



**US Curriculum Guide
2020-2021**

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Dear Upper School Family,

The purpose of the The Prairie School (TPS) Upper School Curriculum Guide is to provide families with a succinct, informative, and transparent document that details what both our academic and co-curricular requirements are.

Please take a moment to read the opening pages of the Curriculum Guide. Here, you will find brief descriptions of the four main requirement categories and an overview of courses for grades 9-12. Next, you will find concise descriptions of the courses offered within the respective disciplines.

If compared to the Curriculum Guide from previous years, you are likely to notice some changes to course names and offerings because the faculty believes that our academic offerings can never be stagnant and uninspiring. Curriculum in a school like ours is a living entity - representative of students' needs and interests and best practices in an independent school education.

We hope you will find this document useful as your main source of information about the Upper School curriculum and graduation requirements.

Upper School Administration

Graduation Requirements at The Prairie School

In order to graduate from The Prairie School, a student must fulfill requirements in four areas: Academics, Exercise Requirement, Service, and Co-curricular Participation.

Academics

Students in the Class of 2021 must accumulate a minimum of 22.5 credits. Students in the Class of 2022 and 2023 must accumulate a minimum of 23 credits. Students in the Class of 2024 and beyond must accumulate a minimum of 22.75 credits. All students must enroll in a minimum of five academic classes each year. To promote a well-rounded academic foundation, the required course credits per discipline are as follows:

- English 4 credits
- Math 3 credits
- Science 3 credits (specifically in the areas of life, chemical, and physical science)
- Social Studies 3 credits
- World Languages 3 credits/levels (all in one language)
- Visual/Performing Arts 1-1.25 credits (Class of 2021) or 1.75 credits (Class of 2022 and beyond)
- Physical Education 1-1.25 credits (Class of 2021), 1 credit (Class of 2022 and 2023), or .75 credit (Class of 2024 and beyond)
- Public Speaking .25 credit

Additional academic requirements:

Seniors are required to take five academic classes each semester plus an additional .5 credit. The .5 credit (.25 each semester or .5 one semester) can be satisfied with an academic, PE, or arts class. Seniors must pass all their classes each semester and have a passing grade for the Junior Interim experience.

Detailed information about the Interim Experience can be found on the School's website (www.prairieschool.com) under the tab, Academics → Upper School → Interim.

Exercise (required participation each semester)

In order for students to maintain physical fitness, they must be physically active throughout the academic year. The School requires every student to exercise at least three times a week for a minimum of thirty minutes during each session. Students satisfy the exercise requirement in one of three ways: active participation in interscholastic sports, enrollment in a PE class, or commitment to an approved personal fitness program. Please see the list of Exercise Opportunities in the Appendix of this Guide.

Service (minimum of 25 hours annually)

The school requires students to be active in community service throughout their years in the Upper School. Service is defined as volunteer work for the School, a civic community

organization, and certain religious activities that are pre-approved by the Service Hours Coordinator (e.g., soup kitchens, mission trips, etc.). **Before committing to a service project offered through a religious organization, it is advisable to speak to the Service Hours Coordinator to assure that the intended participation will count toward service.** Service does not include work done at home for relatives/family and friends. A student is expected to complete 25 hours of service by May 15 of each academic year. A desirable goal is partial completion (12 hours) of this requirement by February 15. Students may work ahead (during the summer) to complete their service hours for the upcoming year and are encouraged to do so. Of the 100 hours needed for graduation, we encourage students to earn 20 hours (minimum) through non-Prairie School organizations.

Co-curricular Participation (3 points annually)

Participation in theatre, music, interscholastic athletics, and a variety of clubs supports our students' personal growth and enhances their applications to competitive colleges and universities. Each student is required to have a minimum of 3 points of co-curricular activity each year. Students are encouraged and expected to commit to one major co-curricular activity (team sport, theatrical/musical production) per year. In some instances where this is not possible, bona fide off-campus activities such as private music lessons, off-campus drama productions, and club sports are generally considered co-curricular. In such cases, a student must submit for approval to the Upper School Office a waiver that details how s/he intends to satisfy the co-curricular requirement in an alternate way.

Co-curricular Progress

Satisfactory or unsatisfactory progress toward completing the exercise, service, and co-curricular requirements will be noted as a grade of Pass or Fail. Students who do not meet the annual and cumulative requirements for exercise, service, and co-curricular may be placed on Academic Probation until their deficits in these areas have been removed. To be eligible for graduation, seniors must fulfill ALL graduation standards, including academic, co-curricular, exercise, and service requirements before the established deadlines.

ENGLISH

4 credits plus Public Speaking required for graduation.

English 9 – Literary Touchstones (1 credit)

This course introduces students to the literary touchstones of world civilization. While the literary works are examined in their historical context, students discover that many of the traditions, values, and ideas that they take for granted had their origins in, and are reflected in, the mythical archetypes of this ancient and medieval literature. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary acquisition and application, literary analysis, narrative writing, discussion, and creative projects. Students are also guided through the basics of formal research in an essay integrated with their World History 9 course.

English 10 – World Literature (1 credit)

This course challenges students through higher expectations and more intellectually demanding texts than in English 9. Students will be expected to sharpen the skills practiced in English 9 as they explore a greater variety of writing styles and write more frequently. Students work more independently to develop their research skills in an essay integrated with World History 10. In tandem with the required Public Speaking course taken in Grade 10, different types of presentations and speaking opportunities are also a significant part of English 10. Ultimately, students will pursue the study of world literature to better understand the core literary texts of human ideas and world culture through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as well as gain greater awareness and knowledge of other times and places, leading to interest in and empathy toward other cultures and their people.

Public Speaking (.25 credit)

This course focuses on training oral presentation skills, including mature presence, poise, self-awareness, and projecting presence. Students will analyze effective and ineffective speaking styles, learn to be aware of their own and others' habits as oral presenters, and prepare and deliver various types of speeches. Normally, the student will complete this one-term course in the sophomore or junior year. **Note:** This course is required for graduation.

English 11 – American Literature (1 credit)

This course explores the definition of the American story and questions the concept of shared experience. Does “America” mean the same thing to everyone? What voices are most prominent? Which get forgotten? Students in this course will read texts featuring characters with a variety of experiences within the American landscape. Emphasis is placed on informal and formal writing (expository, reflective, and creative), formal discussion and debate, oral presentations, and creative projects. Students also engage in a college-preparatory research process integrated with their US History course.

English 12 (1 credit)

Seniors must take two different English 12 electives (one each semester) or AP English 12. English electives may be taken in addition to the AP English 12 course.

Research Capstone Project (.5 credit/year)

In this course, students have the opportunity to work on a project that reflects their personal passions outside of the classroom. Students will explore their chosen topics independently with the course instructor acting as a “guide” throughout the process and their cohort as added support. Students will complete reflective, expository, and creative pieces to demonstrate how their selected research methods and materials are helping them learn about their topic. The goal will be to create a product or experience that ties together the various aspects of their topic of study to share with the greater school community.

Creative Writing II (.5 credit)

The format of this workshop-style class is two-pronged. One prong will invite students to read, reflect upon, and discuss accomplished works of poetry, short story, and drama with a critical eye—learning about the elements of craft and structure, style and voice—to help inform their own writing. The other, more important prong will invite students to write side by side, reading and constructively critiquing each other’s work, sharing successes and struggles, and creating a personal writing portfolio.

Literary Studies in Diversity I (.5 credit)

In this course, students will venture beyond societal stereotypes by examining works of literature and film that dare to explore our human diversity. Issues explored could include ones of ethnicity and race, class and politics, gender and sexuality, both historical and contemporary. Through research, reflection, personal narratives, discussion, and creative activities, they will also consider and interrogate their own assumptions, viewpoints, and values.

Literary Labyrinths I (.5 credit)

Featuring innovative and complex fiction, this course will draw students into a labyrinthine world of multiple layers, unreliable storytellers, and unexpected connections featuring stories designed to produce heated discussions, eye-opening realizations, and innovative responses about the nature of reality.

Modern Latin American History Studies I, II (.5 credit)

This course will introduce and familiarize students to key historical and contemporary issues in Latin America from the Independence period to the present day. While a survey, the course will be designed around case studies that will focus on key Latin American countries and communities including Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and Cuba in addition to the Chicano Movement in the United States. Alongside primary and secondary historical works, students will also study key works of art, fiction, and film to offer an interdisciplinary approach to explore the cultural contexts in which these histories developed. This course aims to help students understand the diverse histories and cultures of Latin America, to develop cultural history and interdisciplinary skills, and to build analytical and comparative historical skills in identifying similarities and differences between the many countries in the region broadly defined as “Latin America.” Students enrolled in the class should expect to write both informal and formal pieces,

present on independent investigations, and — most essentially — engage in discussion and collaborative learning. Senior standing required.

Film as Literature II (.5 credit)

Students of film face a challenge: while they understand the movies they see on the screen, they lack the understanding on how to explain what we see on the screen. Normally, there is little reason to explain film since its main purpose is to entertain. Further, the lives of students have become so saturated by movies and streaming video that they rarely bother to think carefully about them. Thus, the objective of this course is to do just that: to learn the language and cinematic techniques of film, so that students can think carefully *about* film and better understand its impact on our day-to-day lives.

***AP English 12 (Literature and Composition) (1 credit)**

The Advanced Placement course is open to students seeking a rigorous curriculum of literary analysis and writing similar to many college freshman classes. Designed and structured as a seminar, the course is organized around various genres, themes, and writing styles in major works of world literature. Emphasis is placed upon reading, analysis, discussion, and writing, with ample opportunities for students to practice their writing skills.

FINE ARTS

1 credit total of Fine Arts or Performing Arts (p. 14-16) required for graduation.

Class of 2022 and beyond: 1.75 credit total of Fine Arts and/or Performing Arts required for graduation.

With the exception of introductory and AP courses, students can re-enroll in fine arts classes an unlimited number of times.

General Art I, II (.5 credit)

This course is designed primarily for freshmen and sophomores but is open to any Upper School student as an introduction to the Upper School Visual Arts program. Students will be introduced to basic skills, techniques, and vocabulary with a variety of visual art media. Media used may include but is not limited to drawing, painting, printmaking, metal sculpture, ceramics, glass, and fiber. Incoming freshmen who have completed with high passing grades both 2D Art and 3D Art in Middle School may be exempt from this introductory course with teacher permission.

Advanced Art I, II (.5 credit)

This upper level art course is for students who have successfully completed General Art. It includes a more in-depth exploration of art media, with more challenging art assignments in a variety of art media. Students will have the opportunity to select more individual and independent projects, with regular small group feedback and critique circles. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Ceramics I (.5 credit)

This course will guide students through exercises covering the concepts of sculptural design. With the medium of clay, students will learn basic hand-building skills and will have the opportunity to throw on the pottery wheel. The course will also cover a variety of other sculptural methods and materials including but not limited to wire, glass, metal and fiber. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Digital Photography I, II (.5 credit)

This course is an introduction to the basics of digital design using the Adobe Suite. Students will also be introduced to digital photography basics, including the skills and vocabulary needed to operate a digital SLR camera. Limited DSLR's are available for student use; students are welcome to bring their personal devices. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Glass Studio I, II (.25 credit)

In this course, students will be introduced to several glassmaking processes including fusing, hot working/blowing, cold working, bead making and casting. Emphasis will be placed on studio safety, skill building, collaboration and developing ideas from two-dimensional sketches into three-dimensional glass pieces. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Graphic Design II (.5 credit)

Students will learn and apply the fundamentals of various software applications such as Photoshop to draw and edit images. Topics will include elements (color, shapes, texture etc), principles of design (balance, contrast etc), and typography. Students will also develop strategies and skills for creating optimal output for print and web media. Sophomore, junior or senior standing required.

Painting I (.5 credit)

This course will guide students through a more in-depth exploration of art media such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and other forms of non-sculptural design. Guided practice in how to participate in art critique and craft and artist's statement are a part of the course. Students will have the opportunity to select an individual project of study during the second half of the semester. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Printmaking II (.5 credit)

This course will guide students through a more in-depth exploration of art media such as drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and other forms of non-sculptural design. Guided practice in how to participate in art critique and craft and artist's statement are a part of the course. Students will have the opportunity to select an individual project of study during the second half of the semester. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

Sculpture II (.5 credit)

This course will guide students through exercises covering the concepts of sculptural design. With the medium of clay, students will learn basic hand-building skills and will have the

opportunity to throw on the pottery wheel. The course will also cover a variety of other sculptural methods and materials including but not limited to wire, glass, metal and fiber. Students eligible for this course will have successfully completed General Art I or II.

***AP 2-D Art & Design** (1 credit)

The AP Studio Art Program is a year-long course to guide students in the development of a visual art portfolio. Portfolios allow flexibility of coursework while guiding students to produce a variety of college-level quality work and encourage artistic investigation. Students' portfolios should demonstrate skills and ideas developed, refined, and applied throughout the course to produce visual compositions of three portfolio exams—2-D Design, 3D Design, and Drawing—corresponding to the college foundation courses. Students may choose to submit any or all of the portfolios. Portfolios are evaluated based on standardized scoring descriptors aligned with skills and understanding developed in college foundation courses. **Prerequisite:** General Art plus two additional art courses. Junior or senior standing required.

MATHEMATICS

3 credits required for graduation.

Note: All students in Algebra 2 and beyond must have a TI-83 Plus or a TI-84 Plus graphing calculator. Students in Algebra 1 and Geometry should have a scientific calculator; a graphing calculator is not required.

A grade of C- (70%) or better is needed to proceed to the next level of study in mathematics.

Algebra 1 (1 credit)

This course introduces basic concepts of algebra while helping students to develop their skills in symbolic manipulation and their fluency in the “language of algebra.” This material provides a necessary foundation for many of the topics students will study in future mathematics and science courses. There is an emphasis on problem solving and application. Linear functions are thoroughly investigated. Other topics include real numbers, quadratic functions, exponential functions, systems of equations, polynomials, radicals and rational expressions. Scientific calculators will be used where appropriate.

Intermediate Algebra (1 credit)

This course covers operations with real numbers, graphs of functions, domain and range of functions, linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations; operations with polynomials, rational expressions, exponents and radicals; equations of lines. Emphasis is also on problem-solving. It is a course specifically designed to bridge skills between Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 1 or Geometry.

Geometry (1 credit)

This course introduces logic and the concept of an axiomatic system. Students learn to justify and communicate their reasoning both through formal proofs (two-column, flow and paragraph

proofs) and informally as they solve a variety of problems. Geometry software is used by the students to discover and reinforce many important concepts. Topics studied include reasoning and proof, area, perpendicular and parallel lines, triangles and congruence, quadrilaterals, transformations, similarity, right triangles, circles, surface area and volume. Scientific calculators will be used where appropriate. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 1.

Algebra 2 (1 credit)

This course incorporates a review and continuation of the core concepts developed in Algebra 1. The primary goal of the course is to provide a solid foundation for future success in higher levels of mathematics. Students continue to develop their skills in symbolic manipulation and in communicating through mathematics. Students are encouraged to see problems from both a geometric and an algebraic viewpoint through the use of graphing calculators and problem-solving workshops. In addition to the study of linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, logarithmic, exponential, rational, and trigonometric functions, the course includes an introduction to topics found in advanced courses. **Prerequisite:** Geometry. **Note:** An “A” average is required in this course to enroll in Precalculus AB.

Accelerated Algebra 2 (1 credit)

This advanced course incorporates a quick review of the basic concepts from Algebra 1 before diving into the introduction of topics found in higher levels of mathematics. In this rigorous and fast-paced course, students will study linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, logarithmic, exponential, trigonometric, and rational functions. By using graphing calculators as a tool, students explore the connections between the algebraic concepts/skills and their geometrical representations. Throughout the course there will be an emphasis on improving/developing mathematical communication, abstract reasoning, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. A solid foundation in Algebra 1 is essential for placement in this course. **Prerequisite:** Geometry **Note:** A “B” average is required in this course to enroll in Precalculus AB.

Precalculus A (1 credit)

This course continues the study of advanced algebra topics that begins in Algebra II. Its primary goals are to improve students’ algebraic and problem-solving skills while continuing to study polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions. Students are also introduced to trigonometric functions. Graphing calculators will be used where appropriate. **Prerequisite:** Accelerated Algebra 2 or Algebra 2

Precalculus AB (1 credit)

This advanced course focuses on the study of functions and trigonometry in preparation for Calculus. Polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions are studied. There is an extensive study of trigonometry. This rigorous course aims to improve students’ problem-solving skills, ability to work and think independently and ability to reason logically in a fast-paced environment. **Prerequisite:** An “A” average in Algebra 2 or a “B” average in Accelerated Algebra 2. **Note:** This course is the prerequisite for AP Calculus.

Probability and Statistics (1 credit)

This course is designed to improve the basic statistical skills of students, as well as to broaden their mathematical foundations. Students study both inferential and descriptive statistics and learn the procedures and techniques of elementary probability theory. Extensive use is made of

the graphing calculator. Emphasis is given to practical applications and relevance to other academic disciplines. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 2 or Accelerated Algebra 2

Calculus (1 credit)

In this course, students study the branch of mathematics that deals with rates of change in continuous and varying quantities. The class includes exercises in the graphical, numerical, analytical and verbal representation of functions through the study of limits, differentiation and basic integration. Students use technology to help solve problems, interpret results, verify conclusions, and determine the reasonableness of solutions. A graphing calculator is required.

Prerequisite: Precalculus A or Precalculus AB

***AP Calculus AB** (1 credit)

This course represents the equivalent of one semester of college calculus including differential and integral calculus and their applications in science. The syllabus incorporates the recommendations of the College Board AP Program for the “AB” syllabus. Graphing calculators are used for exploration of new ideas and as aids in problem solving. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on developing ideas analytically, graphically, numerically, and verbally.

Prerequisite: Precalculus AB

***AP Calculus BC** (1 credit)

This course represents both first- and second-semester college calculus courses and extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The AP course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections among these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. The syllabus incorporates the recommendations of the College Board AP Program for the “BC” syllabus. **Prerequisite:** AP Calculus AB

***AP Computer Science Principles** (1 credit)

In this course, students will develop computational thinking skills vital for success across all disciplines, such as using computational tools to analyze and study data or working with large data sets to analyze, visualize, and draw conclusions from trends. The course engages students in the creative aspects of the field by allowing them to develop computational artifacts based on their interests. Students will also develop effective communication and collaboration skills by working individually and collaboratively to solve problems. Additionally, students will discuss and write about the impacts these solutions could have on their community, society, and the world. This AP course is designed for those **not** interested in pursuing a computer science degree in college. Junior and senior standing required.

***AP Statistics** (1 credit)

This course acquaints students with the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The syllabus incorporates the recommendations of the College Board AP program. Students will frequently work on projects involving the hands-on gathering

and analysis of real-world data. Computers and calculators will allow students to focus deeply on the concepts involved in statistics. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 2 or Accelerated Algebra 2

Introduction to Programming: Python I (.5 credit)

Students will learn to program in the Python language. They will learn algorithms, number and string manipulations, loops, conditions, arrays, lists and more. Sophomore, junior, or senior standing required. Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing required.

Video Game Design & Development II (.5 credit)

Making games is a creative and technical art form. In this course students will become familiar with the tools and practices of game development. Students will begin developing their own video games using the Swift language and, eventually, the industry standard game development tools, Unity 2D game engine and C#. Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing required.

Web Design & Development I (.5 credit)

This course will introduce students to the design, creation, and maintenance of web pages and websites. Students will learn how to critically evaluate website quality, create and manipulate images, and create and maintain quality web pages. Students will also learn about web design standards and why they're important and will develop a solid understanding of Internet concepts, Internet protocols, file transfers and management, web page design and development issues, and basic programming concepts in HTML, CSS and JavaScript. The course progresses from introductory work on web design to a culminating project in which students design and develop live websites. Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing required.

PERFORMING ARTS

1 credit total of Fine Arts (p. 8-10) or Performing Arts required for graduation.

Class of 2022 and beyond: 1.75 credit total of Fine Arts and/or Performing Arts required for graduation.

With the exception of introductory and AP courses, students can re-enroll in performing arts classes an unlimited number of times.

Dance

Dance class credits can count toward Arts or PE requirement

Contemporary Jazz I (.25 credit)

This course will explore a number of contemporary dance styles from jazz and hip-hop to different social dance steps. All of these styles of movement are fun and energetic. They include elements such as kicks, leaps, turns and isolations. Time, space and musicality are all incorporated into movement. Students will learn basic choreography structure and have opportunities to freestyle and develop group compositions of their own.

Hip Hop Dance II (.25 credit)

This high-energy class infuses the latest styles of street and social dancing, musicality and rhythm. This class will encourage students to step outside of the box by bringing their own individual style and personality to the movements. Hip hop dance is aerobic and requires students to have the strength and stamina to successfully perform moves. Each class includes upper and lower body conditioning as well as a rigorous warm-up to help prepare students for more intense movements.

Stretch and Strengthen I, II (.25 credit)

Using a combination of Yoga, Pilates, Calisthenics, and Dance warm-ups, this course will focus on stretching and strengthening techniques. Using your own body for weight and resistance, these techniques will improve your health and decrease your risk of injury in day to day activities. The main focus is to increase flexibility and strengthen all muscles, in particular your core. Students can expect to see results in all ranges of movement, energy, balance and posture.

Music

Concert Choir I, II (.5 credit)

Open to all Upper School students, Concert Choir performs vocal music from a variety of style periods. Performances include the Ardent Arts Concert (Oct.), Jubilate Concert (Dec.), and Finale Concert (May). Choir students are encouraged to repeat this class.

Symphonic Orchestra I, II (.5 credit)

In these ensembles, students master music for chamber orchestra and jazz ensemble. Performances include the Ardent Arts Concert (Oct.), Jubilate Concert (Dec.), and Finale Concert (May). Music students are encouraged to repeat this class. **Prerequisite:** Students need to have achieved high school proficiency (Class B or better) on their instrument.

***AP Music Theory (1 credit)**

In AP Music Theory students study the structure, design, and language of music. In addition to historical perspective, the course content includes composing, sight singing, analysis, and dictation. This class is a college-level course open only to students with strong musical backgrounds. AP Music Theory is an academic class; however, if it is taken as a sixth academic class, it can fulfill one credit of the Arts graduation requirement. Students enrolled can register for the AP Music Theory Exam. Instructor approval recommended.

Technical Theatre

Introduction to Technical Theatre I, II (.25 credit)

Open to all Upper School students, this class serves to provide students with a basic understanding of the different technical elements of a theatrical production. They will develop basic skills in construction, design, painting, props, and whatever else the current production may need. **Note:** Enrollment limited to 15 with two teachers. 8 with single teacher.

Technical Theatre Workshop I, II (.5 credit)

Students in this course will be responsible for creating the technical elements of the mainstage production for the semester. This includes, but is not limited to, construction, painting, lighting, props, and sound. Over the course of the semester, they will refine their abilities in all of these areas and gain a deeper understanding of the process of technical theatre. **Prerequisite:** Introduction to Technical Theatre and/or approval of instructor. **Note:** Enrollment limited to 18 with two teachers.

Video Production I, II (.5 credit)

From pre-production to principal photography and post-production, this course will dissect the nuances of video production and give a base of knowledge for creating high quality video. Students will learn how to operate cameras in order to design their scenes and sequences and produce compelling products. The course utilizes the platforms of Adobe Premiere Pro CC which is the industry standard in non-linear video editing. Additionally, by the end of this course, each student will have begun their own professional-grade portfolio.

Theatre

Introduction to Acting I, II (.25 credit)

Students will study comedic and dramatic acting, utilizing voice, body, and face, to create interesting characters. Students will explore improvisational acting, scene study, movement based acting, and self-expression.

Fall Play Cast I (.5 credit)

In this production ensemble class, students will rehearse and perform a One-Act Play. This One-Act will be presented at the “Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival” at various school throughout the state. All rehearsals will be in class except for a final dress rehearsal and festival performances.

Spring Play Cast II (.5 credit)

In this production ensemble class, students will rehearse, and perform a play that will be produced at the Prairie School at the end of the semester. All rehearsals will be in class except for a final dress rehearsal and school performance.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Class of 2021: 1-1.25 credits

Class of 2022 and 2023: 1 credit

Class of 2024 and beyond: .75 credit

9th Grade

PE for Lifelong Fitness I, II (.25 credit)

Students learn the basic concepts of lifetime fitness goals through various activities. In a laboratory setting, students begin with health-related fitness concepts and come to an

understanding of these concepts through hands-on activities. The students will utilize all of our athletic facilities.

10th Grade

Healthy Choices I, II (.25 credit)

This survey course is designed to assist students in obtaining and applying accurate information to their lives, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health. Study will include (but is not limited to) mental, emotional, and social health; substances (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs); and sexual health.

CPR Class I, II (.25 credit)

The American Red Cross CPR class is taught to all current sophomores. Each student learns how to act in emergency situations including respiratory, cardiac, sudden illness and various injuries. Students are taught to recognize and administer appropriate care until trained personnel arrive. After successful completion of the class, students receive a two year American Red Cross certification in CPR, AED and Community First Aid.

10th through 12th Grade

Contemporary Jazz I (.25 credit)

This course will explore a number of contemporary dance styles from jazz and hip-hop to different social dance steps. All of these styles of movement are fun and energetic. They include elements such as kicks, leaps, turns and isolations. Time, space and musicality are all incorporated into movement. Students will learn basic choreography structure and have opportunities to freestyle and develop group compositions of their own.

Hip Hop Dance II (.25 credit)

This high-energy class infuses the latest styles of street and social dancing, musicality and rhythm. This class will encourage students to step outside of the box by bringing their own individual style and personality to the movements. Hip hop dance is aerobic and requires students to have the strength and stamina to successfully perform moves. Each class includes upper and lower body conditioning as well as a rigorous warm-up to help prepare students for more intense movements.

Strength and Conditioning I, II (.25 credit)

This course is designed to help students maximize their physical potential both in sport and life. Students will develop knowledge in foundational movements, exercise selection and progression, and the “why” of how individualized exercise plans are developed. Athletes will have the opportunity to prepare for their season by completing a sport-specific plan. Students not involved in athletics will be given a resistance training and conditioning program that is suitable to their fitness goals. The various physical qualities that will be developed are strength, speed, mobility, agility, multi-directional power, and endurance. Tests and measurements of fitness, strength, & conditioning, as a means of evaluating progress, will be part of this course.

Stretch and Strengthen I, II (.25 credit)

Using a combination of Yoga, Pilates, Calisthenics, and Dance warm-ups, this course will focus on stretching and strengthening techniques. Using your own body for weight and resistance,

these techniques will improve your health and decrease your risk of injury in day to day activities. The main focus is to increase flexibility and strengthen all muscles, in particular your core. Students can expect to see results in all ranges of movement, energy, balance and posture.

SCIENCE

3 credits required for graduation, specifically in the areas of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Biology (1 credit)

Biology is a course designed to survey basic concepts and principles of life. Emphasis is placed on understanding topics through various laboratory activities to develop analysis and reasoning skills. Areas covered in this course include the organization and classification of living organisms (plants, protists, animals, fungi, bacteria), cellular biology, genetics, forensics, and ecology.

Chemistry (1 credit)

Students will be exposed to the fundamentals of chemistry through the investigation of chemical topics pertinent to everyday life. Emphasis will be placed on a qualitative understanding of the basic principles with only a minor emphasis on mathematical relationships. Topics studied include atomic structure; moles and chemical reactions; and the chemistry of everyday materials. Students will conduct problem-based projects where they apply their acquired chemical knowledge to the behavior of matter and energy. This class is not open to seniors.

Honors Chemistry (1 credit)

Students will study the chemical and physical behavior of matter from both a quantitative and a qualitative point of view. Considerable time will be spent in the laboratory reinforcing concepts and discovering new relationships. Because of the quantitative nature of many concepts, students must have sound, basic algebra skills and experience with logarithms. **Prerequisite:** Prior or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2

Physics (1 credit)

In this course, students will experience the science of motion, light, energy, and sound in a highly interactive and conceptual way. Through a series of labs and extended projects, students will learn many practical applications of physics to our daily lives. The concepts covered will mirror those of the Honors Physics course, but the level of mathematics will not be as demanding. This class is not open to seniors.

Honors Physics (1 credit)

Physics is a study of the basic laws of nature and is the foundation for all other sciences. This is a traditional high school physics course that makes extensive use of mathematical problem-solving techniques. A course of this type is expected by colleges as a prerequisite for beginning study in the sciences or engineering. The major difference between this course and the Physics course described above is the level of mathematical rigor. Students spend a considerable amount of time in the laboratory and use computers to help collect and analyze data. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 2

Environmental Science I: Food, Waste and Water (0.5 credit)

Environmental Science II: Air and Energy (0.5 credit)

Environmental science is the study of the patterns and processes of the natural world and how these are modified by human activities. While this is a “science” class, it is truly interdisciplinary because both scientific and human factors (e.g., economics, politics, policies, and social culture) affect environmental problems. The course will involve lab activities, discussions, debates and argumentative essays. Students must be of junior/senior standing. One semester or both may be taken in either order.

Robotic Design and Programming I (.5 credit)

Students will use the LEGO EV3 platform to build and program robots to accomplish a variety of increasingly challenging tasks. This course is designed for students who like hands-on projects regardless of whether they are considering a career in science or engineering. Sophomore, junior or senior standing required.

Structural Engineering and Construction II (.5 credit)

In this course, students will develop basic project planning skills such as measuring, unit conversions, scaling, drawing and documenting as they design and build their own solutions to various challenges. They will learn to incorporate principles of physics and structural design into their engineering projects. This course is designed for students interested in exploring a possible career in engineering. Sophomore, junior or senior standing required.

Advanced Anatomy and Physiology I, II (.5 credit)

This is a challenging pair of courses in which students will learn the structures of the body systems, their functions, how they interact, and what can go wrong. Learning new science terminology and being able to analyze and apply information in the laboratory setting are expected. Both courses are designed for students considering a major in healthcare, athletics or veterinary medicine. Animal dissection is required. Students must be of junior/senior standing and be prepared and willing to work in these advanced courses. One semester or both may be taken in either order.

***AP Biology (1 credit)**

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. Using modeling activities, inquiry-based investigations, independent projects, analogies and puzzles, students expand their content knowledge to grow and develop science process skills. Students work collaboratively and independently to develop their ability to design investigations, collect and analyze data, and make claims that are well-supported with evidence, reasoning and statistics. **Prerequisites:** Biology and Honors Chemistry or Chemistry

***AP Chemistry (1 credit)**

AP Chemistry is a course designed to conform to the goals defined by the AP program of the College Board. The course aims to duplicate the experiences and the level of difficulty of an introductory college chemistry class designed for science and engineering majors. In addition to the topics studied in Honors Chemistry, we will study reaction kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, redox reactions, electrochemistry, and thermodynamics. Lengthy, complex lab

experiments designed to complement the classroom portions of the course are conducted approximately once every rotation and begin at 7:30 a.m. **Prerequisite:** Honors Chemistry, prior or concurrent enrollment in Honors Physics

***AP Environmental Science (1 credit)**

AP Environmental Science is a college-level environmental science course designed to conform to the goals established by the AP program of the College Board. The course is intended to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students will identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. **Prerequisite:** Biology and prior or concurrent enrollment in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry

***AP Physics 2 (1 credit)**

This is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in thermodynamics and kinetic theory; fluid statics and dynamics; electrostatics; DC and RC circuits; magnetic fields and electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic and nuclear physics. Through inquiry-based learning and hands-on lab explorations, students will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills. **Prerequisites:** Honors Chemistry, Honors Physics, and Accelerated Algebra 2 or Algebra 2

SOCIAL STUDIES

3 credits required for graduation.

History of the Classical World (1 credit)

This course for freshmen surveys the development of complex civilizations in the ancient Mediterranean world from the Paleolithic Period through Late Antiquity. Emphasis will be placed on the major developments in the political, social and economic history of the ancient Near East, Egypt, Greece and Rome, with special attention to those institutions and ideas that significantly influenced the development of western civilization.

History of the Modern World (1 credit)

This course for sophomores is a World History survey course that covers the period 1450 to the present. The emphasis is to study in more depth the forces that created the 21st century such as economic globalization and interdependence, political and ideological conflicts, global and national identities and the power of culture and technology to shape human events. Rather than shallowly covering many topics, we will develop analytical skills to deeply explore connections between historical and current events. Students will be required to read primary and secondary sources and produce independent research. They will also, as part of a learning community, engage in civil discussion and collaboration with their peers. All sophomores will be required to complete a major research project with collaborative components.

United States History (1 credit)

This course for juniors is designed to give students a broad overview of United States history and the political, economic, and social processes that combined to create this country. A

textbook and a variety of supplemental materials are used which stress critical and analytical thinking skills. Through the careful investigation, analysis, and examination of primary and secondary sources, students formulate a coherent understanding of those factors that shaped the United States. Students are guided through the basics of formal research in an essay integrated with their English 11 course. **Note:** Either U.S. History or AP U.S. History is required for graduation.

Comparative Religions II (.5 credit)

In this course, we will analyze the major world religions. We will pay particular attention to the origins, historical development and principal themes/belief systems of nine major world religions. These religions have played an enormous role in shaping world civilizations and human cultures. As globalization creates a world far more intertwined and interdependent than ever before, it has become imperative that we all understand how these belief systems have contributed to the world in which we live. As such, there will be a keen focus on current events and controversies surrounding the great religions. By familiarizing ourselves with this material, we will become more compassionate, empathetic and understanding, while also being careful to recognize the conflict and danger that often accompany religious zealotry. Senior standing required.

Economics I (.5 credit)

“Everyone must, to some extent, act as his own economist—in his private life and as a citizen—and both he and the community will be better served if he is well informed and can think clearly and objectively about economic questions” (National Task Force on Economic Education). This course is a basic introduction to macroeconomics and microeconomics. Critical thinking using economic reasoning is emphasized. Senior standing required.

Government and Politics I (.5 credit)

This course will focus on the structure and dynamics of American government, along with an examination of citizenship and civic responsibility. Particular emphasis will be placed on the Constitution and Constitutional Convention, the evolution and growth of the modern federal government and contemporary American politics. Students will study federalism, individual political participation, civil rights and liberties, and the expansion of the size and scope of the federal government during the twentieth century. Students will also engage in a series of informed debates on current political debates in order to better form their own educated opinions on both specific issues and broader political ideologies. Senior standing required.

Modern Latin American Studies I, II (.5 credit)

This course will introduce students to and familiarize them with key historical and contemporary issues in Latin America from the Independence period to the present day. While a survey, the course will be designed around case studies that will focus on key Latin American countries and communities including Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and Cuba in addition to the Chicano Movement in the United States. Alongside primary and secondary historical works, students will study key works of art, fiction, and film to explore the cultural contexts in which these histories developed. This course aims to help students understand the diverse histories and cultures of Latin America, to develop cultural history techniques, and to build analytical and comparative historical skills through identifying similarities and differences between the many countries in the region broadly defined as “Latin America.” Students enrolled in the class should expect to write

both informal and formal pieces, present on independent investigations, and — most essentially — engage in discussion and collaborative learning. Senior standing required.

***AP Comparative Government II (.5 credit)**

This is a survey course in comparative politics, consisting of six study countries: Britain, Russia, Mexico, China, Iran, and Nigeria. The course focuses on political and economic institutions in the modern era and asks students to compare both function and outcome. The course is relevant and dynamic as it is closely tied to current events. It also forces students to reflect on our own political and economic choices in the United States. AP Comparative Government makes an excellent companion to both Government and Politics and Economics courses which are both taught in the fall. Senior standing required.

***AP United States History (1 credit)**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity for a more rigorous exploration of United States history emphasizing independent thought. The course of study emphasizes the areas of United States history that are stressed in the AP exam. A college-level textbook and a variety of supplemental materials are used. Advanced analytical writing skills are emphasized and student initiative is stressed. Students who participate in this class should anticipate college-level expectations in the study of U.S. history, and should note that the reading and writing load is substantial. Students are guided through the basics of formal research in an essay integrated with their English 11 course. **Note:** Either US History or AP US History is required for graduation.

***AP World History (1 credit)**

As described in the AP World History materials, “The purpose of the AP World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in global frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. Specific themes provide further organization to the course, along with consistent attention to contacts among societies that form the core of world history as a field of study.” The time period studied is 8000 B.C.E. to the end of the twentieth century. Student evaluations are shaped by the AP exam and consist of primary and secondary source analyses, essays, and multiple-choice tests.

Advanced Forensics II (.5 credit)

This course is designed to make students better writers, speakers, actors, and all-around communicators. In this course, students think critically, articulate their thoughts, and present them to a variety of audiences, while disciplining themselves to use language in a responsible and moral fashion. Students develop self-confidence by competing regularly against speakers from other schools in tournaments and improving our performances for a variety of audiences. Open to grades 10-12. Recommended students have completed Public Speaking prior to this course.

History of Warfare I (.5 credit)

This course introduces students to the ways in which warfare has been practiced throughout history. In this course, students examine the institutions of armies and the position of the warrior

has evolved, the impact of warfare and the weapons used to wage it on history, and the tactical, strategic and logistic decisions that have separated history's war-winners from its war-losers. The course will also involve an examination of ways in which people have tried, both successfully and unsuccessfully, to prevent wars, and how lasting peace has historically been achieved. Senior standing required.

Comparative Philosophy (.5 credit)

Students will be introduced to *Epistemology* and the critical study of knowledge, belief, perception, truth, and ways of knowing. This introduction will be targeted at developing the ability to analyze and understand the relationship between epistemology and culture. This course is designed to work between the tensions of conflicting cultural ways of knowing, cultural relativism, and facts. Due to the comparative nature of this course, students will be required to develop empathy for other cultural perspectives, as well as being culturally and critically introspective. Ultimately, this skill will serve students in many future realms--from politics to the workplace--but it is particularly applicable for the ever-elusive challenge of putting yourself into someone else's shoes. Senior standing required.

WORLD LANGUAGES

3 credits/levels required in one language for graduation.

Chinese

Please note: A grade of C- (70%) or better is needed to proceed to the next level of study.

Chinese 1 (Mandarin) (1 credit)

This is an introductory course designed for students who have had no previous study of Mandarin Chinese. Speaking and listening skills are emphasized through the use of multimedia, classroom exercises and other teaching methods. Chinese writing, pinyin and tonal systems are introduced. Culture, history and other aspects of the language are taught.

Chinese 2 (Mandarin) (1 credit)

Students who have successfully completed Mandarin Chinese 1 continue their study of grammar, vocabulary, writing, reading and culture. Conversation, writing and speaking are emphasized.

Chinese 3 (Mandarin) (1 credit)

Students who complete this course satisfactorily will have a solid grasp of the basic vocabulary and grammar needed to carry on a conversation. Students will practice their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, using a variety of multimedia, workbook exercises, composition topics, short readings, movies, and listening exercises.

Chinese 4 (Mandarin) (1 credit)

The goal of this course is to develop functional, communicative language ability using reinforcement and expansion. Students are expected to begin the course with knowledge of grammatical structures and vocabulary from previous courses. Students are exposed to more

Chinese words, and they will be able to recognize them and use them correctly. Emphasis is placed on speaking, reading and writing Chinese words.

Chinese 5 (Mandarin) (1 credit)

The goal of this course is to improve communication skills. A discussion format and communicative activities emphasize student participation. The course features high-interest topics and integration of language and culture through Chinese art, music and literature. Thematic units are used to increase both written and spoken expression.

French

Please note: A grade of C- (70%) or better is needed to proceed to the next level of study.

French 1 (1 credit)

This is a course for Upper School students who have had no previous study of French or who are interested in learning a second foreign language. The course uses an oral-aural approach in which speaking and listening are emphasized through classroom exercises, videos, and a workbook. Basic vocabulary, reading, and writing skills are taught through the study of cultures where the language is spoken.

French 2 (1 credit)

Students who have successfully completed French 1 continue their study of grammar, vocabulary, writing, reading, and culture.

French 3 (1 credit)

This course completes the presentation of grammatical structures at the beginning level and introduces intermediate concepts. Testing is proficiency based, requiring competence in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students practice the four skills through pair work, written workbook exercises, compositions, short readings, and listening exercises.

French 4 (1 credit)

This course offers a combined course of grammar, oral expression, and literary study to promote the advancement of the four language skills. The review and study of intermediate and advanced grammatical concepts prepare students to use a higher level of language in both spoken and written contexts, and French 4 prepares the more conscientious student for success in the French 5 AP Language course. Emphasis is placed on self-expression in paired activities and group discussions relevant to the literature or thematic material being studied. Throughout the year, students read and discuss a short novel and several short stories.

French 5 (1 credit)

The goal of this course is to further intermediate communication skills. A discussion format and communicative activities emphasize speaking and listening skills. Thematic units are used to increase both written and spoken expression, and a grammar review workbook is used to further grammatical skills.

***AP French 5 - Language** (1 credit)

This course prepares students to take the AP French Language examination. Those who take this course need to have a strong grasp of the vocabulary and grammatical structures taught in

previous courses. Students read a selection of authentic readings. A discussion format emphasizes speaking and listening skills. In addition, students are expected to increase their vocabulary and to improve their grammatical skills by essay-writing and oral presentations. Thematic units provide topics of class discussion designed to enhance contemporary vocabulary and reading comprehension as well as an up-to-date view of French culture.

Spanish

Please note: A grade of C- (70%) or better is needed to proceed to the next level of study.

Spanish 1 (1 credit)

This is an introductory course designed for students who have had little or no previous exposure to Spanish, or students who would like to begin the study of a second foreign language. The course emphasizes listening and speaking skills and introduces the study of cultures where the language is spoken.

Spanish 2 (1 credit)

Students who have successfully completed Spanish 1 continue their study of vocabulary, grammar, and culture. Communication is also emphasized in this course.

Spanish 3 (1 credit)

Students who complete this course satisfactorily have a solid grasp of the basic vocabulary and grammar needed to express themselves at an elementary level. Students practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking through pair work, written workbook exercises, compositions, short readings, and listening exercises.

Spanish 4 (1 credit)

The goal of this course is to develop functional, communicative language ability at the intermediate level using reinforcement, expansion, and synthesis. Students are expected to begin the course with knowledge of grammatical structures and vocabulary emphasized in previous courses. Class time is spent practicing grammatical structures and vocabulary in meaningful conversation.

Spanish 5 (1 credit)

The goal of this course is to improve communication skills while learning about the Hispanic world. A discussion format and communicative activities emphasize student participation. The course features high-interest topics, a review of selected grammatical topics, and an integration of language and culture through the active use of art, music and literature from the Spanish-speaking world. Active, personalized and real communication about actual issues and experiences are stressed.

***AP Spanish 5 - Language** (1 credit)

This course is intended for students who wish to develop at a high level their proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Those who take this course need to have a strong grasp of the vocabulary and grammatical structures taught in previous courses. Students read a selection of authentic readings. A discussion format emphasizes speaking and listening skills. In addition, students are expected to increase their vocabulary and to improve their grammatical skills by essay-writing and oral presentations. Thematic units provide topics

of class discussion designed to enhance contemporary vocabulary and reading comprehension as well as an up-to-date view of Spanish culture.

* Students may elect to take the AP Exam in May. A score of three or better on a scale of five on this national exam qualifies the student for advanced placement and/or credit upon entrance into many colleges.

Appendix

Exercise Requirement Opportunities

All exercise requirement forms can be accessed electronically from Google Drive. Students are expected to complete and submit all forms electronically.

Approved On-Campus Exercise Activities (Involvement based on program)

- Involvement in school-sponsored Interscholastic Sports
- Involvement in a PE Activity class
- Involvement as dancer in an onstage musical
- Dance Class

Approved On-Campus Personal Fitness Program (weekly participation: 3 days a week/per semester)

- Weight Training
- Walking/Running program
- Open Sports (I.E.: Tennis, Basketball, and Soccer)
- Approved off-campus

Process to meet the Exercise Requirement (with an Off-Campus Personal Fitness Program)

- Obtain pre-approval of plan from Fitness Center Director, Zach Perkins
- Maintain a log via GoogleForm of activities weekly with participation verified by a sponsor. Please note, parents do not qualify as sponsors.

Examples of Off-Campus Personal Fitness Exercise Activities (subject to approval as outlined above)

- Dance with an organized studio
- Supervised personal fitness training
- Club sports (e.g. basketball, soccer, volleyball, bowling, curling, hockey, gymnastics, etc. with organized team/club)
- Horseback riding

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES AND POINTS

Athletics

Team Member	3
Manager	1-3*

Performing Arts

Plays, musicals (actors)	3
Stagecraft/Tech	1-3*
Pit Orchestra Musicians	1-2*
Regional/State	
Solo/Ensembles Contests	1
Chorale	1

Publications

Yearbook	1
Editor-in-charge	3

Academic Competitions

Forensics	1-2*
Model O.A.S.	1-2*
Model U.N.	1-2*
ROV	1
Science Olympiad	1-3*
Regional and State	
World Languages Contests	1

School-Wide Organizations

Student Government	1*
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Outside-of-School Activities*

Music Lessons	
Scouts	
Youth Groups	
Club Sports	
Religious activities (must be pre-approved by Upper School Co-curricular Coordinator)	
Other (outside) activities submitted for review (e.g. Dance, Equestrian Training, Music Lessons)	

*Credit assigned by coach/director/faculty advisor/teacher based on evaluation of participation

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS OFFERINGS

Fall

- Boys' soccer
- Cross country (boys' and girls')
- Girls' tennis
- Girls' volleyball
- Girls' golf
- Girls' swimming & diving

Winter

- Basketball (boys' and girls')
- Boys' swimming & diving
- Boys' wrestling (co-op with St. Catherine)

Spring

- Boys' baseball (co-op with Racine Lutheran)
- Boys' tennis
- Girls' soccer
- Boys' golf
- Track (boys' and girls')