

WHITCOMB SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



COURSE OF STUDIES
2017-2018

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLASS SELECTIONS

1. **You must carry seven (7) classes for each semester. So if you choose a class that is ½ credit you must choose a 2nd ½ credit class.**
2. **Directed study may only be added at the recommendation of a teacher.**
3. **You must take an English class.**

CREDITS NEEDED TO GRADUATE

English - minimum of 4 ½ credits, 1 credit taken in each year (½ credit given for passing the State Assessment)	Social Studies - minimum of 3 credits, including 1 credit in Humanities/US History and 1 credit in European History
Science - minimum of 3 credits, including 1 credit in Biology	Math - minimum of 3 ½ credits (½ credit given for passing the State Assessment)
Physical Education/Health - 2 credits	The Arts – minimum of 1 credit (visual arts or music)
Senior Project - 1 credit	On Your Own - ½ credit (May be taken in 10th grade if planning to attend RTCC or VAST)
Electives - 4 credits	Community Service – 40 hours prior to January 1 st

ARTS

MUSIC

BAND **GRADES 9-12** **½ CREDIT**
(Meets Fine Art graduation requirement)

PREREQUISITE: Prior band experience or Instructor approval

Band is an ensemble for students who already play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. The band will prepare for and perform in at least two required evening concerts each year. In addition, the band may perform at the Bethel Forward Festival, the Vermont All-State Festival Parade, and at least four local Memorial Day Parades. Through participation in various other concerts, marching events, and music festivals the students will develop the ability to perform on their instrument, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. Students will also learn to listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate their own performances as well as those of others. Sr. High Band rehearses on a daily basis during Learning Zone. 7th and 8th Grade Band rehearse separately, although will perform in most of the events together.

CHORUS **GRADES 9-12** **½ CREDIT**
(Meets Fine Art graduation requirement)

Chorus is an ensemble for students who like to sing. During daily rehearsals students will learn proper vocal and ensemble singing techniques and develop music literacy and ear training skills through exposure to a wide variety of choral literature. It is required that the chorus students prepare for and perform in the winter and spring concerts, as well as special performances scheduled by the director. Students may also be given the opportunity to attend a variety of regional music festivals, either through the audition process or by being nominated by the director.

BEGINNING ELECTRONIC PIANO **GRADES 9-12** **½ CREDIT**
(Meets Fine Art graduation requirement)

How many times have you sat down at a piano and wished you could play something more than Chopsticks or Twinkle, Twinkle? Technology has changed the way in which we learn, practice, perform, and understand music. By taking this beginning level (no prior experience necessary) keyboard/piano class, you will learn how to maneuver around the digital keyboard, read music and how to use all of those sound effects that come with many keyboards. Many styles of music will be explored during this class. Electronic Pianos will be provided for use at school.

VISUAL ARTS

STUDIO ART 2D

GRADES 9-12

½ CREDIT

This half-year course will introduce students to studio practices as they utilize varied two-dimensional media, such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, photography, and design. While developing their individual styles, students will have opportunities to discuss, analyze and respond to their creative choices. Students will also study historical and contemporary artists and movements and the role of the arts in society. May be repeated for credit and modified for more advanced art students.

STUDIO ART 3D

GRADES 9-12

½ CREDIT

This half-year course will introduce students to studio practices as they utilize varied three dimensional media, such as papier-mâché, plaster gauze, wire, clay, fiber arts and mixed media sculpture. While developing their individual styles, students will have opportunities to discuss, analyze and respond to their creative choices. Students will also study historical and contemporary artists and movements and the role of the arts in society. May be repeated for credit and modified for more advanced art students.

CERAMICS

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

This half-year course will introduce students to the development of three dimensional forms utilizing different types of clay. Using raw materials, students will have the opportunity to create new forms utilizing hand building techniques, molds, sculpting, and the potter's wheel as well as surface decoration and glazing. Students will also study historical and contemporary ceramic artists and the role of ceramics in society. May be repeated for credit and modified for more advanced art students.

PAINTING

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

This half-year course will provide students with an introduction to different painting styles, subjects and techniques. Students will kick off this course with the study of color theory, experience different painting media (such as watercolor, ink wash, gouache, and acrylic), explore painting in art history, and finish with stretching their own canvas. May be repeated for credit and modified for more advanced art students.

VISUAL ART INDEPENDENT STUDY

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

This option is available both semesters for advanced and self-motivated art students who wish to pursue an individualized course of study in visual arts. Independent Study may be scheduled during an existing art class or at another mutually available time.

ENGLISH

Students are required to complete four years of English study to earn their high school diploma. We have made some exciting changes to the grades 10-12 Language Arts curriculum. Students may take either two half-year courses or a year-long course. In alternating years, the half-year English electives will change, allowing students both a wider choice and more tightly focused topics. All students must take at least two literature credits. All courses offered are at the College Preparatory or CP level.

HUMANITIES ENGLISH

GRADE 9

1 CREDIT

Humanities 9 is designed to improve students' reading strategies, vocabulary, grammar skills, basic writing abilities, and understanding of some of the most important eras in US history. Students will explore a variety of media and literature including film, short stories, novels, and poetry. The major novels will be modern young adult fiction titles as well as classic texts.

TREK AND WARS: TRENDS AND TROPES IN CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE FICTION

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

Students in *Trek and Wars* will study the narrative structures and techniques of the two great space-based science fiction universes of the second half of the twentieth century: *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*. Students will focus on thematic analysis of films and episodes. In addition, students will compare the original creations of Gene Roddenbury (*Star Trek*) and George Lucas (*Star Wars*) to more contemporary treatments of the series. At the end of the term, students will give a presentation on how one or both of the series has influenced society, storytelling, and media.

SHAKESPEARE

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

One's literary education is hardly complete without studying the works of William Shakespeare. Shakespeare can be read; but it should also be performed. In this class, we will engage in dramatic readings of Shakespeare as well as close examinations and analyses. We will discover why this author has remained popular for centuries, and find out just what makes his plays and poetry so essential. Plays for this class could include *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Henry V*.

FICTION WORKSHOP

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

The fiction writers' workshop is an innovative space in which students critique each other's work in a positive, helpful way. The class will focus on the creation of functional, descriptive scenes. Further, we will study the elements that go into creating a successful scene, including narration, dialogue, narrative summary, and characterization. We will read and make use of Stephen King's *On Writing* and Sandra Scofield's *The Scene Book*. In addition, the class will analyze the techniques of various short story writers.

MEMOIRS: THE ART OF REMEMBERING**GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

Memoirs, similar to autobiographies, are one of the most widely read genres today. The idea of a memoir is to not only tell about one's own life experiences, but to recreate them in a way that is as interesting as fiction. In this course, students will read popular memoirs and practice writing stories from their own lives. Memoirs may include *Girl Interrupted*, *Night*, *The Glass Castle*, and *Angela's Ashes*.

WRITING FOR A REASON**GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

“The pen is mightier than the sword” is a saying you've probably heard before, but what does it mean? Many people do not realize that writing is a powerful tool that can be used to exchange information, expose untold points of view, and even cause revolutions. Having the skills necessary to use writing to share knowledge, tell important stories, and create changes in our world is critical if we are to grow and improve as a society. In this class, we will focus on using writing to shed light on important problems in an effort to improve our community, state, country and world. Students' writings will be published online in blogs and submitted for publication in other media, such as newspapers, websites, magazines, etc.

AMERICAN STUDIES**GRADE 11****1 CREDIT SOCIAL STUDIES & 1 CREDIT ENGLISH (graded individually)****PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and European History

This course is an interdisciplinary study of twentieth century history, literature and culture. The course utilizes a variety of educational methods, including open classroom, collaborative groups and traditional approaches, to present an integrated view of the American experience in the twentieth century. Students read novels, plays, poems and narrative accounts of each time period in the century, use primary sources for historic study, listen to music and look at examples in the visual arts from each era. Students are expected to take on much responsibility for their learning. Students will be expected to read and write extensively in both English and History. A project is required for each thematic unit. Students are required to write a formal research paper on a topic of their choice within the scheme of the course. The history and literature for the course began around 1900. The course examines the century both past and present, emphasizing recurrent trends and themes within its span. Current history is examined through the use of periodicals and discussion. Students receive one-half credit per semester in both Social Studies and English for successful completion of the course. Readings listed represent a possible range to be selected at the instructor's discretion according to student needs and preferences; additions or changes to the reading list are ongoing. **Strongly recommended for students who are college or EARLY COLLEGE bound.**

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES/WELLNESS

The major focus of the Family and Consumer Science is to empower individuals to manage the challenges of living and working in an ever-changing diverse global society. Learning experiences are designed to prepare students with knowledge and skills in the areas of personal development, family relationships, child development and parenting, consumer issues, food and nutrition, housing and home management, and clothing and textiles.

ON YOUR OWN

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

On Your Own is designed to assist students in continual development of insight into the rules, responsibilities, and risks of adulthood. Topics include: personality development, interpersonal relationships, resource management, conflict resolution, decision making, future planning, personal finance, wellness, family, parenting, and consumer issues. Activities are selected to help students make informed decisions and healthy choices throughout life.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GRADES 9 – 12

½ CREDIT

Physical Education and Health shall be offered every day. Emphasis shall be placed on personal, physical, and social development. Individual fitness, physical fitness assessment, and social responsibilities will be emphasized. Activities shall include team sports, recreational activities, and social activities. (e.g. soccer, cross-country skiing, and dance). The course shall be supplemented with short field trips, as resources allow, designed to enhance the individual's interest and quality of life. Health education is an integral part of the program with important contemporary topics developed. Juniors and Seniors will be scheduled as necessary to fulfill graduation requirements.

HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH

GRADES 10-12

½ CREDIT

This class is a one semester class that explores the core concept topics of health education as identified by the Center for Disease Control and aims to develop health literacy skills. Topics include: mental, social, emotional and sexual health, healthy and safe relationships, nutrition and physical activity, personal care and body systems, growth and development, drugs, disease and disorders, safety and environmental health. Topics covered are used as a basis for health skill development in the areas of: interpersonal communication, conflict resolutions, analyzing influences, managing and maintain healthy behaviors, decision making, goal setting, and advocacy. Students will participate in the Health Education Assessment Project which involves the use of highly tested extended responses and performance tasks.

FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

GRADES 11-12

BY CONTRACT

Student internships are situations where students work for an employer for a specified period of time to learn about a particular industry or occupation. Student's workplace activities may include special projects, a sample of tasks from different jobs, or tasks from a single occupation. These may be paid or unpaid experiences. Internships are supervised, structured work experiences that can involve the practical application of previously studied topics for which school credit is awarded. Credit hours and the length of the internship as well as the intensity may vary depending on the course of study. (<http://education.vermont.gov/work-based-learning/internship>)

This opportunity is available, by written contract, like an independent study. Students participating in this special program must maintain good academic standing and attendance, must be carrying the minimum course load, and must have parent/legal guardian permission. High school credit can be earned. No more than two (2) credits can be earned in an academic year and no more than three (3) credits total during high school. See the high school counselor for details and to arrange student internships.

SERVICE LEARNING

GRADES 9-12

BY CONTRACT

This opportunity exists for students who wish to offer their services, free of charge, to any school or community undertaking that could benefit from such assistance. A contract, journal, and service log must be kept by the student and signed by the service site supervisor. No more than two (2) high school credits can be earned in a given academic year and no more than three (3) credits throughout high school. See the high school counselor if you are interested in this option.

RANDOLPH TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER (RTCC)

GRADES 11-12

This is an opportunity for our juniors and seniors to apply their intellect and energy to a specific vocational field of interest. If you are interested in applying to the Randolph Technical Career Center, see the high school counselor for more details. A listing of program options and descriptions will be made available to you upon request or by visiting www.randolphtech.org. To be eligible to apply, students must achieve specific course requirements at Whitcomb and be anticipating Junior or Senior status in the fall.

If RTCC does not have a program that you are interested in, you can access the opportunities available at Hartford Area Career & Technical Career Center, www.hactc.com, Barre Technical Career Center, www.barretechnicalcenter.org, or Stafford Technical Center, staffordonline.org.

DUAL ENROLLMENT PARTICIPATING VERMONT COLLEGES

GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: Recommendation of Whitcomb teacher of subject area desired and Guidance permission. College placement testing may be required.

LOCATIONS: Bennington College, Burlington College, Castleton University, Champlain College, College of St. Joseph, Community College of Vermont, Goddard College, Green Mountain College, Johnson State College, Landmark College, Lyndon State College, Marlboro College, New England Culinary Institute, Norwich University, Saint Michael's College, SIT Graduate Institute, Southern Vermont College, Sterling College, University of Vermont, and Vermont Technical College.

As a high school student at Whitcomb you may choose to take college courses at Vermont Colleges. Using a voucher, the tuition for up to a 4-credit course is free, leaving the student responsible for associated costs such as applicable fees, books, and supplies. Students must achieve a grade of “C” or better in any college course to qualify for high school credit. <http://www.vtdualenrollment.org/>. These free credits earned count towards high school graduation.

EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

PREREQUISITE: Anticipating Senior status, recommendations of Whitcomb teachers, application, college placement testing, interview and acceptance.

This accelerated program for high school seniors offers an exciting alternative and a chance to complete the final year of high school and first year of college at the same time. Whitcomb students may choose to receive a Whitcomb diploma and still attend an Early College Program (must complete requirements for Whitcomb Graduation). Students may take a year-long course of study in any subject area. Early College is available at specific Vermont Colleges by application and following procedures specific to each school. Tuition is free leaving the student responsible for associated costs such as applicable fees, books, and supplies (and on-campus residential fees if they choose not to commute). Students must achieve a grade of “C” or better in the college courses to qualify for high school credit. For more information, see the high school counselor.

PROGRAM LOCATIONS: Burlington College, Castleton University, Community College of Vermont, Johnson State College, Lyndon State College, University of Vermont, and Vermont Technical College (VAST).

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE - SPECIAL COMMUNITY STUDENT PROGRAM

GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: Recommendation of Whitcomb teacher of subject area desired, Principal, Guidance or school official permission, and application.

Eligible Whitcomb students can take up to three courses (1 course a term) at Dartmouth College, free of charge. Juniors may take 2 courses (Winter & Spring); Seniors may take 3 courses (Fall, Winter, & Spring). Families are responsible for transportation, any textbooks, and supplies. Courses available may be limited based on Dartmouth prerequisites. Please see the high school counselor for details.

ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES - VERMONT VIRTUAL LEARNING COOPERATIVE (VTVLC)

VTVLC is an online community of high school classes taught by Vermont teachers and made available to students who have exhausted course opportunities available at Whitcomb. VTVLC incorporates interactive learning, blogging, online posting, and projects through an online Learning Management System (LMS). VTVLC courses allow the student to work in the course when their schedule allows, even before school, after school, or on weekends. If you are interested in taking a VTVLC course, see the high school counselor for more details. A listing of course options and descriptions will be made available to you upon request. Visit www.vtvlc.org for information.

Other Online Learning Opportunities can be discussed with the school counselor.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANUFACTURING GRADES 9-12 1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: Minimum age 14

How does manufacturing fit into the fabric of Vermont, and how has technology changed the manufacturing workplace? How can any person with a great idea for a product turn that idea into a solid business? Students will develop in-depth answers to these questions as they pursue this Randolph Union High School offering at the GW Plastics plant in Royalton, VT. From a request for a quote (when a company asks the manufacturer to build them a product), to designing the molds on a CAD system and then building them, to purchasing the necessary raw materials, to scheduling, programming, and employing state-of-the-art machines and robots, to making the product (an ensuring each piece passes a quality test), right to finding the best way to ship off the finished product, students will learn firsthand the capacities, challenges, and rewards of entrepreneurship and manufacturing. Participation in this course requires transportation to Randolph and to Royalton.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The goals for modern second language learning at Whitcomb Jr.- Sr. High School are to enable students: 1) to understand, speak, read, and write a modern second language in numerous real-world situations and for a variety of purposes; 2) to develop awareness and appreciation for another language and culture through the study of its daily life, history, geography, and social institutions. Students are asked and encouraged to use the target language in all communication in the classroom as extensively as possible.

Taking at least two years of the same foreign language is a common entry requirement to most colleges. Learning a foreign language also supports the learning of English and makes students more competitive for employment.

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I

GRADES 8-12

1 CREDIT

This course is designed for students who wish to get started in a second language. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Francophone countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH II

GRADES 9-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: 85 or better in French 1

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output (speaking and writing). Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Francophone countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

ADVANCED FRENCH

GRADES 10-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: 85 or better in French 3

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output and grammar. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Francophone countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and

composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I

GRADES 8-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: None

This course is designed for students who wish to get started in a second language. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Hispanic countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II

GRADES 9-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: 85 or better in Intermediate Spanish 1 & 2

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output (speaking and writing). Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Hispanic countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

ADVANCED SPANISH

GRADES 10-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: 85 or better in Spanish 3

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output and grammar. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through storytelling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Hispanic countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

MATHEMATICS

Students are required to complete three years of mathematics study to earn their high school diploma. Students who do not meet the standard on the 11th grade state assessment are required to take an extra ½ credit approved mathematics class.

All mathematics classes are aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

The following course of study prepares students for entry into four-year college and university programs: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Pre-Calculus is recommended for entry into competitive colleges, especially programs in engineering and business.

The following course of study prepares students for entry-level work and most two-year colleges: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and math supports as needed.

ALGEBRA 1

GRADE 8-9

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of the 8TH grade mathematics curriculum, or recommendation of the mathematics department. This course is normally completed during the 8th or 9th grade.

Mathematical content includes studying relationships between quantities, linear relationships, exponential and quadratic relationships, advanced functions and equations, and data analysis focusing on probability and statistics.

GEOMETRY

GRADES 9-10

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Algebra 1 and recommendation of the mathematics department. It is strongly recommended that students purchase a TI-83+ calculator for this (and subsequent) math courses.

Geometry will cover the geometric structure, congruence, similarity and measurement. Finding area and volume of all shapes and modeling real world applications is a big part of what the students will explore in this class. Exploring mathematical concepts on the TI-83+ calculator is a regular part of this course.

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA**GRADE 11****1 CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Geometry with a grade of 70-85% and recommendation of the mathematics department. This course is normally completed during the 11th grade. This course will prepare students for Algebra 2 in their senior year.

In Intermediate Algebra, students will study at a slower pace than the Algebra 2 course. Topics covered will include: equations, inequalities and applications, graphing and functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponents and polynomials, factoring, rational expressions and equations, rational exponents and radicals, and quadratic equations and inequalities.

ALGEBRA 2**GRADES 10-11-12****1 CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Geometry with an 86% or above or successful completion of Intermediate Algebra and recommendation of the mathematics department. This course is normally completed during the 10th or 11th or 12th grade.

In Algebra 2 students will study linear relations and functions, quadratic, polynomial, and radical functions and relations. Advanced functions and relations will be covered in the conic sections. Sequences and series, probability and statistics will be studied in the Discrete Math unit. Finally, students will learn trigonometric functions, identities, and equations.

PRE-CALCULUS**GRADES 11-12****1 CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Algebra 2 with a minimum grade average of 88% and permission of the mathematics department. This course is normally completed during the 11th or 12th grade. **Students must purchase their own TI-83+ or TI-84+ graphing calculators for use on homework.**

This course offers the student preparation for the study of calculus, including the study of functions (polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric and inverse), statistics and probability, sequences and series, and limits.

MATH SUPPORT**GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

This course offers students a wide range of mathematical remediation for students who need more help and exposure to the problems. Emphasis will be placed on reviewing material learned in classes and extra skill practice.

This course is a requirement for students who have not met the standards for math in the state standardized tests or if they are failing the mathematics class they are in for 2 quarters in a row. This course may also be taken as an elective by students who have already met the standard.

ADVANCED MATH STUDIES: The opportunity for advanced math studies is available to eligible students at Vermont Technical College and Dartmouth College. Please see the high school counselor if interested.

OTHER**DRIVER EDUCATION****GRADES 9-12****¼ CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: State of Vermont Driver's Permit

Driver Education consists of 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of in-car instruction. The classroom instruction includes:

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|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Vehicle orientation | 5. Alcohol and drugs |
| 2. Physical Laws which affect the vehicle in motion | 6. Defensive driving |
| 3. Energy efficient driving | 7. Motorcycle awareness |
| 4. Highway laws | |

These topics are presented so the student develops the skills necessary for safe and efficient driving on our highways. This is an after school program.

ALLEGRO ASSEMBLY (YEARBOOK DESIGN)**GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

This course will focus on assembling the Whitcomb yearbook, Allegro. In this course students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copy writing, editing, and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook with records school memories and events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills in this class! Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles.

SCIENCE

Students are required to complete three credits of science, including one course in biology.

INTEGRATED EARTH SYSTEMS

GRADE 9

1 CREDIT

This course exposes high school students to the earth science proficiencies while integrating physical and biological phenomena. Students will look at and analyze evidence that supports our current scientific beliefs. A picture of Earth's history in the lifespan of the solar system and the formation of the Earth will be painted. Multiple avenues will be used to model Earth systems, such as climate change, earth's surface processes, and thermal convection. The influence of humans on Earth's systems will be studied and evaluated.

BIOLOGY

GRADES 10-12

1 CREDIT

This course explores the wide-ranging world of life science. Studies will address the following areas: structure, function and information processing; matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems; and, growth, development and reproduction of organisms, natural selection and adaptations. Students have the opportunity to gain "with honors" on their transcript after completing the course with distinction.

CHEMISTRY (2018-19)

GRADES 11-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Algebra I and IPS.

This course explores physical science related to the structure and properties of matter. Scientific practices will be developed through the application of physics. Laboratory activities are an integral part of the course.

PHYSICS (2017-18)

GRADES 11-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: Taking or successful completion of Algebra II and IPS

This course explores physical science related to motion, forces and interactions, energy, and waves with application to technology. Scientific practices will be developed through the application of physics in real life. Laboratory activities are an integral part of the course.

INTRO TO ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

GRADES 11-12

1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of biology or permission from the instructor.

This course will explore select life science proficiencies. This course will be based on in-depth study of major human body systems with an emphasis on medical terminology. Laboratory activities are an integral part of the course.

BOTANY**GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT**

This course will explore plants and the indirect and direct ways we rely on them. Students will study basic botany as well as relevant current topics and the ecosystem services plants provide. In addition, students will learn how to grow and care for a variety of plants. Sustainable applications are a common thread throughout the course. All students should be comfortable with spending time outside.

GEOLOGY**GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Earth Science, IPS, or permission from the instructor.

This course will explore select earth science proficiencies related to earth systems and human influence. All students should be comfortable with spending time outside.

ENVIRONMENTAL & GLOBAL APPLICATIONS**GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

This course will explore select science proficiencies. Students will identify relationships between human activity and the Earth. Topics include learning how to use GPS units, using GIS for humanitarian aid, looking for relationships associated with climate change. Spatial analysis is a skill sought after by employers. All students should be comfortable with spending time outside.

STRUCTURED INDEPENDENT STUDY**GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

This course allows students to explore a topic of interest in a structured, self-designed environment. The course culminates with a symposium. Students are expected to be self-motivated and work independently to follow a timeline. Some example topics may include marine biology, climate change, water conservation, zoology, or digging deeper into topics you've learned about in previous classes.

SOCIAL STUDIES**HUMANITIES U.S****GRADE 9****1 CREDIT**

This course deals with the major themes and four periods of U.S. history. Readings, research and projects will be based on these time periods. This course will be blended with English Humanities simultaneously, with a focus on historical readings, writings, and other primary sources from the time periods studied.

EUROPEAN HISTORY**GRADE 10****1 CREDIT**

This course is a survey of Western Civilizations including Greece, Rome, The Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation, Democratic Revolutions, The World Wars and the Cold War. It is designed to help students think about the past in order to understand the world we live in today. It will attempt to provide a balanced presentation of western history and will serve as a foundation for the development of social studies concepts and skills necessary for later study. Central to this course is the sharpening of such skills as speaking, critical thinking, reading for understanding, effective note-taking and research techniques. Students can take either this course or World Cultures to meet their World History graduation requirement.

AMERICAN STUDIES**GRADE 11-12****1 CREDIT SOCIAL STUDIES & 1 CREDIT ENGLISH (graded individually)**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Humanities U.S. and European History

This course is an interdisciplinary study of twentieth century history, literature and culture. The course utilizes a variety of educational methods, including open classroom, collaborative groups and traditional approaches, to present an integrated view of the American experience in the twentieth century. Students read novels, plays, poems and narrative accounts of each time period in the century, use primary sources for historic study, listen to music and look at examples in the visual arts from each era. Students are expected to take on much responsibility for their learning. Students will be expected to read and write extensively in both English and History. A project is required for each thematic unit. Students are required to write a formal research paper on a topic of their choice within the scheme of the course. The history and literature for the course begin around 1900. The course examines the century both past and present, emphasizing recurrent trends and themes within its span. Current history is examined through the use of periodicals and discussion. Students receive one-half credit per semester in both Social Studies and English for successful completion of the course. Readings listed represent a possible range to be selected at the instructor's discretion according to student needs and preferences; additions or changes to the reading list are ongoing. **Strongly recommended for students who are college or EARLY COLLEGE bound.**

CURRENT EVENTS**GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of U.S. History and European History

This class will explore today's news topics through newspapers, magazine articles and the internet. Possible areas of study will be Iraq, Israel/Palestine, The Congo, The Sudan, The Environment and The United Nations. But the course of studies will be primarily directed by current news and student interest. Students will make class presentations, participate in class discussions and debates, and do extensive research. Previous course work from social studies will be referenced. The primary goal of Current Events course is to give students an understanding of the issues, ideas, and trends in today's world.

HISTORY IN FILM**GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of U.S. History and enrolled in or completion of European History

In this course, there will be an overview of history as told through films. We will focus on three major themes acceptance, race in America, and Americans at War. Students will watch a variety of movies, and documentaries, and compare actual history with how is portrayed by Hollywood.

BETHEL ROAD SHOW**GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of U.S. History and enrolled in or completion of European History

Students will spend a majority of the semester finding different artifacts from throughout history and researching their origin, historical significance, and retell the history of that object. This course will involve picking out antiques and artifacts from local shops, or from home. Students will work with members of the Bethel Historical Society to figure out the best way to display the information they find. This can include interviews with local community members, and research using a variety of sources.

CAPSTONE**GRADE 12****½ CREDIT**

First Semester: This class is designed primarily to help students navigate the college application process. We will start by developing resumes and working on writing college essays. Students will also get help with the finding colleges that suit their needs and interests. We will work on the Common Application and any other necessary applications as well as financial aid applications including the FAFSA, CSS profile, and VSAC scholarships. Some class time will also be dedicated to checking progress on senior project.

RESEARCH WRITING**GRADE 12****½ CREDIT**

This class is a college preparatory research writing class designed to help students with the Senior Project research paper. Students will be guided through all of the phases of research writing from assessing sources, developing sustainable thesis statements, and organization to editing the final draft. Students are expected to be finished with the planning and product components of Senior Project before this class starts in January. The Senior Project requires students to write an 8-12 page thesis-driven research paper and this class will help them stay on task and focused through the process. Special emphasis will be placed on preparing students for college-level writing.

SENIOR PROJECT**GRADE 12****1 CREDIT**

Seniors must complete a Senior Project as a requirement to graduate from Whitcomb High School. The Senior Project grade is composed of five phases as defined in the Senior Project Handbook.