of extra-curricular vocal groups in the high school, the school musical, and Region I and State Honors Choirs. The chorus presents a number of musical performances throughout the school year.

[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

Concert Band– 5 Credits

This course is open to all students without audition and regardless of experience. Standard, modern, and popular band literature is studied and performed. All band students are required to attend one weekly lesson during the lunch blocks. In addition, students may participate in a variety of extra-curricular musical groups such as Marching Band, State, Region, or Area Bands, Jazz Band, Brass Ensemble, Drum Line, Pit Band, and Wind Ensemble.

[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

String Ensemble – 5 Credits

The Morris Hills Regional String Ensemble is a district-wide musical performance group. Students will study and perform a diverse range of musical genres, spanning from the baroque to modern musical eras, with a focus on the continued development of proper string instrument techniques. In addition to class instruction, students will attend individual string lessons during lunch blocks. Students will function as a member of a musical ensemble, while studying musical ear training and rehearsal, performance, and musical analysis techniques. Students will have the opportunity to perform at several events throughout the year and will be eligible to audition for Regional and All-State Orchestra.

[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

Music Appreciation – 5 Credits

Music Appreciation is a course designed to discuss and experience the world of music from the days of classical composition to the modern era of digital recording. In this course, students will study music from a variety of angles: how it is created; how it is manufactured and distributed; and how the business model has continued to change throughout the history of western culture. Students will use high level problem solving skills to attack the issues facing modern era musicians. This class serves as an introduction to the modern music industry and computer-based music creation, but the classroom serves as an introduction to meaningful productivity in the 21st century workplace.

[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)

Music Theory/Composition - 5 Credits

This course is designed to foster the development of a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of music including melody, harmony, rhythm, and music reading, writing and aural skills. Some prior music reading experience is required.

[Click here for an informational video on this class](#)



Physical Education & Health Department

Required Courses for 9th grade

Physical Education 9 - 3.75 Credits

This course is a comprehensive program including activities that promote character education, personal wellness including physical fitness and nutrition along with skill development. A variety of activities are offered which provide students with opportunities to develop strong, healthy bodies and a foundation of knowledge to participate in individual and team sport activities. Grade nine will participate in units of Character Education emphasizing on decision making, problem solving, bullying prevention, and cooperation. Participation will result in a daily grade worth 90% of the student's overall grade. A baseline fitness test will be administered at the beginning of each school year and progress will be measured with fitness assessments each quarter. Results of the three quarterly fitness assessments will be averaged as 10% of the student's final Physical Education grade for the year.

Health Education 9 - 1.25 Credits

This course has a variety of units of instruction that will students with knowledge and skills essential for healthful living in our society. This contemporary view of health focuses on taking personal responsibility through an active, healthy lifestyle that fosters a lifelong commitment to overall wellness. Grade nine students will study units with emphasis on human sexuality also including alcohol, tobacco, and drug education. All health courses are one marking period in length.



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The MHRD Board of Education believes that students who participate in interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, marching band, band front, class and student government officers, officers of student publications, and other co-curricular activities which necessitate extensive time for participation, should maintain a standard of academic performance that is consistent with the philosophy and purpose of our schools. Therefore, the Board of Education shall require standards for participation.

In addition to maintaining the academic standards prescribed in the district's eligibility policy, it is also expected that the students noted above demonstrate behavior commensurate with the expectations of the district.

In general, these expectations include, but are not limited to:

1. Maintaining a positive image that will be perceived by the school and community as exemplary.
2. Showing respect for other people and their property.
3. Strictly adhering to the MHRD code of conduct and attendance policies as outlined in the student handbook.
4. Being a positive role model for other students both in the school and the community.

All incoming Freshmen are eligible to participate in fall sports. However, for eligibility for spring sports, Freshman students must be passing 30 credits of the courses in progress.

Science Department Course Offerings

9th Grade Science Core Course Offerings All Students Must Pick One of the Following¹

[Click here
for an
overview
video](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

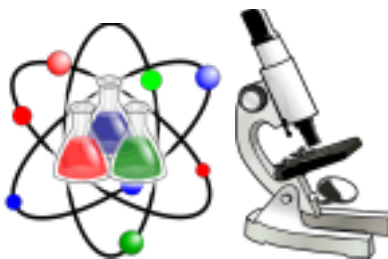
5 credits; One Year Elective; No Prerequisites

This college preparatory course presents the physical and life processes of Earth from an environmental perspective. Students will study ecology and the special properties and problems in sustaining the quality of Earth's air, water, and soil. A range of environmental issues will be discussed including water pollution, air pollution, population dynamics, and energy resources. Case histories, laboratory activities, and field studies are an integral part of this course. A special emphasis will be placed on comparing and understanding ecological perspectives. Environmental Science can only be taken at the CP level. Please refer to the "Choosing Your Grade 9 Courses" on page 3 in this handout for further details.

BIOLOGY 1

5 credits; One Year Elective; Pre- or Co-requisite: Algebra 1 CPA; Honors -Recommended Strong Work Ethic

This college preparatory, laboratory oriented, the course is designed to give students an introduction to characteristics of life in all its forms. The major biological topics studied include ecology, human biology, cellular biology, biochemistry, taxonomy, diversity, genetics, evolution, microorganisms, and plants. The curriculum emphasizes laboratory activities and investigative processes. Biology 1 can only be taken at the CPA or the Honors level in Grade 9. Please refer to the "Choosing Your Grade 9 Courses" on page 3 in this handout for further details.



Elective Course Available to 9th Graders

INTRO TO AVIATION

5 credits, Grade 9 Prerequisites: Students must be co-enrolled in either Biology or Environmental Science

Students will learn about the engineering process, problem-solving, and the innovations and technological developments that have made today's aviation and aerospace industries possible. They will look at the problem-solving strategies and innovative leaps that took space exploration from the unimaginable to the common in a single generation. Students will explore the classifications of aircraft, how aircraft are made, avionics/instrumentation, flight controls, aircraft design, propulsion, and the forces of flight. Students will also accrue simulator time throughout the course.



¹ Students who complete Biology 1 Honors at either Copeland Middle School or Valley View Middle School and earn a final score of 240 or higher can elect to take Chem 1 Honors during the 9th Grade.

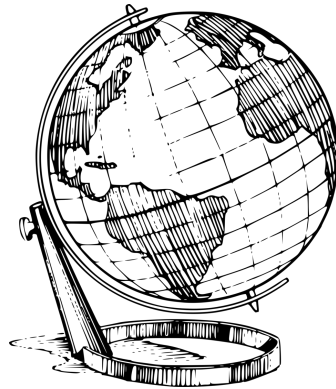
Social Studies Department Course Offerings



Required Course for 9th Grade

World History – 5 Credits

Through careful examination of economic, political, social, and cultural developments from the Renaissance to today, students will acquire a deeper understanding of the evolution of the modern world along with knowledge of the human experience and our global interdependence. Students will gain new insights into themselves and their society, understand what it means to be human, and appreciate the common problems all humans have faced throughout world history to become informed citizens in the 21st century. Of particular importance is the instruction in and application of skills in social studies that will prepare students for higher education, future careers, and active citizenship. There is a multitude of course levels for World History. World History can be taken at the Honors, CPA, or CPB level. For further details, please refer to “Things to Consider When Selecting Your Courses” on page 4.



Elective Course Available to 9th Graders



Anthropology - 5 Credits

This full-year elective course fosters the study of anthropology and promotes understanding of diverse cultures, human evolution, and the human condition.

African-American Studies - 2.5 Credits

This half-year elective course celebrates and examines African-American history and culture from its origins to the present day through an inclusive, discussion-based approach.

Criminology - 2.5 Credits

This half-year elective course examines the criminal justice system and its impact on society by investigating law enforcement, the judiciary, and corrections.

Introduction to Economics - 2.5 Credits

This half-year elective course examines economic principles, policies, and global interactions to understand the American economic system and one's role in it. This course meets the Financial Literacy requirement for graduation.

Military History - 2.5 Credits

This half-year elective course explores the changing nature of warfare and its impacts on cultural, legal, governmental, and societal development.

Sports in American Culture - 2.5 Credits

This half-year elective course explores how sports influenced American culture by creating a shared language and experience that crosses and impacts politics, economics, and society.

Technology Education Department Course Offerings

Elective Courses Available to 9th Graders

Computer Aided Design 1 (CAD1) – 5 Credits

This course introduces the student to the use of drafting as a language for both the engineering and architecture industries. Students will use hand drafting instruments in order to prepare various types of basic engineering and architectural drawings. Students will expand their spatial awareness by learning measurements and scaling, sketching and pictorial drawing, orthographic projection, section and auxiliary view drawing, shop process, dimensioning and blueprint reading, all with an emphasis on the value of a planned approach to problem solving. Students will also be introduced to the industry standard AutoCAD program and be required to build scale architectural style models of basic structures. *Three college credits may be earned through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Early College Program. Course alignment varies on a year-to-year basis- check with your instructor.*

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this class

Electricity – 5 Credits

This course teaches students the fundamentals of electricity and electronics. Areas of study include alternate energy, house wiring, digital electronics and the safe use of tools related to the trade. This is a recommended course for those students interested in the Electrical Trades. Additionally, this course meets one of the prerequisite options for our 3-year Robotics CTE sequence.

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Engineering Maker Lab – 5 Credits

This course is designed for students who have a keen interest in tinkering to discover how things work. This class will focus on problem solving strategies, reverse engineering, basic tool and equipment use, and the exploration of a variety of technology and engineering options that students can subsequently pursue at Morris Hills Regional. Throughout the year students may compete in various events to further expand upon their design loop skills.

Graphic Communications – 5 Credits

This course is designed to enable students to become familiar with the Graphics and Commercial Art Industries. Students will apply critical thinking, creativity and skills to produce a diversity of practical, hands-on projects. An in-depth study of graphics production, related machinery and industry standards will be explored in the areas of typography, computer graphics, design and layout, photography, screen printing, offset printing and other related fields. Advanced Graphic Communications is available for students interested in furthering their studies in the field. *Three college credits may be earned through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Early College Program. Course alignment varies on a year-to-year basis- check with your instructor.*

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Introduction to Woodworking – 5 Credits

This course is designed to provide students with a well-rounded experience in the field of woodworking. Instruction includes both hand and machine tool operations to produce projects that students take home. This class also provides students with an excellent opportunity to learn and develop relevant hands on skills. Topics covered include career options in the field. Power tools used in class include the table saw, drill press, band saw, radial arm saw, and the lathe. This class is a lead in to our second level class, Cabinet Making and Furniture Design

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Metalworking – 5 Credits

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to explore a variety of metalworking techniques in a workplace setting. Through assigned projects, the course allows students to experience the areas of welding and brazing, wrought metal forming, cast metals, forging and heat treatment, sheet metal fabrication, conventional and CNC machining, as well as the use of hand tools, hardware, and finishing methods. The interpretation of working drawings, manufacturing procedures, and shop safety are practiced throughout the course. This is primarily a hands-on program where students can safely gain experience to meet the growing demand for a skilled workforce. This course leads into the Metals and Manufacturing Technology class where students can further their machining, welding, and CNC Skills

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Television Production 1: Elements of Broadcasting – 5 Credits

The main objective of Television Production 1 is to provide students with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of television production by running a daily news broadcast. By doing so, students will develop research and communication skills as well as technical production skills, including: camera operation, lighting set-ups, audio engineering, computer graphics, and live production editing. These skills will create a base for all stages of television production. *Three college credits may be earned through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Early College Program. Course alignment varies on a year-to-year basis- check with your instructor.*

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this class



*All Technology Education classes satisfy the 21st Century Life & Careers or Career and Technical Education Requirement

**Click here
for an
overview
video**



Spanish Language 1 – 5 Credits

This course is the first of a (2) year sequence. This course fulfills the one year high school graduation requirement. Along with Spanish Language 2 (WL 120) and Spanish 2 (WL222) this sequence may be used to meet the suggested language requirement for 4-year colleges. Emphasis is placed on the Spanish vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing and speaking skills. Appropriate vocabulary will be introduced which will enhance communication skills through basic grammar and useful phrases. Culture will be integrated as part of global awareness and the understanding of cultural differences. The completion of this course (WL110) and Spanish Language 2 (WL120) is equivalent to Spanish 1

Spanish 1 – 5 Credits

This course is the first of a four or five year sequence (Spanish 2, 3H, 4H, AP or IB Spanish SL) designed for college preparation and to provide college-bound students with the basic speaking, reading, writing and listening skills in the Spanish language. Spanish 1 also introduces the student to the civilization, culture and geography of the Spanish speaking world. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of pronunciation and the acquisition of an active and practical Spanish vocabulary.

Spanish 2– 5 Credits

This course is the second of a four or five year sequence (Spanish 3H, 4H, AP or IB Spanish SL) designed for college preparation and continues to develop the student's skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening through in-depth practice of verbal and written expression, in addition to the continued study of the culture and geography of the Spanish speaking world. **This course is available to students who have completed the equivalent of Spanish 1 in middle school. In district students must be recommended by their 8th grade teacher, and out of district students must pass a placement exam in order to take this course.**

Accelerated Spanish H – 5 Credits

Accelerated Spanish H course combines the Spanish 1 and 2 curricula into one year of study to prepare students for both the IB and AP sequence. It is designed to be rigorous and fast-paced and it is therefore intended for highly motivated students who wish to challenge themselves. No prior knowledge of the language is necessary.

World Language Course Offerings for 9th Grade Students

German 1– 5 Credits

This course is the first of a four year sequence (German 2, 3H, 4H, IB German SL) designed for college preparation, and to provide college-bound students with the basic speaking, reading, writing and listening skills in the German language. This course also introduces the civilization, culture and geography of the German speaking world. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of pronunciation and the acquisition of an active and practical German vocabulary.

German 2– 5 Credits

This course is the second of a four year sequence (German 3H, 4H, IB German SL). German 2 continues to develop the student's skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening through in-depth practice of verbal and written expression in the German language. German history is also added to the continued studies of the culture and geography. **This course is available to students who have completed the equivalent of German 1 in middle school. In district students must be recommended by their 8th grade teacher, and out of district students must pass a placement exam in order to take this course.**

Accelerated German H– 5 Credits

Accelerated German H course combines the German 1 and 2 curricula into one year of study to prepare students for both the IB and AP sequence. It is designed to be rigorous and fast-paced and it is therefore intended for highly motivated students who wish to challenge themselves. No prior knowledge of the language is necessary.

French 1– 5 Credits

This course is the first of a four or five year sequence (French 2, 3H, 4H, AP or IB French SL) designed for college preparation, and to provide college-bound students with the basic speaking, reading, writing and listening skills in the French language. This course also introduces the civilization, culture and geography of France and French territories. Emphasis is placed on the mastery of pronunciation and the acquisition of an active and practical French vocabulary.

French 2– 5 Credits

This course is the second of a four or five year sequence (French 3H, 4H, AP or IB French SL) designed for college preparation and continues to develop the student's skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening through in-depth practice of verbal and written expression in the French language. French history is also added to the continued studies of the culture and geography. **This course is available to students who have completed the equivalent of French 1 in middle school. In district students must be recommended by their 8th grade teacher, and out of district students must pass a placement exam in order to take this course.**

Accelerated French H– 5 Credits

Accelerated French H course combines the French 1 and 2 curricula into one year of study to prepare students for both the IB and AP sequence. It is designed to be rigorous and fast-paced and it is therefore intended for highly motivated students who wish to challenge themselves. No prior knowledge of the language is necessary.

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