

Columbia Central High School

Course Descriptions

25 Credits required for Graduation

English Language Arts Department 4 Credits Required for Graduation

ENGLISH 9 – This is a two-semester course, one emphasizing composition and literature and the other emphasizing presentation skills. Literature will be a springboard to build these skills. The writing process, including reflection, will be practiced. Specific areas of content will include grammar, sentence structure, spelling, vocabulary, short stories, drama, novels and speech. Elementary principles of research, basic library and dictionary skills will be offered as well as basic elements of public speaking. This course will emphasize an introduction to standard testing. **(Required class)**

ENGLISH 10 – This class will study vocabulary, active reading, writing, reflection, and research skills. Various genres of literature will be read and analyzed as a basis for further development of communication skills as well as the basic elements of public speaking. **(Required class – Prerequisite: English 9)**

ENGLISH 11 AMERICAN LITERATURE – This course is designed to continue the writing and reading skills emphasized in previous classes and necessary for college success. Emphasis is on a survey of American and world literature, with continued emphasis on the writing process and lengthier expository forms. Further focus on standardized testing will be reviewed. **(Required Class. Prerequisites: English 10)**

ENGLISH 12 BRITISH LITERATURE – This course is designed to teach the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills needed at the college level. Students will become acquainted with college-level reading material about which they will write and discuss extensively. The course also surveys British Literature from the Anglo-Saxon period into the 21st Century. In addition, students will reflect on the concepts of leadership, social action, and civic responsibility. **(Required Class Prerequisite: English 11)**

AP English 11/12* - This course is designed to be a college-level introductory course in reading with the critical analysis of literature and language in alternate years. Though the expectations for each student will be greater, the design of the course offers greater opportunity for individual accomplishments. Writing, including reflection, is emphasized. Students are expected to take the AP exam and a formal AP course exam to earn possible college credit. **(Prerequisites: English 10 and English Faculty Invitation or Recommendations)**

SPEECH/COMMUNICATIONS – This course will examine multiple aspects of communication. Areas of communication which will be highlighted include, but are not limited to, intrapersonal, interpersonal, nonverbal, leadership, listening, small group, cross-cultural, family, and interviewing as communication. In addition, various speech formats will be explored

with emphasis on the performances of these speeches. Some areas of media, drama, and film/television will be explored as well. (**Offered Odd Years**)

SPEECH/THEORY AND PRACTICE – This is a two-semester elective examines advanced formats and structures in public speaking. Instruction in communication, independent research, development and organizational skills is a vital part of the class. Organizational communication, leadership in communication, small group communication, family communication, research in communication and some elements of film/television are components of the class. (**Offered Even Years**)

CREATIVE WRITING I – This course will focus on student-generated work. Students will have an opportunity to share works of fiction, both poetry and prose, with peers in workshop sessions. Close attention will be paid to character development, descriptive writing, and thematic pieces. Narrative voice, point of view, and audience will also be addressed. Final exam grades will be based on a polished portfolio of student work. (Prerequisites: English 10 and a Recommendation)

CREATIVE WRITING II/III – Students who have successfully completed Creative Writing Workshop and wish to have more opportunities to share their work may enroll in Creative Writing II (of III). Students will work in a leadership role with first year Creative Writing Students, modeling appropriate peer review, constructive criticism, and genre forms. Returning students may choose to participate in each assignment with the class, or replace that activity with one of their own. They will be responsible for planning and completing any assignments that vary from the class at large, and have flexibility of genre and form. Midterm and Final Exams will be based on Polished Portfolios. (Prerequisites: Creative Writing I and Teacher Approval)

MYTHOLOGY (Semester Course) – This is a single semester English class where you will learn about different myths and legends from Ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle East, Scandinavia, Asia, and the British isles. We will explore the ways early cultures explained the world through their stories, identifying common symbols and archetypes, and reflect on what relevance there is for our personal lives.

WELLNESS (Semester Course) - This project based Psychology elective is a semester long exploration of Mental Health and Wellness. Students will learn about Positive Psychology, managing stress, and emotional, social, and biological well-being. Time will be spent on making healthy choices and developing healthy coping strategies, including stress relieving activities like Mindfulness, Yoga, and Gratitude.

INTRODUCTION TO FILM – This elective class examines the artistic and social power of film as a means of communication. We will develop an understanding and appreciation of the art and history of film, and enhance analytical skills to better understand film and the filmmaker's intentions.

SAT PREP – the purpose of the SAT Prep course is to prepare students to take the SAT Test. This course will present and review material for the English Exam (including Grammar and

Punctuation, Writing Strategies, and Approaches to Reading), mathematics Exam (including Pre-, Intermediate, and Standard Algebra; Coordinate and Plane Geometry; and Trigonometry). Furthermore, this course will also explore proven test-taking strategies and successful approaches to the rigorous, mandatory SAT and M-Step exams. (**Juniors Only**)

World Languages Department **2 credits in the same language**

FRENCH I

This course introduces the student to French cultures around the world and basic language skills through listening, reading, speaking, and writing activities. Individual and group projects will reinforce the various language skills and culture elements.

FRENCH II

This course offers the student further practice in the skills attained in French I. It includes more complex grammar concepts, reading segments, and writing activities. Oral participation is greatly stressed through a variety of individual and group activities. Individual and group projects will reinforce the various language skills and culture elements. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of French I**

FRENCH III

Students will thoroughly study grammar, particularly verb tenses and their applications. This course will reinforce the language skills attained in French I and French II. This course will be conducted mostly in French to encourage further development of speaking and listening abilities. Various French poems and literature pieces will also be studied. Culture assignments, compositions, projects, and dictations will also be required. Students will write and illustrate a children's book in this course. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of French II**

SPANISH I

This course introduces the student to Spanish-speaking cultures and basic language skills through listening, reading, speaking, and writing activities. Individual and group projects will reinforce the various language skills and culture elements. Topics covered include the Spanish-speaking world, school life, and family structures. **Prerequisite: None**

SPANISH II

This course offers the student further practice in the skills attained in Spanish I. It includes more complex grammar concepts, and class participation is greatly stressed through a variety of individual and group activities. Topics covered include shopping and restaurant themes, sports,

health and fitness, technology, and vacation activities. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I.**

SPANISH III

This course will reinforce and expand on the language skills attained in Spanish I and II. Conducted mostly in Spanish, the class offers practice in both oral and written language with more complex projects and performance assessments for students to showcase their skills. Topics covered include travel, vacation activities, daily routine, global sporting events, fashion, and myths/legends.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II.

SPANISH IV

This class is conducted mostly in Spanish and offers review of skills attained in Spanish I, II, III. It also offers advanced oral and written practice as students prepare to transition into professional Spanish beyond the high school setting. Students will be exposed to literature and culture-based themes including current events in the Spanish-speaking world and an introduction to art history.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III

SPANISH V

This course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish and offers expansion in more complex grammar concepts with emphasis on all 4 language skills – speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will be expected to conduct themselves in conversational Spanish and express thoughts, opinions, and concerns related to course topics in the target language. Topics covered include South American civilizations, history, and literature, contemporary Spanish literature, and Spanish geography. Students in this course will also be exposed to resources preparing for post-secondary study of languages post graduation. **Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IV and teacher approval.**

Mathematics Department

4 Credits required for graduation

Must complete Algebra II and take a math related course senior year

ALGEBRA I – Algebra is considered to be the language of mathematics. With Algebra, you can describe patterns of all kinds, discuss unknowns in problems, and quickly graph your ideas. Some of the concepts we cover are: properties of real numbers, solving and graphing linear and some non-linear functions, solving and graphing linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, quadratic equations and functions, polynomials and factoring, rational equations and functions. **(Required Class)**

GEOMETRY – Geometry continues and reinforces the Algebra that students already know and prepares them for future math studies as well. It slowly and carefully develops proof and proof

ideas. It integrates synthetic, coordinate and transformational geometry. **(Required Class, Prerequisite: Algebra I)**

ALGEBRA II - Algebra II uses concepts from Algebra I and Geometry. It expands the concepts by looking at a variety of topics from lines to logarithms, from systems to statistics, from matrices to trigonometry. It might be described as “what every high school graduate should know about mathematics.” **(Required Class, Prerequisite: Geometry)**

PRECALCULUS* - This class is designed to be the final bridge between high school math and college calculus. It covers the areas of exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, analytic trigonometry, linear systems and matrices, sequences, series, probabilities, and analytic geometry. Concepts are presented through examples, applications and the use of technology. This course provides a solid foundation by foreshadowing concepts that will be used in future courses. **(Meets fourth year math requirements, Prerequisite: Algebra II-must have passed both semesters.)**

AP CALCULUS AB* - This class covers the content of a college Calculus I course. Functions, models, limits, derivatives, integration, inverse functions, differential and parametric equations, polar coordinates, infinite sequences and series, vectors, and partial derivatives are among the topics studied. An AP test will be offered toward the end of the year in May, where a student may earn college credit. **(Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus – must have passed both semesters.)**

FINANCIAL LITERACY – This course is designed to introduce students to personal finance. Topics in this course will include saving, budgeting, debt, consumer awareness, bargain shopping, investing, retirement, insurance, taxes, and financial algebra. This course will also teach students how to perform financial calculations and work with financial formulas. Upon completion of this course, students will have a basic foundation for beginning adult financial life. **(Meets fourth year math requirement.)**

Science Department

3 Credits Required for Graduation

Must include Biology, Chemistry and/or Anatomy, and one additional course.

BIOLOGY – By participating in lab activities, projects, and outdoor study, students will be involved in a comprehensive study of living things, from the basic unit of life through more complex organisms of the six living kingdoms. **(Required Class)**

AP BIOLOGY* - The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory course usually taken by biology majors during their first year and includes the same topics. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP exam at the end of the year and qualified students may receive college credit. The course is broken into 8 units that revolve

around the chemistry of life, cells, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Labs make up a large portion of class time. **(Prerequisites: Biology with an A or B and Chemistry with an A or B [or Biology teacher recommendation] offered odd years)**

CHEMISTRY - Chemistry is the study of substances that make up our world and the changes that occur as these substances interact. Students in this class will be introduced to a broad range of chemical topics, including atomic structure, chemical bonding, kinetic theory, states of matter, acid-base theories, chemical bonding, and the families of elements and their compounds. Basic laboratory skills will be developed in chemical experimentation supporting lecture-discussions. Students will develop critical problem solving skills through a variety of quantitative mathematical calculations. **(Required Class – Prerequisites: Algebra I and Biology)**

CHEMISTRY II – Chemistry is the study of substances which make up our world and the changes that occur as these substances interact. This is a continued, more detailed study of modern chemistry including acid/base chemistry, nuclear chemistry, thermochemistry, stoichiometry, and organic chemistry. An extensive amount of time is spent on the various topics relating to organic chemistry such as structure, nomenclature, biochemical compounds, polymer chemistry, and various organic reactions. Extensive laboratory activities accompany lectures. This is not an AP class and does not have the rigor of an AP class. This course is designed to further prepare students for college-level chemistry courses. **(Offered even years)**

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY* - This course will give students the opportunity for an intense and detailed investigation into the human body. Students will learn the complicated interconnectedness of the body systems and how they influence health and disease. Anatomically, students will investigate a variety of species for comparative anatomy purpose. Collectively, this class will provide students with basis for succeeding in introductory college biology and anatomy courses. Dissection of lab specimens is a required aspect of this course. **(Prerequisite – “C” grade or better in Biology and Chemistry – junior/senior level course)**

PHYSICS - Physics is the study of the Physical World. The goal of physics is to use a small number of basic concepts, equations, and assumptions to describe the physical world. Many of the Mathematical concepts and equations studied by the students in the Math classes they have already taken will be applied in this class. Mechanics, thermodynamics, vibrations and wave phenomena, optics, electromagnetism, relativity, and quantum mechanics are some of the areas within physics. **(Counts as a fourth year Math OR third year Science Credit)**

ZOOLOGY An introduction to zoology and the systematics and of both vertebrates and invertebrates. Students will also learn a basic understanding of ecology, environmental science, and biodiversity. We will focus on the 9 major phyla of the kingdom Animalia.

CONSERVING OUR PLANET Our planet is facing extreme environmental pressures from all sides. As of now, the earth is changing rapidly and may quickly become unrecognizable from its former self causing devastating problems for people and wildlife alike. In this course students will explore the multitude of environmental issues facing our planet today, analyze solutions, and devise fixes for these problems. Students will learn through experimentation, reading, and in class demonstration and be asked to demonstrate their understanding through projects, writing, class discussion, and debate.

Social Studies Department 3 Credits Required for Graduation

U.S. HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY (Social Studies 9) – This course deals with the development of the American nation, as we know it. Emphasis is upon deepening the students’ awareness of “why we are like we are.” It covers the time from Reconstruction to the present day. Michigan history is incorporated into the course. It will also focus on geography of North, Central, and South America. Concentration will be on the physical elements of geography. Emphasis will be on the influence of people, resources, climate and landforms on the lifestyle and culture of these areas and the world. **(Required Class)**

WORLD HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY (Social Studies 10) – This course deals with a concise overview of the various regions and people of the world, beginning with prehistoric man and the “seven cradles of civilization.” Emphasis is placed not only on the history of these people but also on the accomplishments they have made toward the forming of civilization, as we know it today. A large amount of reading is required. The class will also focus on geography of North, Central, and South America. Concentration will be on the physical elements of geography. Emphasis will be on the influence of people, resources, climate and landforms on the lifestyle and culture of these areas and the world. **(Required Class)**

CIVICS/ECONOMICS (Social Studies 11) - *Civics* – This class will show how this young government wrote its constitution, how the branches of the Federal Government developed, how states were given authority and how the National and State governments work together and separately to provide the best security and common good for its citizens. *Economics* - The economic content of this class will use analysis of a wide variety of applications, including those involving individual and household choices, personal finance issues, business and entrepreneurial decisions, and public policy. Students analyze and study economic concepts and principles in three contextual areas: individual and household context, a business context, and a government or public context focused around four content areas: The Market Economy; The national Economy; The International Economy; and Personal Finance. **(Required Class)**

AP WORLD HISTORY* - This class will present the student with a chronological narrative of world history from the earliest civilization to the present. Students will relate specific content to concurrent and on-going global themes such as trade, technology, gender roles, religious and intellectual thought, politics, labor systems, and environment, with comparisons and exploring change and continuity over time. Students will be given the opportunity to take the AP World

History Exam at the end of the course. Qualifying scores may receive college credit.
(Prerequisite: World History, offered even years)

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY* - This class will be an academically challenging course meant to be similar to that of an early level college history course. An AP U.S. History exam will be given in May, allowing students who pass the opportunity to earn college credit. The course is year long, beginning with the Age of Exploration and continuing up to present day. Students should possess strong reading and written expression skills, along with a strong work ethic. The course will also focus on building critical thinking skills, essay writing skills and also interpreting primary and secondary sources. (Prerequisite: United States History, offered odd years)

PSYCHOLOGY – This project based course is a survey of many of the issues of basic psychology. Areas of study include: experimental methods, the nature of consciousness, the unconscious, perception, learning, memory, intelligence, adolescence, personality testing, mental disorders, therapy, mental hygiene and positive mental growth. Reading and comprehension is required. (Prerequisite: This class is intended for upper level sophomores, juniors, and seniors.)

AP PSYCHOLOGY* - The purpose of the AP Psychology course is to continue studying the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with the major subfields within psychology. The class is organized like a college class, and prepares students to take the AP College Board Exam in the spring. Students will be encouraged to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Qualifying scores may receive college credit. (Prerequisite: Grade C or better in Psychology, or teacher recommendation)

WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE IN THE ECONOMIC MARKET - This is a course for 10-12 grade students. This course will provide students the opportunity to learn how to apply the philosophical tools of microeconomics. (e.g. opportunity costs, supply and demand, and maximizing profits). You will learn the fundamental entrepreneurial skills of increasing the demand for products in our school store, *The Eagle's Nest*. You will also display essential management and organizational skills while participating in Junior Achievement and Columbia's Business Professionals of America Chapter.

Arts Department

1 Credit Required for Graduation

ART I FOUNDATION OF ART – Students will be introduced to the elements and design principles of art. A variety of projects, including two-dimensional and three-dimensional art using multiple media will be covered. An introduction to clay in the second semester will also be included.

ART II DRAWING AND PAINTING – The first semester of this class will emphasize drawing activities such as pencil, charcoal, pen and ink. Students will be expected to develop creative concepts to use in their own style based on the confined of specific projects. Sketchbooks, still

life arrangements, and self-portraits are all part of this class. Some three-dimensional projects such as clay sculpture will be offered in the second semester. Students will be required to bring in outside materials for this class. (Prerequisite: Art I)

ART III THREE DIMENSIONAL DESIGN AND CERAMICS – Students will focus on three-dimensional art that will include free form sculpture, paper mache and clay work. Coil, slab, and pottery wheel work will all be utilized. **(Prerequisite: Art I & II)**

BAND – Band consists of two modes, Marching Band and Concert Band. During the Marching Band season, students **must** attend a summer camp before school begins, rehearse during the school day, and attend a night rehearsal once a week. The Marching Band performs at parades (Memorial Day), competitions (fall and spring), Holland Tulip Festival, and football games. In concert season, the band is divided into two groups based on ability. The Symphonic Band and Concert Band present concerts at Christmas and in the spring, they also attend the District Band festival in March. While in a band program, students are expected to be courteous, respectful, attentive, and willing to learn about their instrument while in a group situation. **(Prerequisite: Ability to play an instrument at a ninth grade level, Year long commitment)**

JAZZ BAND - By permission only. **Year long commitment**

VOICES OF COLUMBIA –Voices will have greater musical demands as well as a more intense rehearsal structure. The group will perform a wide range of classical (including foreign languages), pop and jazz styles. Additional performance/festival/clinic opportunities may be possible as the group develops. **Year long commitment**

Technology or Art Department

AUDIO/VIDEO PRODUCTIONS - This introductory course will teach students the basics of photography, camera functions, video editing, media analysis, and filmmaking. Students will work in groups to write, shoot, and edit their own projects. Sample student projects during the year include PSA's, commercials, short films, music video, and a screenplay in proper format. Selected videos are screened during class throughout the year to enhance learning through discussion and critique. Students will learn various forms for editing video, images, and sound.

Health Education

.5 Credits Required for Graduation

HEALTH – (1 semester) Upon entry into this class, health issues will be classified into three main areas: physical, emotional and social. Within this framework, current health issues and concerns will be studied. Emphasis will be placed on the student's ability and responsibility to make choices to promote their own good health as well as the health and well-being of others. Major units studied include: decision-making and goal setting, stress management, alcohol and drugs, nutrition, and reproductive health. The reproductive health unit deals with growth and

development, the human reproductive system, the process of human reproduction, AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and teen pregnancy. **(Required Class)**

Physical Education Department **.5 Credits Required for Graduation**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Upon entry into physical education, students will be expected to demonstrate satisfactory performance levels in the following areas: object control skills, postural, non-locomotor and body control skills, and rhythmical skills. Remedial instruction will be provided when necessary. In addition, students are to develop and maintain healthy levels of cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength and selected joint flexibility. Our physical education curricula will involve daily exercise sessions emphasizing lifetime health throughout the lifespan. Also, cognitive aspects relating to sport activity will be emphasized. A weekly structure of vigorous aerobic-based activity on Tuesday, Thursday, a sport skill instruction on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the following three areas: individual sports, team sports, fitness and rhythmic activities will be the focus. Physical education will also expect and emphasize personal and social character trait skills. **(Required Class)**

STRENGTH/CONDITIONING LEVEL I – This is designed for the student who wishes to improve aerobic capacity and muscle strength, tone, flexibility and endurance. Students will pre-test, set goals, design a personal fitness program, chart progress, and post-test for improvement. Instruction will provide knowledge and experience in various styles, methods, and techniques. Three days a week, students will complete intensive goal-driven strength training workouts. The remaining two days the student will participate in a variety of demanding aerobic fitness workouts. All activity will be based on the components of exercise. Evaluation will include goal achievements, demonstration of independent work ethic, personal and social character trait skills.

STRENGTH/CONDITIONING LEVEL II, III & IV – This is offered to all students that have successfully completed level I. Students taking this class will be evaluated with the same expectations as level I.

Additional Courses

SENIOR TRANSITIONS – This course is designed to prepare high school seniors for a successful transition from high school to a career or to higher education. In this required class each student will explore their interests and how they relate to a future career choice. Several resources will be used for investigation, such as guest speakers and technology. These resources will provide the students with current information needed to make informed decisions regarding their future. Students will spend the semester preparing an employability portfolio, which highlights their personality, interests, employability skills, future goals and much more. In preparation for the job market, the students are required to participate in a business interview as part of their final exam. During this interview the students will answer several questions about their portfolio and future plans. Through the opportunities in Senior Transitions each student will become more confident about their future options, be prepared for an ever-growing job market

and be able to contribute to their community and a global society. Additionally, students will become familiar with many contemporary global issues including world health issues, world religions, Middle East issues, African issues, the environment, world politics, and America's place in a global economy. A variety of contemporary movies are used to reinforce lessons. Also, students are required to research and present a variety of topics regarding global issues. **(Required Class - Seniors only)**

LEADERSHIP – The objective of this course is to promote democracy and the common good. These objectives will be met by involving the class in activities and projects that are positive and will fulfill the needs of the students and the community. Students will also become better aware of our system of government and will be able to practice those principles as they serve as representatives of the school. **(Juniors and Seniors only, by permission)**

Speciality Courses

JACKSON COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE - This program will allow students to start their college career or trades certification in high school. Students will be able to take college classes instead of their enrichment classes. You must apply for the program and have at least a 2.0 and be an independent worker. Students may start as early as their second semester freshman year and it is open until a student begins their junior year. **(See Mrs. Diefenthaler for enrollment information)**

RESOURCE ROOM - ENGLISH, MATH, SAT PREP, TRANSITIONS/STUDY SKILLS – The intent of these classes is to help students with IEPs recognize their strengths and weaknesses, and help them to capitalize on those strengths, while working toward remediation of their weaknesses. It will also help to facilitate successful experiences toward meeting requirements for high school graduation. **(Students must be certified via an IEP to enter the program)**

EMOTIONALLY IMPAIRED ROOM – This Jackson County Intermediate School District classroom serves eleven county school districts. It is for severely emotionally impaired students. The focus is to assist students developing emotionally and socially appropriate skills. In addition, students work toward earning a high school diploma. **(Students placement is based on an Individualized Educational Plan through the JCISD)**

Career Center

CAREER CENTER COURSES – Specific courses are available to juniors and seniors after visitation of the Jackson Area Career Center. See your counselor regarding program details.

An * next to the course name denotes weighted courses based on a 5.0 grading scale.

***Graduation requirements from the State of Michigan for the graduating class of 2011+ include;**

- 4 credits English - 1 class each year
- 4 credits Math – 1 class each year to include Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II
- 3 credits Science – to include Biology, Chemistry or Anatomy
- 3 credits Social Studies – US History/Geography, World History/Geography, Civics/Economics
- 1 credit Physical Education/Health
- 1 credit Visual, Applied Art, or Performing Arts
- Online learning class experience
- (2 credits in a foreign language requirement begins with the 2016)

***Graduation requirements for a diploma from Columbia Central High School include;**

- All State of Michigan graduation requirements
- 1 credit Senior Transitions
- 1 credit SAT Prep class
- Students must meet all attendance requirements
- 25 credits