Van Vleck High School Curriculum Guide

2020-2021

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MISSION STATEMENT

Van Vleck Independent School District Van Vleck Independent School District, through a solidified partnership with the community, will innovatively challenge each student to achieve maximum potential and success in a positive, safe, and stimulating environment.

We will challenge all students academically and socially in a way that:

- **provides for the total development of all students**
- **enhances learning skills and the ability to access information**
- **nurtures a positive self-esteem**
- **maximizes all students' abilities to obtain a high school diploma**

So that:
All students develop individual abilities which ensure the individuals become autonomous adults.

Table of Contents

Overview

This course selection guide is intended to assist you in selecting courses that you will take, while a student at Van Vleck High School. Our program is designed to allow each student, regardless of interest or ability, to pursue a course of study that is appropriate to meet present and future needs. Your high school education, whether you are preparing for work or college, is influenced by your selection of courses and by the application of your abilities. A major part of your schoolwork consists of fundamentals that you will need all of your life.

Gaining admission to college or any post-secondary education institution is very competitive. Although colleges vary in their specific entrance requirements, admission is based on the student's class rank, courses taken, college admission test scores, participation and involvement in school sponsored clubs and organizations, volunteer work, and recommendations. In order to be successful in college, students must gain the basic skills in high school, including reading, writing, mathematics, speaking and listening, reasoning and study skills. It is also essential for students to have developed technical skills, mechanical skills, and skills that enable them to interact with others.

Students who are planning to enter the workforce after high school should understand that the job market is also very competitive. The more training that you are able to gain, the more likely you will be able to earn a higher-level position in the workplace. Students also need to obtain competencies identified in the above paragraph in order to be successful in finding and keeping a job.

Please use this guide as a source of information and as an aid in preparing you for your four years of high school. Though this is Van Vleck High School's initial selection guide, our staff is looking ahead, wanting to expand, and rigorously planning to implement future programs. We plan to offer courses that emphasize real world applications, i.e.: health, technology, and law enforcement preparatory courses before or after school and online, during regular school hours.

We wish you great success and our overall goal is to equip you with knowledge and skills to assist you in becoming a lifelong learner.

Foundation Graduation Program

Every student in a Texas public school who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter will graduate under the "foundation graduation program." Within the foundation graduation program are "endorsements," which are paths of interest that include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM); Business and Industry; Public Services; Arts
and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. Endorsements earned by a student will be noted on the student's transcript. The foundation graduation program also involves the term "distinguished level of achievement," which reflects the completion of at least one endorsement and Algebra II as one of the required advanced mathematics credits.

A **Personal Graduation Plan** will be completed for each high school student, as described herein.
State law and rules prohibit a student from graduating solely under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement unless, after the student's sophomore year, the student and student's parent are advised of the specific benefits of graduating with an endorsement and submit written permission to the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement. A student who anticipates graduating under the foundation graduation program without an endorsement and who wishes to attend a four-year university or college after graduation must carefully consider whether this will satisfy the admission requirements of the student's desired college or university.

Graduating under the foundation graduation program will also provide opportunities to earn "performance acknowledgments" that will be acknowledged on a student's transcript. Performance acknowledgments are available for outstanding performance in bilingualism and biliteracy, in a dual credit course, on an AP or IB examination, on certain national college preparatory and readiness or college entrance examinations, or for earning a state recognized or nationally or internationally recognized license or certificate. The criteria for earning these performance acknowledgments are prescribed by state rules, and the school counselor can provide more information about these acknowledgments.
A student is not required to complete an Algebra II course to graduate under the foundation graduation program, and the district will annually notify a student's parent of this fact. However, the student and parent should be aware that not taking Algebra II will make a student ineligible for automatic admission to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas and for certain financial aid and grants while attending those institutions.

Endorsements

Students who complete the requirements for an endorsement shall have the endorsement clearly indicated on the academic achievement record (transcript).

Available Endorsements
A student must specify upon entering grade 9 which endorsement he or she wishes to pursue:
• Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM),
• Business and industry,
• Public services,
• Arts and humanities, or
• Multidisciplinary studies.

Performance Acknowledgements

Students who earn a performance acknowledgment shall have the performance acknowledgment clearly indicated on the academic achievement record (transcript). Students who earn the distinguished level of achievement shall have the distinguished level of achievement clearly indicated on the academic achievement record (transcript).

Speech

Students who demonstrate proficiency in speech as specified in 19 Administrative Code 74.11 shall have completion of the speech requirement clearly indicated on the academic achievement record (transcript).

CPR

Students who complete the required instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as specified in 19 Administrative Code 74.38 in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 shall have completion of the CPR instruction clearly indicated on the academic achievement record (transcript).

Interaction with Peace Officer

Students who complete the required instruction on proper interaction with peace officers shall have completion of the instruction clearly indicated on the academic achievement record (transcript). A district shall clearly indicate on the academic achievement record the year in which the instruction was provided to the student.

Languages other than English

Students who satisfy a language other than English graduation credit requirement by successfully completing a dual language immersion program at an elementary school in accordance with 19 Administrative Code 74.12 shall have the credit clearly indicated on the academic achievement record (transcript).

Graduation Plans – Required Credits

The foundation graduation program requires completion of the following credits:

Course Area	Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program	Number of credits Foundation Graduation Program with an Endorsement
English/Language Arts	4	4
Mathematics	3	4*
Science	3	4
Social Studies, including Economics	3	3
Physical Education**	1	1
Language other than English***	2	2
Fine Arts	1	1
Electives	5	7
Miscellaneous	5	● STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) ● Business & Industry ● Arts & Humanities ● Multidisciplinary ● Public Services
TOTAL	22 Credits	26 credits

Additional considerations apply in some course areas, including:

Mathematics. To obtain the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation graduation program, which will be included on a student's transcript and is a requirement to be considered for automatic admission to a Texas four-year college or university, a student must complete an endorsement and take Algebra II as one of the 4 mathematics credits.

Physical education. A student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to a disability or illness may be able to substitute a course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, or another locally determined credit-bearing course for the required credit of physical education. This determination will be made by the student's ARD committee, Section 504 committee, or other campus committee, as applicable.

Languages other than English. Students are required to earn 2 credits in the same language other than English to graduate. Any student may substitute computer programming languages for these credits. A student may satisfy one of the two required credits by successfully completing in elementary school a dual language immersion program or a course in American Sign Language. In limited circumstances, a student may be able to substitute this requirement with other courses, as determined by a district committee authorized by law to make these decisions for the student.

Personal Graduation Plans

A personal graduation plan will be developed for each high school student. The district encourages all students to pursue a personal graduation plan that includes the completion of at least one endorsement and to graduate with the distinguished level of achievement. Attainment of the distinguished level of achievement entitles a student to be considered for automatic admission to a public four-year college or university in Texas, depending on his or her rank in class. The school will review personal graduation plan options with each student entering grade 9 and his or her parent. Before the end of grade 9, a student and his or her parent will be required to sign off on a personal graduation plan that includes a course of study that promotes college and workforce readiness and career placement and advancement, as and also facilitates the transition from secondary to postsecondary education. The student's personal graduation plan will denote an appropriate course sequence based on the student's choice of endorsement.

Please review TEA's Graduation Toolkit.

A student may amend his or her personal graduation plan after this initial confirmation. The school will send written notice of any such amendment made by the student to the student's parent.

Available Course Options for All Graduation Programs

Information regarding specific courses required or offered in each curriculum area will be distributed to students each spring to enroll in courses for the upcoming school year.

Note: The district may require the completion of certain courses for graduation even if these courses are not required by the state for graduation. Please be aware that not all courses are offered at every secondary campus in the district. A student who wants to take a course not offered at his or her regular campus should contact the school counselor about a transfer or other alternatives. If the parents or, at least, 22 students request a transfer for those students to take a course in the required curriculum other than fine arts or career and technical education (CTE),

the district will offer the course for the following year either by teleconference or at the school from which the transfers were requested.

College Credit Courses

Students in grades 9–12 have opportunities to earn college credit through the following methods:

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses taught at the high school campus;
- Enrollment in an AP or dual credit course through the Texas Virtual School Network. Students may earn dual credit by taking courses from an accredited college or university. Students may do so "virtually" (online) or in person. **Students and guardians shall make an appointment to see the counselor and/or principal for more information and approval.** These courses are weighted in the calculation of the GPA and GPR the same as AP and Pre-AP. ONLY core courses, i.e.: Government, US History (2 semesters), Economics and English (2 semesters) classes may be used in the calculation of the GPA and GPR the same as AP and Pre-AP.
- Enrollment in courses taught Wharton County Junior College, Brazosport College, or accredited college.
- Certain CTE courses

All of these methods have eligibility requirements and must be approved by the principal and counselor prior to enrollment in the course. Please see the counselor for more information.

If there is a numeric grade assigned by the college, the Van Vleck High School registrar, counselor, and principal will ensure that the assigned numeric grade is recorded on the high school transcript. If the college assigns an alpha grade: A, B, C, D, the numeric grade equivalency for a college dual credit course shall be as follows:

A = 95
B = 85
C = 75
D = 65 (must retake)

It is important to keep in mind that not all colleges and universities accept credit earned in all dual credit or AP courses taken in high school for college credit. Students and parents should check with the prospective college or university to determine if a particular course will count toward the student's desired degree plan.

Dual Credit/ Online Education

Students have the opportunity to take Dual Credit College courses with any college or university that we have an articulation agreement with. These courses can be taken online, or after school at the college. If taken online, students can opt for a local credit class period during the day to work on their class with a facilitator in the classroom. Students can also enroll in Texas Virtual School Network for a variety of courses for high school credit. **Approval from the high school**

counselor and principal are required. Tuition and fees are the responsibility of the student.

For Dual Credit requirements, processes, and available courses, see the Van Vleck High School's Counselor's Corner Dual Credit Page.

Senior "Off Period" Privilege - 2020-2021

VVHS will be moving from a 7period day to an 8 period day for the 2020-2021 school year. Seniors who meet the requirements listed below will have the option of having **ONE** "Off Period" assigned to them in their schedule. A senior student who meets qualifications may choose to have either 1st or 8th period off, and the final decision will be administered by the Counselor and Principal. **NO** student is allowed to be on campus during their assigned "Off Period". Therefore, one of the qualifications is that a student MUST provide their own transportation. If a student is found to be on campus during their "Off Period" for any reason, their "Off Period" privilege will be immediately revoked (taken away), and they will be scheduled into a class that best fits their graduation plan during that period.

Qualifications to Receive one "Off Period" Privilege:
1) Student must be on track to meet graduation requirements.
2) Student must have passed all EOC STAAR Exams.
3) Student must have received all credits from the previous school year.
4) Student must have the transportation means to be off campus during their off period.
5) Student must have earned a CCMR point (Waived for the 20-21 school year due to COVID-19 circumstances.)
6) Student must have parent/guardian approval.

The availability of an "Off Period" is a privilege that can/will be immediately revoked for the following reasons and any other reason deemed appropriate by the Principal:

1) Student is on campus during their off period.
2) Student experiences loss of credit at semester due to grades or attendance.
3) If a student qualifies and elects to have 1st period as their "Off Period", and experiences tardiness or absence to their 2nd period class, the "Off Period" privilege will be immediately revoked.

Van Vleck High School Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

English I

Students of English 1 will practice all forms of writing to persuade, report, describe, and narrate. Students will read extensively in multiple genres from world literature: short stories, dramas, novels, and poetry. The course focuses on the study of literary forms and terms associated with selected texts so students can become aware of the impact these literary techniques have on critical reading and effective writing. There is an End-of-Course exam for English I.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

PAP English I

This class is designed for highly motivated academic students who are preparing to take the AP courses offered during their junior and senior years. Thematically organized around concepts of exploration, the course work emphasizes a wealth of reading material (novels, short stories, and essays) that span time periods and subject areas. Concurrently, students will pursue a critical evaluation of the literature through writing and oral activities as well as through compositions of various purposes and modes. The teaching of language and literature concepts targeted by the AP program will be emphasized. In addition, students will complete a challenging language study of etymology, grammar, analogies, and vocabulary development. There is an End-of-Course exam for English I.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

English II

Students will practice all forms of writing placing emphasis on persuasive forms of writing such as logical arguments, expressions of opinion, and personal forms of writing. This may include a response to literature, a reflective essay, or personal narrative. Students will read extensively in multiple genres from world literature including short stories, dramas, novels, and poetry. Students will learn literary forms and terms associated with selections. There is an End-of-Course exam for English II.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

PAP English II

The tenth grade Pre-AP class is designed to prepare the highly language proficient student for the AP classes offered at the junior and senior level. The student should enter with an advanced level reading ability because the main emphasis is placed on a fast-paced analysis of English language and literature using a variety of multicultural, college-level texts. The majority of assessments of these materials will be presented through multi-paragraph essays, timed writings, presentations, discussions, and projects. Rigorous reading requirements will include several novels, short stories, dramas, essays, and poetry. There is an End-of-Course exam for English II.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

English III

An emphasis is placed on expository creative and persuasive writing, research reports, the business memo, the narrative of a procedure, the summary or abstract, and the resume. Students will read extensively in multiple genres from American literature and some pieces of world literature. Periods from American literature may include the pre-colonial period, colonial and revolutionary periods, romanticism and idealism, realism, and naturalism, early 20th century, and the late 20th century. Additionally, students will learn literary forms and terms associated with selections.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11

AP English Language and Composition

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytical and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. AP exam is recommended. This class requires self-motivation and personal discipline.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11

English IV

Students are expected to write in a variety of forms, including expository business, persuasive essays, and a documented report. English IV students read extensively in multiple genres from British literature and other world literature. Periods from British literature may include the Anglo Saxon period, medieval period, English renaissance, 17th and 18th century, and the romantic period. Students will learn literary forms and terms associated with selections.

Credit: 1

Grade: 12

AP English Literature and Composition

The AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis course. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. AP exam is recommended. This class requires self-motivation and personal discipline.

Credit: 1

Grade: 12

College Preparatory English Language Arts

This course is designed with an agreement with Wharton County Junior College to provide an opportunity for high school seniors to demonstrate college readiness in reading and writing so they are able to begin taking college credit hour courses their first year of college without mandatory enrollment in developmental reading and writing courses. Students who have not become TSI (Texas Success Initiative) ready in reading and writing before the beginning of their senior year will be enrolled in the College Prep ELA course.

Credit: 1

Grade: 12

Math

Algebra I

This course introduces students to concepts, skills and applications of beginning algebra with a strong emphasis on graphing calculators. Problems are solved numerically, graphically, and algebraically. Topics covered include linear functions, equations, and inequalities, quadratic functions and equations, and exponential functions and equations. There will be a STAAR End-of-Course Exam at the end of this course.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

PAP Algebra I

This is a differentiated, more challenging curriculum preparing students for future AP exams. The major focus of this course is a function approach. The course deals with directed numbers, variables, expressions, sentences, operations and their properties, simplifying expressions and solving equations and inequalities, properties of real numbers, polynomials and their operations and factoring. Also included will be graphing of linear functions, solving systems of equations in two variables, rational expressions, radicals and their operations, graphing quadratic functions and solving quadratic equations and graphing and evaluating exponential functions. A strong component of this course will be the use of technology with the graphing calculator. There will be a STAAR End-of-Course Exam at the end of this course.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

Geometry

In Geometry, topics to be studied include logical argument and constructions, coordinate and transformational geometry, proofs and congruence, similarity and trigonometry, two- and three-dimensional figures, and probability. Algebra skills are constantly being reinforced through applications including trigonometry ratios and area and volume problem solving. **Prerequisites: Algebra I**

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

PAP Geometry

In addition to the topics covered in regular geometry, this course includes symbolic logic, spherical geometry, non-Euclidean geometry, coordinate geometry proofs, direct and indirect proofs, creative constructions, and a research project. Higher level thinking skills, logic and strategy are stressed. **Prerequisites: Algebra I**

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

Mathematical Models with Applications

Students learn to apply mathematics through experiences in personal finance, science, engineering, fine arts, and social sciences. Students use algebraic, graphical, and geometric reasoning to recognize patterns and structure, model information, solve problems, and communicate solutions. Students will select from tools such as physical objects; manipulatives; technology, including graphing calculators, data collection devices, and computers; and paper and pencil and from methods such as algebraic techniques, geometric reasoning, patterns, and mental math to solve problems. **Prerequisites: Algebra I & Geometry**

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

Financial Mathematics

Financial Mathematics is a course about personal money management. Students will apply critical-thinking skills to analyze personal financial decisions based on current and projected economic factors. Math and calculations related to real world experiences that include some of the following: net pay, income taxes, calculate mortgage payment, property taxes, mortgage insurance, closing costs, interest costs, and more.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

Algebra II

Algebra 2 is strongly recommended for the college bound student and for the student who will enter a technical career. In Algebra 2, the study of functions begun in Algebra 1 is reinforced, connecting algebraic and geometric representations of functions. Functions and equations studied include quadratic, square root, exponential, logarithmic, absolute value, cubic, cube root, and rational. Additional topics studied are complex numbers, inverses, and systems. **Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry. Geometry may be taken concurrently.**

Credit: 1 (Required for Distinguished Plan & Endorsements)

Grade: 10-12

PAP Algebra II

In addition to the content of Algebra II, this class will investigate the concepts and skills associated with probability, solve higher order determinants, use the factor theorem and remainder theorem, write quadratic equations, given only their graphs and solve radical equations. Student's understanding of algebraic concepts will be extended. **Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry. Geometry may be taken concurrently.**

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Statistics and Business Decision-Making

Students will use a variety of graphical and numerical techniques to analyze patterns and departures from patterns to identify and manage risk that could impact an organization. Students will use probability as a tool for anticipating and forecasting data within business models to make decisions. Students will determine the appropriateness of methods used to collect data to ensure conclusions are valid. **Prerequisite: Algebra II**

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

PAP Pre-Calculus

In this course, topics covered include the study and application of the real number system, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, circular functions, trigonometric functions and their inverses, vectors, complex numbers and polar coordinates, sequences and series, conic sections, basic probability and statistics, and basic concepts of limits. **Prerequisites: Algebra II**

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus AB covers topics found in one semester of college calculus. It includes differential and integral calculus with conceptual, mechanical, and applicable study in the calculus of functions of a single variable. Topics include limits, differentiation, integration, optimization, related rates, area and volume, slope fields, and differential equations, as well as an in-depth look at the Mean Value Theorem, the Intermediate Value Theorem, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. AP exam is recommended. **Prerequisites: PAP Pre-Calculus**

Credit: 1 with potential for 3 hours college credit

Grade: 12

College Preparatory Mathematics

This course is designed with an agreement with Wharton County Junior College to provide an opportunity for high school seniors to demonstrate college readiness in mathematics so they are able to begin taking college credit hour courses their first year of college without mandatory enrollment in developmental mathematics courses. Students who have not become TSI (Texas Success Initiative) ready in math before the beginning of their senior year will be enrolled in the College Prep Math course.

Credit: 1

Grade: 12

Science

IPC

This course integrates the disciplines of physics and chemistry in the following topics: motion, waves, energy transformations, properties of matter, changes in matter and solution chemistry.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

Biology I

This course studies a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues, and organs; nucleic acids and genetics; biodiversity; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; and ecosystems and the environment. Students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific practices during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Laboratory skills will be developed. The course also prepares students for success on the Biology End-of-Course Exam.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

PAP Biology I

This course is designed to challenge the serious student of biology. Efforts will be made to go beyond the basic biological concepts to enrich the course and to enhance student interest. Each student will be required to complete independent library research and either a research paper or science project. Individual/team research projects are an integral part of all PAP and AP course work. The course also prepares students for success on the Biology End-of-Course Exam.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

Chemistry I

This course studies a variety of topics that include characteristics of matter, use of the Periodic Table, development of atomic theory and chemical bonding, chemical stoichiometry, gas laws, solution chemistry, thermochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific practices during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students will investigate how chemistry is an integral part of our daily lives. **Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Biology**

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

PAP Chemistry I

This course is a laboratory-oriented course geared to the student with exceptional math/science abilities. The structure and composition of matter and the changes it undergoes are studied. Laboratory experiments emphasize basic techniques such as making observations, taking measurements, recording data and making calculations from the data. Laboratory experiments and teacher demonstrations are an integral part of the math-intensive problem-solving course.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

Physics

This course studies a variety of topics that include: laws of motion; changes within physical systems and conservation of energy and momentum; forces; thermodynamics; characteristics and behavior of waves; and atomic, nuclear, and quantum physics. Students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific practices during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students who successfully complete Physics will acquire factual knowledge within a conceptual framework, practice experimental design and interpretation, work collaboratively with colleagues, and develop critical-thinking skills.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

PAP Physics

Students conduct field and laboratory investigations, use scientific/technology methods during investigations and scientific problem solving to study a variety of topics including: laws of motion, changes within physical systems and conservation of energy and momentum; force; thermodynamics, characteristics and behavior of waves; optics; electronics and quantum physics. Mathematical relationships between physical events will be studied.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

AP Environmental Science

This course provides outdoor field and laboratory techniques that will be applied, using scientific methods. Both conceptual and mathematical models will be used to understand the interrelationships among natural processes. Environmental issues and management alternatives will be investigated. AP test is recommended.

Credit: 1 with potential for 3 hours college credit

Grade: 11-12

Social Studies

World Geography

Students examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography. Students describe the influence of geography on events of the past and present with emphasis on contemporary issues. A significant portion of the course centers around the physical processes that shape patterns in the physical environment; the characteristics of major landforms, climates, and ecosystems and their interrelationships; the political, economic, and social processes that shape cultural patterns of regions; types and patterns of settlement; the distribution and movement of the world population; relationships among people, places, and environments; and the concept of region.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

Pap World Geography

The advanced curriculum is designed to challenge students beyond the regular course. This course will offer students the opportunity to understand the basis of both physical and cultural geography. Geographical terms and tools will be studied and used. The societies, cultures and economics of the various regions will be studied and compared. The use and abuse of natural resources will be a topic of concern as will the urbanization process and its impact on the world.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9

World History

A course designed to provide an understanding of the development of early civilizations and the development of western civilization as well as other areas of the world. The influence of geography on the development of history is also explored. The course is taught thematically with students encouraged to make comparisons between different developments in history. Historiography tools will be emphasized, and students will utilize original source materials.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

PAP World History

The advanced curriculum is designed to challenge students beyond the regular course and should be considered a preparation for AP US History. Emphasis will be placed on writing and reading skills. Individual research will be undertaken and students will analyze original source documents.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10

US History

This course is a full year study of our nation's history, geography and political and economic growth. This course covers significant people, issues and events after the period of Reconstruction. It emphasizes present day issues that have their roots in the past.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11

AP US History

Students enrolled in this course are encouraged to take the College Board AP exam. This college level course is a survey of American history from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. Emphasis in on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents and historiography.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11

Government

This course includes a study of the Texas and US Constitutions. It provides students with an opportunity to explore political theories, leadership, decision-making, political institutions, nature of laws and the rights and responsibilities of American Citizenship. Interpretation of current events is emphasized. Students are taught to process information using higher level thinking skills. Students will be encouraged to put their talents to work solving real world problems.

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 12

AP Government

Students enrolled in this course are encouraged to take the College Board AP exam. This course includes a study of the Texas and US Constitutions. It provides students with an opportunity to explore political theories, leadership, decision-making, political institutions, nature of laws and the rights and responsibilities of American Citizenship. Interpretation of current events is emphasized. Students are taught to process information using higher level thinking skills. Students will be encouraged to put their talents to work solving real world problems.

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 12

Economics

The focus of this course is on the basic principles concerning production, consumption and distribution of goods and services in the United States and a comparison with those in other countries around the world. Students examine the rights and responsibilities of consumers and businesses and analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price and study the role of financial institutions in a free enterprise system.

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 12

AP Economics

Students enrolled in this course are encouraged to take the College Board AP exam. The focus of this course is on the basic principles concerning production, consumption and distribution of goods and services in the United States and a comparison with those in other countries around the world. Students examine the rights and responsibilities of consumers and businesses and analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price and study the role of financial institutions in a free enterprise system.

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 12

Psychology

Students in this course study the tools and techniques of psychology that emphasize human growth and development, behavior, and development of the individual personality. Completion of group and individual projects, and presentations are expected of students in this course.

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 11-12

Sociology

The basic institutions of society are studied in this course as well as the tools and techniques of sociology, communication, cultural development, and change. Content focuses on how human action and consciousness both shape and are shaped by cultural and social structures, allowing students to see how sociology directly affects their lives. Involvement in projects, outside readings, and problem solving activities are expected of students in this course.

Credit: 0.5

Grad: 11-12

Personal Financial Literacy

This course will develop citizens who have knowledge and skills to make sound, informed financial decisions that will allow them to lead financially secure lifestyles and understand personal financial responsibility. The knowledge gained in this course has far-reaching effects for students personally as well as the economy as a whole.

Credit: .5

Grade: 10-12

Athletics, Health and Physical Education

Athletics

These activities are restricted to those students accepted into specific sports. Students interested in a particular sport should contact the coaching staff for enrollment information. Students receive the equivalent credit for being in a sport as they would receive for being in physical education. **Prerequisites: Coaches' approval and physical**

Credit: 0.5 to 1

Grade: 9-12

The Van Vleck High School Athletic Program is designed to build character in each student athlete through a strong work ethic, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence in the arena and the classroom. Each student athlete will be challenged physically and mentally in a variety of sports including the following:

Boys	Girls
Football	Volleyball
Cross Country	Cross Country
Basketball	Basketball
Powerlifting	Powerlifting
Track & Field	Track & Field
Baseball	Softball
Golf	Golf
Tennis	Tennis

Personal Fitness

In this course, major emphasis is placed on team sports. Students develop an understanding of the rules of games and have the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the games as a player or spectator. They will develop good sportsmanship habits and learn strategies necessary to participate in each of the team sports.

Credit: 0.5 to 1 (1 required to graduate)

Grade: 9-12

Foreign Languages

Spanish I

This course introduces the study of the Spanish language and culture through conversation, grammar, speaking, reading and writing. Through the cultural sections in the test, as well as supplementary materials, students acquire some insight into and appreciation of many aspects of Hispanic life and culture.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Spanish II

This course strengthens conversation and communication skills. Students produce conversations and short narratives and learn to read silently with comprehension and without translation material. Stress is placed on the accurate writing of grammatical structures, syntax, and familiar lexical items used in the reading strand of the program. Through identification of the principle heroes, leaders and traditions of the Hispanic world, students will continue their study of Hispanic culture.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Fine Arts

High School Band I, II, III, IV

The High School Band is a continuation of the music education process started in the Middle School. The band is a competitive organization that participates in many contests. The band is also a service organization that provides music for pep rallies, football games, parades, and etc. It is a learning experience that cannot be equated in any other course. The Van Vleck High School Band emphasizes pride, dedication, and leadership.**Prerequisite: Director approval and audition**

Credit: 1 each year (Fall Semester can substitute for required PE credit)

Grade: 9-12

Applied Music

Applied Music is designed for students who want an advanced course of instrumental study. The class emphasizes the improvement of instrumental musicianship through the preparation of advanced etudes, solos, and ensembles. Members of the class are encouraged to audition for All-Region and compete at UIL solo and ensemble contests.**Prerequisite: Director approval and audition**

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Theater Arts I

This course offers an introduction to both acting and to the technical aspects of theater arts. Topics include a survey of the historical evaluation of the theater, beginning voice and diction, movement techniques, acting techniques, mime, improvisation, application of stage makeup, use of properties and costuming, and backstage work including lighting and set construction.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Theater Arts II

This course is a continuation of Theater Arts I.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Theater Arts III

This course is a continuation of Theater Arts II.

Credit: 1

Grade:11-12

Theater Arts IV

This course is a continuation of Theater Arts III.

Credit: 1

Grade: 12

Theater Production

This course is an intense immersion in theater performance with focus on acting and directing. **Prerequisites: Theater 1 & Director Approval**

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Technical Theater

This is a State of Texas approved course for a Fine Arts credit as per TEA graduation requirements. This course explores the different opportunities in theatre, such as sound, lighting, design, construction, costumes, and properties. Technical Theatre is more focused toward the backstage in theatre, with little to zero performance involved. To compensate, those enrolled in the class will be expected to work on all designs and labor intensive attributes of the plays and musicals performed at Van Vleck High School.

Credit: 1

Grade: 1

Speech

Debate 1, 2, and 3

Students will study advanced arguments in cross-examination and Lincoln-Douglas debate. They will learn constructive argumentation, persuasive speaking, organizational skills, philosophical basics, statistical analysis and directly apply them to UIL, and forensic competitions. Tournament attendance is mandatory.**Prerequisites: Director Approval**

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Agricultural Course of Study

Principles of Agriculture, Food, and natural resources

Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources will allow students to develop knowledge and skills regarding career and educational opportunities, personal development, globalization, industry standards, details, practices, and expectations.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9 or 1st year Agriculture Student

Food, Technology, and Safety

Food Technology and Safety examines the food technology industry as it relates to food production, handling, and safety. To prepare for careers in value-added and food processing systems, students must attain academic skills and knowledge, acquire technical knowledge and skills related to value-added and food processing and the workplace, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Food Processing

Food Processing focuses on the food processing industry with special emphasis on the handling, processing, and marketing of food products. To prepare for careers in food products and processing systems, students must attain academic skills and knowledge, acquire technical knowledge and skills related to natural resources and the workplace, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Management

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Management examines the management of game and nongame wildlife species, fish, and aqua crops and their ecological needs as related to current agricultural practices. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Range and Ecology Management

Range Ecology and Management is designed to develop students' understanding of rangeland ecosystems and sustainable forage production.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Livestock Production

To be prepared for careers in the field of animal science, students need to attain academic skills and knowledge, acquire knowledge and skills related to animal systems and the workplace, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings. Animal species to be addressed in this course may include, but are not limited to, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Welding Course of Study

Introduction to Welding

Introduction to Welding will introduce welding technology with an emphasis on basic welding laboratory principles and operating procedures. Students will be introduced to the three basic welding processes. Topics include: industrial safety and health practices, hand tool and power machine use, measurement, laboratory operating procedures, welding power sources, welding career potentials, and introduction to welding codes and standards. Introduction to Welding will provide students with the knowledge, skills, and technologies required for employment in welding industries. This course supports integration of academic and technical knowledge and skills. Students will reinforce, apply, and transfer knowledge and skills to a variety of settings and problems. Knowledge about career opportunities, requirements, and expectations and the development of workplace skills will prepare students for future success.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technology

To be prepared for careers in agricultural power, structural, and technical systems, students need to attain academic skills and knowledge; acquire technical knowledge and skills related to power, structural, and technical agricultural systems and the industry; and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, industry certifications, and industry expectations. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer knowledge and skills and technologies in a variety of settings. This course is designed to develop an understanding of agricultural mechanics relating to safety and skills in tool operation, electrical wiring, plumbing, carpentry, fencing, concrete and metal working techniques.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Advanced Welding

Instruction is designed to provide job-specific training for entry-level employment in welding careers. First-year instruction includes blueprint reading, cutting and welding with oxygen and gas fuels. Arc welding will be introduced. Second year instruction enhances job-specific training for employment in welding careers.

Credit: 2

Grade: 11-12

Technology Course of Study

Digital Media

In Digital Media, students will analyze and assess current and emerging technologies, while designing and creating multimedia projects that address customer needs and resolve a problem. Students will implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. The knowledge and skills acquired and practiced will enable students to successfully perform and interact in a technology-driven society. Students will enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and critical thinking and apply them to the IT environment.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Graphic Design

In this course, the student demonstrates knowledge and appropriate use of hardware components, software programs, and their connections. The student will demonstrate proficiency in the use of graphical integration of a variety of input devices such as keyboard, scanner, mouse, and /or digital camera. The student will use the Internet and retrieve information in electronic formats including text, audio, video, and graphics.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Digital Art and Animation

In this course, the student demonstrates knowledge and appropriate use of hardware components, software programs, and their connections. The student will demonstrate proficiency in the use of graphical integration of a variety of input devices such as keyboard, scanner, mouse, and /or digital camera. The student will use the Internet and retrieve information in electronic formats including text, audio, video, and graphics.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Health Sciences Course of Study

Principles of Health Science

This course is designed to develop knowledge of the wide variety of health careers available, basic anatomy and physiology of the human body, human growth and development, medical terminology and CPR certification. It prepares the student for transition to clinical experiences in health care.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Medical Terminology

This course is designed to introduce students to the structure of medical terms, including prefixes, suffixes, word roots, combining forms and singular and plural forms, plus medical abbreviations and acronyms. The course allows students to achieve comprehension of medical vocabulary appropriate to medical procedures, human anatomy and physiology and pathophysiology.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Health Science Theory and Lab

This course is designed to provide for the development of advanced knowledge and skills related to a wide variety of health careers. Students will have hands-on experiences for continued knowledge and skill development. Training is provided with businesses and industries where the student is provided the opportunity to explore a variety of health careers in a number of area training sites. Patient care skills are taught as well as safety, first aid, effective communication skills, ethical and legal responsibilities, teamwork, leadership and job-seeking skills. Grade: 10 – 12 prerequisite: **Principles of Health Science**

Credit: 2

Grade: 11-12

Anatomy and Physiology

The Anatomy and Physiology course is designed for students to conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Anatomy and Physiology will study a variety of topics, including the structure and function of the human body and the interaction of body systems for maintaining homeostasis.**Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry**

Credit: 1 (Counts as Advanced Science)

Grade: 11-12

Pathophysiology

The Pathophysiology course is designed for students to conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Pathophysiology will study disease processes and how humans are affected. Emphasis is placed on prevention and treatment of disease. Students will differentiate between normal and abnormal physiology.Students should know that some questions are outside the realm of science because they deal with phenomena that are not scientifically testable. **Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry**

Credit: 1 (Counts as Advanced Science)

Grade: 11-12

Hospitality and Tourism Course of Study

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism introduces students to an industry that encompasses lodging, travel and tourism, recreation, amusements, attractions, and food/beverage operations. Students learn knowledge and skills focusing on communication, time management, and customer service that meet industry standards. Students will explore the history of the hospitality and tourism industry and examine characteristics needed for success in that industry.

Credit: 1

Grade: 9-12

Introduction to Culinary Arts

Introduction to Culinary Arts will emphasize the principles of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling the management of a variety of food service operations. The course will provide insight into the operation of a well-run restaurant. Introduction to Culinary Arts will provide insight into food production skills, various levels of industry management, and hospitality skills. This is an entry level course for students interested in pursuing a career in the food service industry. This course is offered as a classroom and laboratory-based course.

Credit: 1

Grade: 10-12

Nutrition & Wellness

Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness is a laboratory course that allows students to use principles of lifetime wellness and nutrition to help them make informed choices that promote wellness as well as pursue careers related to hospitality and tourism, education and training, human services, and health sciences.

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 10-12

Interpersonal studies

Interpersonal Studies examines how the relationships between individuals and among family members affect the quality of life. Students use knowledge and skills in family studies and human development to enhance personal development,promote wellness of family members, manage multiple adult roles, and pursue careers related to counseling and mental health services.

Credit: 0.5

Grade: 10-12

Food Science

In Food Science students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Food Science is the study of the nature of foods, the causes of deterioration in food products, the principles underlying food processing, and the improvement of foods for the consuming public.

Credit: 1 (Counts as Advanced Science)

Grade: 12

Law & Public Safety

Introduction to Criminal Investigation

Criminal Investigation is a course that introduces students to the profession of criminal investigations. Students will understand basic functions of criminal investigations and procedures and will learn how to investigate or follow up during investigations. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to criminal investigation, crime scene processing, evidence collection, fingerprinting, and courtroom presentation. Through case studies and simulated crime scenes, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprint analysis, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, shoe and tire impressions, bite marks, drugs, tool marks, firearms and ammunition, blood spatter, digital evidence, and other types of evidence.

Credit: 1

Grade: 11-12

Forensic science

Forensic Science is a course that introduces students to the application of science to connect a violation of law to a specific criminal, criminal act, or behavior and victim. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to the search and examination of physical evidence in criminal cases as they are performed in a typical crime laboratory. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprints, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and cartridge cases. Students will also learn the history and the legal aspects as they relate to each discipline of forensic science. Scientific methods of investigation can be experimental, descriptive, or comparative. The method chosen should be appropriate to the question being asked. **Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry**

Credit: 1 (Counts as Advanced Science)

Grade: 11-12

Career Preparation

Career preparation I/Extended Career Preparation I

Career Preparation provides opportunities for students to participate in a learning experience that combines classroom instruction with paid business and industry employment experiences and supports strong partnerships among school, business, and community stakeholders. The goal is to prepare students with a variety of skills for a fast-changing workplace. This instructional arrangement should be an advanced component of a student's individual program of study. Students are taught employability skills, which include job-specific skills applicable to their training station, job interview techniques, communication skills, financial and budget activities, human relations, and portfolio development. Career preparation is relevant, rigorous, supports student attainment of academic standards, and effectively prepares students for college and career success.

Credit: 2-3

Grade: 11-12

Career preparation II/Extended Career Preparation II

Career Preparation II develops essential knowledge and skills through classroom technical instruction and on-the-job training in an approved business and industry training area. Students will develop skills for lifelong learning, employability, leadership, management, work ethics, safety, and communication as a group; however, each student will have an individual training plan that will address job-specific knowledge and skills. Approved training sponsors will provide paid occupational training for a student. The training sponsor will assist the teacher in providing the necessary knowledge and skills for the student's specific career preparation.

Credit: 2-3

Grade: 12

Counselor's Corner & Communication Information

The VVHS Counselor's Corner is full of important information for every student at Van Vleck High School. The page contains graduation requirements, testing information, dual credit and college requirements, and much more!

Counselor's Corner Remind App

Class of 2021 Remind
Class of 2022 Remind
Class of 2023 Remind
Class of 2024 Remind

Google Classroom Codes

Class of 2021 - bonnavd
Class of 2022 - kjgh2ed
Class of 2023 - fmzkkeo
Class of 2024 - vpjuqjd

Contact Mrs. Button with any questions and concerns.

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