



Career Exploration
AP Courses/Exams
Learning Skills
College Credit Opportunities
Music

Health Science
World Languages
Regent Admission

English
Add/Drop
Social Science
NCAA
Iowa
Art

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027 COURSE OFFERINGS

Graduation Requirements
Industrial Technology
Business Education

Vocational

Career Pathways
Mathematics
Eligibility
Education
Family/Consumer Science



'Promoting Excellence in Academics, Arts, and Athletics'

731 Palisades Road SW Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

319-895-8843 | www.mvcsd.org

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INTRODUCTION

The staff at Mount Vernon Community High School has developed this Course of Studies booklet. Its purpose is to provide information about the courses offered at Mount Vernon High School next school year. This guide will help students and their parents become better acquainted with the content of specific courses and will aid students in the course selection process that will be taking place in February/March.

HOW TO USE THIS COURSE GUIDE

In this booklet, you will find a brief description of each course offered at Mount Vernon High School.

The length of each course, recommended grade level, credit allotted, and any prerequisite for each course are listed. Prerequisites are conditions that must be met before enrollment. These prerequisites are established to provide the maximum assurance that the courses will be completed satisfactorily. A student who passes a course may not repeat that course for credit, unless indicated or approved by administration, but may repeat the course to earn a higher grade.

Students and parents are encouraged to read the descriptions, consider the recommendations made by your current instructors, discuss possible selection options, and be prepared to determine your final course selections in time for course registration, usually held in February/March.

Keep in mind that the counselor, registrar, and teachers are available to assist students and their parents in the selection of subjects and extra-curricular activities. It is recommended that parents contact one of the High School counselors regarding aptitude and achievement test scores when making college or vocational plans. Appointments with the counselors or administrative staff may be made by calling 895-8843.

Some courses are required at each grade level. Be sure to include them in your course requests for next year. It is recommended that every student, grades 9-11, take a minimum of thirteen (13) classes each academic year. It is recommended that seniors take a minimum of twelve (12) classes. Students must be enrolled in four (4) courses each semester to be considered a full-time student. A class is defined as any academic course in any of the core and/or vocational areas as well as band, choir, orchestra, and physical education. (Students should check the graduation requirements on page 8).

Before completing your course requests, read this course guide very carefully. Included in it are the requirements for graduation as well as the courses that will be offered for next year. After carefully reading the entire guide, you are to list the courses you wish to take on your grade level's course request form and later use this form to enter your requests online during the specified time.

High School students all too often forget that the record they make during their high school career is part of their permanent record for life. Employers, colleges, and military personnel often contact the school for information about students. They are not only interested in grade point averages, they also want to know about attendance, behavior, extra-curricular involvement, etc. Your administrators, teachers, and counselors constantly remind you of the value of developing an appealing body of classes and activities during your four years at MVHS. Your parents should also help in stressing the importance of doing your best. Not all students can be top scholars, athletes, actors, musicians, cheerleaders, etc., but everyone should be attempting to do their best.

The records you establish in high school are important, as they are the start of life-time careers. It is essential that students plan for the future and contribute to their own growth as they progress through their high school years.

NCAA Eligibility

If you wish to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. You need to qualify academically and you will also need to be cleared as an amateur student-athlete. You are responsible for achieving and protecting your eligibility status!

For more detailed information, be sure to go to the NCAA Eligibility Center web site at: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> You can also get a complete list of Mount Vernon High School's approved NCAA core courses by visiting <https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future>. Scroll down to "Student-Athlete Pages", click "Core Courses", and then "Find your high school's list of NCAA core courses". You will find a complete list of Mount Vernon High School's approved NCAA core courses by typing in our school's 6-digit CEEB/ACT code: 163065.

Also available on the NCAA site are lists of the number of core courses in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and world language that any potential Division I or Division II student-athlete must complete in high school in order to be eligible for athletic competition as a first-year college student.

Checklist for College-Bound Student-Athletes

If you think there may be a chance that you will be recruited as an NCAA Division I or Division II athlete, you should do the following:

- Beginning in your freshman year of high school, take rigorous and challenging course work.
- Register at the beginning of your junior year at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- Ask your high school counselor to send your transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center at the end of your junior year.
- Take the ACT or SAT and use the code "9999" to have your official scores sent directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Check with your high school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate on time with your class and have the required number of core courses.
- Request final amateurism certification during your senior year (beginning April 1).
- Ask your high school counselor to submit your final transcript with proof of graduation.

Mount Vernon High School's "Denied / Not Recognized" NCAA Core Courses

The NCAA Eligibility Center regularly evaluates high school course content and makes a judgment as to whether a core course (a course in only the areas of English, mathematics, social studies, science, or world language) is "approved" or "recognized" in determining initial eligibility to compete upon entering college. Only high school core courses that have been approved by the NCAA Eligibility Center may be used by a potential Division I or Division II student-athlete to meet the number of core courses required to be considered eligible for college athletic competition. The Mount Vernon High School core courses listed below have NOT been approved for eligibility consideration by the NCAA Eligibility Center.

**It should be noted that all of these courses continue to meet the Mount Vernon School Board's standards as rigorous and comprehensive courses with credit applying toward graduation. Please refer to the RAI page to ensure classes count towards the Regent Universities.

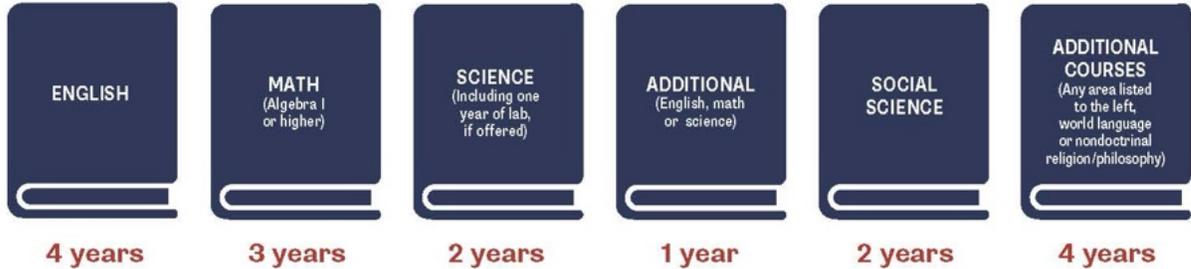
FILM AS LITERATURE
PUBLICATION & DESIGN
SPORTS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY (NOT CURRENTLY OFFERED)

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
APPLIED MATH

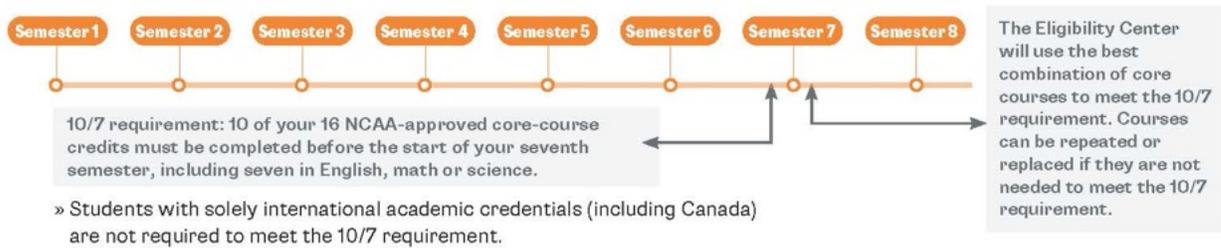
DIVISION I ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Division I schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses and **core-course GPA**. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first full-time year at a Division I school, you must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:



2. Complete 10 of your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, including seven in English, math or science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, any course that is needed to meet the 10/7 requirement cannot be replaced or repeated.



- Complete your 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
- Earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA.
- Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

How to plan your high school courses to meet the 16 core-course requirement:

4 x 4 = 16

9 th GRADE	10 th GRADE	11 th GRADE	12 th GRADE
(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional	(1) English (1) Math (1) Science (1) Social Science and/or additional
4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES	4 CORE COURSES

DIVISION II ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Division II schools require college-bound student-athletes to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses and **core-course GPA**. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive an athletics scholarship in your first full-time year at a Division II school, you must meet *all* of the following requirements:



1. Earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits in the following areas:

ENGLISH	MATH (Algebra I or higher)	SCIENCE (Including one year of lab, if offered)	ADDITIONAL (English, math or science)	SOCIAL SCIENCE	ADDITIONAL COURSES (Any area listed to the left, world language or non-doctrinal religion/philosophy)
3 years	2 years	2 years	3 years	2 years	4 years

2. Earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA (minimum 2.2).

3. Submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

Student-athletes enrolling at an NCAA member school Aug. 1, 2021, or later who do not meet Division II qualifier standards will be deemed partial qualifiers. All Division II partial qualifiers may practice and receive an athletics scholarship, but may NOT compete, during their first year of full-time enrollment at a Division II school.



COURSES – STUDENT DROP / ADD REQUESTS

At Mount Vernon High School, the staff believes all students can learn and need to be in challenging and rigorous classes. Students are responsible for determining and accepting the course of study for which they register. They must plan very deliberately, always keeping in mind high school graduation requirements, individual abilities and interests, and post high school plans. Schedule adjustments will be made for academic reasons only. In many cases, parent permission will be required, but does not guarantee a schedule adjustment. Students are to limit their visits to the guidance office to make schedule changes to “one and done”.

Students must request to drop or add courses within the first three (3) days of each semester. Dropping a class after the third day of a semester will result in a grade of “F” on the student’s transcript. Drop / Add forms requiring parent and teacher signatures may be used to make any schedule change. Remember, students must be enrolled in four (4) courses each semester to be considered a full-time student.

Schedule changes are limited and will be based on the following criteria:

- 1. Will be made during your free time only. You will not be excused from classes to make changes.**
- 2. Only adds or drops allowed. Shuffling of classes for convenience is discouraged.**
- 3. No additions to sections with enrollment already at the designated maximum level.**
- 4. Changes can be made for legitimate educational reasons. If you have extenuating circumstances that you believe justify a schedule change please see a counselor. Unless there are unusual circumstances, the counselor will not allow changes such as.....**
 - a. to change teachers**
 - b. to change lunch periods**
 - c. to change to a friend’s class**
 - d. to change to a section with more students than the section you are already in.**
- 5. Administrative approval may be required for some schedule changes.**
- 6. MVHS will follow the Kirkwood policies for drops/adds for courses in which students are receiving Kirkwood dual credit, whether or not the course is taught onsite by a Mount Vernon High School instructor or online/onsite @ Kirkwood. The dropped course will be reflected on the Mount Vernon High School transcript in the same way it is reflected on Kirkwood’s transcript.**
- 7. In rare circumstances, students may be dropped from a course with a MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL. Students will need the correct paperwork from a physical or mental health care provider. Documentation must be in writing describing the absences and the medical procedures taking place with the student.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Physical Education	2.0 credits (0.5 / year)
Health 1	0.5 credit
Mathematics	3.0 credits
Science – must include:	3.0 credits
Earth 1	0.5 credit
Chemistry 1	0.5 credit
Biology	1.0 credit
Physics 1	0.5 credit
Science Elective	0.5 credit
Social Studies - must include:	3.0 credits
US History	1.0 credit
World History	1.0 credit
Political Science (Grade 12)	0.5 credit
Psychology or Sociology (Gr. 11 or 12)	0.5 credit
Language Arts – must include:	4.0 credits
English I	1.0 credit
English II	0.5 credit
English Electives	2.5 credit
Financial Literacy (Grade 11 or 12)	0.5 credit
Electives – must include:	9.0 credits
(1.0 of this elective credit must come from Fine Arts, Practical Arts or Vocational Education)	
CPR Instruction	
No credit awarded, but must have to graduate – usually taught during Health 1	
Civics Exam (new in 2026-27)	
No credit awarded, but must receive at least 60% on multiple choice civics exam to graduate	
J-Term	2.0 credits (0.5 credit/year)
All students must successfully participate every academic school year in the MVHS J-Term, when offered. The only exception is a senior who is graduating at the end of the 1st semester and not returning for 2nd semester.	
<u>Total Credits</u>	<u>27.0 credits</u>

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED COURSES THAT MEET DAILY EARN .5 CREDIT / SEMESTER. All students are required to comply with the attendance policies set forth by the Board of Education. Failure to comply with this policy may affect a student's graduation status. Students will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and in all senior activities if they are in good standing and have met or exceeded the graduation requirements set by the Board. Students are not required to participate in the graduation ceremony. Graduation requirements are subject to review for students who transfer from other school districts.

CAREER EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **INTERNSHIP - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITE: COMPLETE A JOB SHADOW

Through its internship program, the Workplace Learning Connection offers students a chance to gain work experience and specific knowledge about a particular career by spending time on a real job site.

High school juniors and seniors are assigned to a job site for 90 hours of planned and supervised career experiences spread over a 9-week period. Interns learn new skills, apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting, develop employability behaviors that better prepare them for the workplace, and gain insight that will help them make more informed career choices. There are three requirements to meet in order to receive elective credit through MVHS:

- Complete 90 hours on a job site, working 2 hours per day for at least a 9-week period. Note that this requirement will mean blocking out at least a 2-hour window of time during the regular school day, thus limiting total class availability at MVHS. You will earn .5 unit of elective credit at MVHS for your 90-hour commitment.
- Complete the Guided Student Journal provided by the Workplace Learning Connection.
- Attend and participate in the three career development meetings sponsored by the Workplace Learning Connection.

A job internship is a real-life career exploration opportunity. The experience is designed for a student who has accumulated enough credits to allow the time to spend off-campus on a job site. Even though the internship will most likely be completed in 9 weeks, a student will have to make time available in his/her regular school schedule throughout an entire semester.

- **JOB SHADOW – NO CREDIT**

GRADES 10-12 1 DAY

NO PREREQUISITES

Job shadow students go into the workplace and spend two to six hours learning as much as they can about a specific job. Students will observe and interact with employers and workers on an actual job site to see if this career is a good fit for them.

In general, a student may apply for one job shadow experience per semester. Application forms must be completed and are available to students in late August (to apply for a first-semester job shadow) and in early December (to apply for a second-semester job shadow).

This experiential learning helps students better understand available local careers, as well as make a connection between what they're learning in high school and what will be required of them as employees.

Students must apply for a job shadow in a specific career area. Once assigned to a job shadow a student is responsible to:

- Contact the employer to verify that the student will attend the job shadow opportunity.
- Complete and return a MVHS pre-absence form at least one day prior to going on the job shadow.
- After the job shadow, complete an online survey to provide feedback to the employer and to the Workplace Learning Connection.
- After the job shadow, complete a "Thank You" post card, addressed to the employer. The post card is supplied by the Workplace Learning Connection.

A job shadow is a real-life career exploration opportunity. The experience is designed for a student who wants more direct information about a specific career area. A job shadow student must be responsible and dependable. The student will miss regular classroom time and must make up all missed work. A student must meet application deadlines, contact the employer in advance to verify attendance and follow up with the employer after the job shadow experience.

- No grade or credit is awarded for completing a job shadow.

PROFILE OF A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT AT KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This profile defines student characteristics that most commonly lead to successful participation and completion of College Credit in High School classes:

Academic skills or standing:

- ◆ Demonstrates excellent reading or writing skills, or uses reading and writing accommodations effectively
- ◆ Completes all assignments by due date, including assigned reading
- ◆ Demonstrates self-motivation as a learner
- ◆ Applies classroom learning to cases, observations, and service learning
- ◆ Has a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in academic courses

Personal Traits/Dispositions:

- ◆ Demonstrates respect for others
- ◆ Demonstrates persistence
- ◆ Attends class (the entire class) every day unless there is a legitimate reason (illness, death in family, participation in required school activity, etc.)
- ◆ Exhibits intellectual curiosity and openness to new ideas
- ◆ Works well as part of a team
- ◆ Demonstrates honesty and ethical decision-making

Maturity:

- ◆ Demonstrates self-advocacy and communications skills (communicates needs)
- ◆ Successfully manages academic, work, extracurricular, and other commitments

COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

● SENIOR YEAR PLUS

At MVHS, there are numerous opportunities to take courses that would earn a student college credit while in high school. This is due in large part to the legislation known as “Senior Year Plus”. Senior Year Plus serves as an umbrella for a variety of programs including Alternative Concurrent Enrollment (formerly community college PSEO), concurrent enrollment and Post-Secondary Enrollment Options through a four-year institution.

Mount Vernon High School, in cooperation with area colleges, offers a wide variety of dual credit (credit given on both a high school and college transcript) college courses to eligible students in grades 9-12.

Students must be aware when taking courses through Senior Year Plus that the grade they receive will be their grade for that class on their high school transcript. In addition, MVHS only receives midterm and final grade reports from the college/university about student performance. **The student is ultimately responsible for monitoring their own progress and success.**

Students must consider that there can be serious consequences for poor grades in college courses. All grades for college courses will go on their official college transcript. A student who does poorly on college classes creates a low college grade point average (GPA) which may put that student on academic probation when beginning their post-secondary education. Please consider all the consequences, good or bad, of taking college level work.

Students may enroll in Kirkwood courses (alternative concurrent enrollment) or other post-secondary institutions. Most commonly, students enroll in courses through Cornell College and the University of Iowa, however other non-community colleges are included under the Senior Year Plus Legislation.

- **ALTERNATIVE CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT**

Eligible students in grades 9-12 may enroll in courses at eligible post-secondary community colleges under the Senior Year Plus legislation. The district will pay the post-secondary institution for each course enrollment approved by the Board. This includes payment for the required books for the course. In these courses, high school students are immersed with college students and the instructor is not necessarily aware that the student is still in high school.

Mount Vernon High school contracts with Kirkwood Community College for alternative concurrent enrollment courses. As part of earning Kirkwood college credit for these courses, students must complete an online application to Kirkwood Community College and must provide a Social Security number as part of the secure online college application process to create the official student record.

THE SENIOR YEAR PLUS PROGRAM REQUIRES THAT THE FOLLOWING PREREQUISITES BE FULFILLED FOR ALTERNATIVE CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT COURSES AND PSEO COURSES:

- ◆ Students must demonstrate proficiency in each of 3 academic areas: Reading, Mathematics, and Science as measured by standardized scores on the Iowa Assessments or ACT.
- ◆ At Kirkwood Community College, students must take the ALEKS or the ACT and have a qualifying score that meets Kirkwood admission requirements. Interested students should check with the counselor to look at specific scores required. For the ACT, students must plan ahead and register in advance.
- ◆ Students who don't meet qualifying scores established by area colleges will forfeit the opportunity to enroll in a college credit class.
- ◆ A student may not enroll in an Alternate Concurrent Enrollment course that has a Kirkwood course number below 100
- ◆ Courses must be credit-bearing and lead to an educational degree at an eligible post-secondary institution (music and art lessons, internship type courses are examples of courses not approved under Senior Year Plus Legislation).
- ◆ Courses must be non-religious or sectarian. Prior to registering for any college course, students must receive approval from MVHS.
- ◆ Successfully completed alternative concurrent courses award both high school and college credit. The student will be awarded the appropriate credit for Mount Vernon High School based on the credits awarded by Kirkwood. The grade received will appear on the high school and college transcript and will be calculated into the high school GPA.
- ◆ Students not planning to attend the college where credit was awarded upon graduating high school should plan to include the college transcript as part of their application process to other colleges. This does not guarantee that the credit will transfer to other colleges or into your degree program. Students must request the college transcript. MVHS does not have access to college transcripts.

Students who wish to enroll in an Alternative Concurrent course should contact the counselor for a list of courses available and to confirm that pre-requisites for the course(s) have been fulfilled.

- **CAREER ACADEMIES through Kirkwood Community College**

The concurrent enrollment program, also known as district-to-community-college sharing, promotes rigorous academic or career and technical pursuits by providing opportunities for high school students to enroll part-time in eligible nonsectarian courses at or through a community college. Per Senior Year Plus, concurrent enrollment courses are offered through contractual agreements between community colleges and school districts within their service area. All college credit-bearing coursework offered at the Kirkwood Linn Regional Center and Mount Vernon High school are considered concurrent enrollment. (Same pre-requisites apply as described above). MVHS is responsible for payment of the course fee and will get supplementary funding from the state for student enrollment in the course(s). Select academies are offered at each Regional Center, so make sure to check local availability. Below will be offered at the Linn County Regional Center in 2026-2027:

- ◆ **Advanced Manufacturing and Welding Academy:** Taught by industry experts, this Career Academy experience can position you to be a leader in the growing world of manufacturing, robotics, and welding.
- ◆ **Application & Software Development:** This program provides foundational skills that are in high demand and allows students to explore areas of technical expertise into the broad field of IT covering things such as software development, cloud computing, application development, networking, data analysis, programming, and project management.

- ◆ **Architecture, Construction, and Engineering Academy (ACE):** In addition to academic coursework, this program offers hands-on training in state-of-the-art facilities with the latest industry tools and equipment. Complete unique, real-world projects with classmates and set yourself up for an exciting career as an engineer, architect, construction manager, or building inspector.
- ◆ **Automotive Technology and Collision Repair:** Students work side-by-side with industry certified technicians in a state-of-the-art transportation lab to develop bumper-to-bumper diagnostic and maintenance skills needed in today's automotive fields.
- ◆ **Business:** With this business offering, you'll be armed with the skills and information you need to excel in any business venture. Whether you're interested in marketing, finance and accounting, economics, or managing peers and coworkers, this experience gives you the competitive advantage you need to get ahead in today's business world.
- ◆ **Criminal Justice & Human Services:** Whether it's learning how to take on the complexity of other human beings and addressing social issues, or understanding the American justice system in a way that helps you serve and protect local communities, this academy experience will lead you to a rewarding career making a positive impact on others' well-being.
- ◆ **Dental:** Introduces foundational coursework necessary to jump start your degree and career pathway in the dental field, blending hands on learning while learning the language of dental terminology, understanding dental nutrition, exploring dental anatomy and honing professional health skills to give you an edge in a growing healthcare profession!
- ◆ **Digital/Visual Arts, Social Media and Marketing:** Graphics, media, communication, and design skills are relevant to a variety of industries and careers that cover all ends of the creative spectrum. Explore the cutting-edge technology and software used by today's commercial artists and communication specialists.
- ◆ **Education:** Learn what it takes to be a successful educator in the 21st century. This program helps students meet transfer institutions' requirements and provides specific training and general education in working with children or youth in educational settings.
- ◆ **Emergency Medical Technician: EMT:** provides foundational knowledge in emergency care systems, medical ethics, infection control, and patient assessment. Students who successfully complete the EMT academy can earn their state and national EMT certification, a key credential for immediate employment and advancement in healthcare.
- ◆ **Exercise Science and Wellness:** Whether your future includes athletic training, coaching, exercise science, personal fitness, or sports management, the Exercise Science and Wellness Academy will give you a head start on understanding the science behind performance and the power of healthy living.
- ◆ **Health:** Explore more than 10 pathways that allow you to fast track into careers in a variety of Health professions. Health Careers Academy offers hands-on career exploration, allows students to engage with current healthcare professionals, learn the language of medicine, and earn relevant college credits for a variety of healthcare programs.
- ◆ **Patient Care Exploration:** A unique, hands-on learning experience providing care for patients in a clinical setting. Work side-by-side with healthcare professionals in a healthcare facility and fulfill prerequisites for many college health programs. Includes CPR, First Aid, and Nurse Aide (CNA) Certifications.
- ◆ **Pre-Med, Nursing, and Professional Health Careers:** Includes rigorous academic preparation for some of today's most popular pre-professional programs at colleges and universities. It assures successful academic preparation of required transfer level coursework for pre-professional majors at many colleges and universities as well.
- ◆ **Pre-Nursing with Nurse Aide Certification:** Offers the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, earn college credits, and develop essential healthcare knowledge that will not only prepare you for nursing school but also give you a head start on your nursing career.
- ◆ **Project Management:** Through hands-on experiences, you'll discover how to plan, organize, and lead real projects from start to finish. You'll work with industry tools like Microsoft Project and Excel, collaborate with local businesses, and see how strong leadership and teamwork make real results possible. You'll even have the opportunity to earn a professional certification.
- ◆ **Arts & Sciences:** Students who complete enough credits of Arts & Sciences courses with Kirkwood through Concurrent Enrollment options like Kirkwood Career Academies may be awarded an associate's degree by the time they graduate high school!

Please note that the academy is expected to be taken in its entirety not just one or two courses of the specific academy. For details on the courses and credits within each academy, see <https://www.kirkwood.edu/programs/career-academies/index>

Students will receive both high school credit and college credit (called dual enrollment credit). The college credits possible for each Kirkwood course are listed on the course descriptions. High school graduation credit for eligible Alternative Concurrent Enrollment courses (Kirkwood) will be awarded in the following manner:

- Courses earning less than 3 Kirkwood credits will earn .25 MVHS credit with each passing grade
- Courses earning 3 or more Kirkwood credits will earn .5 MVHS credit with each passing grade
- Courses withdrawn after Kirkwood's drop date (and where Kirkwood adds a "W" on its student transcript) will be reflected the same on the MVHS transcript

High school graduation credit for eligible PSEO classes will be awarded in the following manner:

- Semester-long courses earn 0.5 credit with a passing grade
- Year-long courses earn 1.0 credit with a passing grade

Students interested in any of these programs should contact the counseling office for more information and be aware of timelines and deadlines for signing up for these programs.

Extended Learning Program (ELP) TIER 3 - Accommodation possibilities:

- ◆ **Substitute a general course with an AP course**
 - **Example: substitute AP Psychology for Psychology**
- ◆ **Take an AP course as a freshman and/or a sophomore**
 - **Example: take AP English as a freshman**

Advanced Placement (AP) Online Courses Through Iowa Online Advanced Placement Academy (IOAPA)

- AP Online courses are rigorous, **college**-level classes offered in a variety of disciplines.
- Any junior or senior may take AP Online courses.
- Freshmen and sophomore ELP students may take AP Online courses.
- Students should feel very comfortable with online course format and be an independent learner.
- Students will have both an online instructor and a mentor available at school for additional in-person support.

Space is very limited in these courses; classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration for an online AP course must go through the counselor's office. Registration for first semester begins in April and must be completed no later than mid-June. Registration for second semester begins in November and must be completed before winter break.

Online Advanced Placement available courses are listed below (* denotes semester-long class, all others are year-long). Please note that if an AP course is offered in person at MVHS, the IOAPA course will not be available:

AP Biology
AP Calculus BC
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Environmental Science (when not offered @ MVHS)
AP Macroeconomics*
AP Microeconomics*
AP Psychology*
AP Spanish

AP Statistics
AP US History
Introduction to Computer Science* - 9th grade only
(A semester-long online class designed to help prepare students for AP computer science classes.)

Course details are listed on the IOAPA course catalog page at:
<https://belinblank.education.uiowa.edu/students/ioapa/>

Contact: HS ELP Coordinator Susannah Maddock

SPECIAL TESTING PROGRAMS

There are numerous tests administered by organizations other than high schools for special purposes such as college admission, scholarships, placement, and vocational guidance. Therefore, it is necessary that students begin planning early. The choice of college will determine which tests are needed. Information about these tests may be obtained in the counseling office. Students are encouraged to discuss their individual needs with a counselor.

- ◆ PSAT/National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) - This test is an elective test administered to sophomores and juniors during the fall semester. For sophomores, it provides practice for the SAT and for juniors, initiates the selection process for National Merit Scholarship winners. There is a fee for this test.
- ◆ American College Testing Program (ACT) - The ACT is used by most four-year colleges and universities for admission, placement, and scholarships. This test is most often taken during the spring (April) of the junior year, but can be taken in June, as well as at the beginning (September/October) of the senior year. The ACT may be used as one of the assessments to fulfill dual credit course eligibility requirements. Registration is online. Information is available in the counseling office. There is a fee for this test.
- ◆ College Entrance Examination Board (SAT) - Some colleges and some national scholarships require the SAT. This test is mainly for seniors although some juniors may wish to take it in the spring or summer. Students should consult their counselor for testing dates and centers. Registration materials are available in the counseling office. There is a fee for this test.
- ◆ Advanced Placement - These tests are used by some colleges to allow students advanced standing, advanced credit or both before they actually enroll as freshmen at college. Students are strongly advised to check the policy of their prospective college regarding advanced credit or placement before taking these tests. There is a fee for this test.
- ◆ ASVAB - The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. Students who take the ASVAB are not required to enlist in the military. Results can also be used by students to guide them into career areas where they show strength and interest. There is NO fee for this test.
- ◆ ALEKS – The ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) is a college placement test used to evaluate students' skills in math. Colleges use the ALEKS to place students in appropriate classes. (At MVHS, the ALEKS is used as one of the assessments to fulfill dual credit course eligibility requirements.) There is NO fee for this test.

High School Course Requirements for Admission to Iowa's Regent Universities

In addition to meeting the Regent Admission Index requirement, students must complete the minimum number of high school courses specified below for the institution to which they're applying.

Subject Area	Iowa State University	The University of Iowa	University of Northern Iowa
English/Language Arts	Four years of English/Language Arts emphasizing writing, speaking, reading, as well as an understanding and appreciation of literature.	Four years, with an emphasis on the analysis and interpretation of literature, composition, and speech.	Four years, including one year of composition; also may include one year of speech, communication, or journalism.
Math	Three years, including one year each of algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra.	Three years, including two years of algebra and one year of geometry, for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences . Four years, including two years of algebra, one year of geometry, and one year of higher mathematics (trigonometry, analysis, or calculus), for admission to the College of Engineering .	Three years, including the equivalent of algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra.
Natural Science	Three years, including at least two years of courses which emphasize elements of biology, chemistry or physics.	Three years, including courses in physical science, biology, chemistry, environmental science and physics for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Engineering. Three years, including one year each of biology, chemistry and physics for admission to the College of Nursing.	Three years, including courses in general science, biology, chemistry, earth science or physics. Laboratory experience is highly recommended.
<p>* At MVHS, 1 year of chemistry includes BOTH Chem 1 <i>and</i> Chem 2 * At MVHS, 1 year of physics includes Physics 1 <i>and either</i> Physics 2 or AP Physics</p>			
Social Science	Two years for admission to the Colleges of Agriculture, Business, Design, Human Sciences, and Engineering . Three years for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences .	Three years, with U.S. history and world history recommended for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences . Two years, with U.S. history and world history recommended, for admission to the College of Engineering .	Three years, including courses in anthropology, economics, geography, government, history, psychology, or sociology.
World Language	Two years of a single world language for admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering . World language courses are not required for admission to the Colleges of Agriculture, Business, Design, or Human Sciences .	Two years of a single world language.	World language courses are not required for admission. However, two years of a world language in high school with a C- or above in the last term will meet the university graduation requirement.
Other Courses	Specific elective courses are not required for admission to Iowa State University.	Specific elective courses are not required for admission to The University of Iowa.	Two years of additional courses from the required subject areas, world languages, or fine arts.

Note: Non-resident freshman applicants may be held to higher standards for admission, but must meet at least the same requirements as resident freshman applicants.

Regent Admission Index

Students from Iowa high schools planning to begin studies at an Iowa Regents institution must have a Regent Admission Index score of at least 245 and take the minimum number of required high school courses to qualify for automatic admission to Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, and The University of Iowa. Students who achieve a score less than 245 will be considered for admission on an individual basis.

The index combines four factors that strongly predict success at regent universities: ACT or SAT test score, high school cumulative grade-point average, and the number of completed high school core courses (which include only the courses listed below). **Information you will need to complete your RAI Score:**

***Note: There is an RAI calculator available at: www.regents.iowa.gov/RAI/index.html** (cap sensitive)

Your ACT or SAT score: _____

Your Current Cumulative GPA: _____ Your Total Number of Core Courses (**See Below**): _____

Courses taught at Mount Vernon High School Core Courses for RAI Calculation

English	Math	Science	Social Studies	World Language
English 1	Algebra 1	Anatomy & Physiology	Political Science*	German 2
English 2*	Algebra 2	Biology	AP US Government/Politics	German 3
English 3*	Geometry	Chemistry 1*	Psychology*	Honors German 4
Fiction Writing*	Pre-Calc & Trig	Chemistry 2*	Sociology*	Spanish 1
Journalism*	KW Statistics*	AP Chemistry	US History	Spanish 2
KW Composition I*	AP Calculus	Earth Science 1*	Honors US History	Spanish 3
KW Composition II*		Earth Science 2*	World History	Spanish 4
Film as Literature*		Physics 1*	Criminal Justice*	KW Intern. Spanish 1*
KW Forms of Lit: Nonfiction*		Physics 2*	AP World History	KW Intern. Spanish 2*
Modern Literature*		AP Physics		PSEO Adv.Spanish Gram/Comp*
Mystery Stories*		AP Environmental Science		PSEO Intro Span.Text.Analysis*
AP Language & Comp.		Integrated Science Case Studies*		
AP English Lit & Comp.				
Interpersonal Communication*				
KW Public Speaking*				
Intro to Theatre Literature				
Approved college courses*	Approved college courses*	Approved college courses*	Approved college courses*	Approved college courses*

In the RAI Calculation, the number of core courses you enter should include courses that you have successfully completed. A year-long course is worth 1 unit and a semester course is worth one-half (.5) unit as you calculate core units to enter into the RAI calculation. * Any class marked by an asterisk is a semester-long course.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **DRIVER'S EDUCATION**

The Mount Vernon Community School District does not sponsor a summer driver's education program. Instead, private companies offer driver's education programs in Mount Vernon. They offer comparable services and costs at convenient times to all families. Reduced driver's education fees are available for students who qualify through federal free/reduced lunch guidelines. These families may contact the high school office for more information. The private companies will advertise their programs and work directly with the school district to provide the reduced fees. As a reminder, all students must possess a driving permit before starting in a driver's education program. If you have any questions regarding driver's education, please contact the High School office at 895-8843.

- **INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Independent study may be available on a limited basis by approval of the principal. Advanced students should consider enrolling in college courses or online Advanced Placement courses as an alternate to applying for independent study course work. **A written plan of study must be approved by the instructor and principal prior to beginning an independent study course.**

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

AGRICULTURE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Agricultural Communications Specialist	Environmental Compliance Specialist	Meat Processing Specialist
Agricultural Economist	Extension Agent	Natural Resources Technician
Agricultural Education Teacher	Farm Equipment Sales Rep	Nursery Manager
Agricultural Engineer	Farm Manager	Pest Control Advisor
Agricultural Equipment Technician	Feed Mill Manager	Plant Breeder
Agricultural Loan Officer	Food Processing Technician	Precision Agriculture Technician
Agronomist	Food Safety Specialist	Produce Buyer
Animal Breeder	Forester	Rangeland Manager
Animal Nutritionist	Grain Elevator Manager	Research Technician
Animal Scientist	Greenhouse Manager	Soil and Water Conservationist
Animal Trainer	Horticulturist	Soil Scientist
Aquaculture Technician	Irrigation Technician	Veterinary Assistant
Crop Consultant	Livestock Production Manager	Veterinary Technician
Crop Insurance Adjuster	Meat Inspector	Warehouse Manager
Custom Applicator		Wildlife Conservation Officer

- **INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

This introductory course provides students with an overview of the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) industry and its impact on daily life. Students will explore a variety of agricultural areas, including animal science, plant science, natural resources, and agricultural business through hands-on activities and interactive lessons. This course focuses on developing foundational skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork, and recordkeeping. Students will be introduced to the FFA organization and Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE), learning how these components connect classroom learning to the real-world.

- **PLANT SCIENCE – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITE: INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE *or* JUNIOR/SENIOR STATUS (2026-27)

This foundational course focuses on the study of plants and their role in agricultural and horticultural systems. Students will examine plant anatomy and physiology, growth and development, classification, and basic principles of plant production and harvesting. Through hands-on labs and applied learning experiences, students will gain practical skills related to crop and plant management. The course also explores the economic, environmental, and societal importance of plant production at the local, national, and global levels.

- **ANIMAL SCIENCE – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITE: INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE *or* JUNIOR/SENIOR STATUS (2026-27)

Within this course, students are provided with an in-depth look at the science and management of livestock animals used in agricultural production. Topics include animals in society, animal behavior, nutrition, health, reproduction, and industry practices related to beef, dairy, swine, sheep, goats, and poultry. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences that emphasize scientific thinking, problem-solving, and real-world application of animal science principles.

- **COMPANION ANIMAL SCIENCE – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITE: INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE *or* JUNIOR/SENIOR STATUS (2026-27)

Companion Animal Science focuses on the care, management, and well-being of animals commonly kept as pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, and other small animals. Students will learn about breed identification, nutrition, housing, grooming, behavior, and basic health care while gaining an understanding of responsible small animal ownership. Through hands-on activities and real-world scenarios, students will develop practical skills and explore careers related to companion animals, including veterinary medicine, animal training, grooming, and animal welfare.

- **AG PROCESSING – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITE: INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE *or* JUNIOR/SENIOR STATUS (2026-27)

Within this hands-on course, students will get to explore the world of agricultural processing, focusing on creating valuable consumer goods from raw agricultural products. This class will emphasize meat science, food preservation, and unique forms of agricultural by-products. Students will study meat science concepts such as common meat cuts and the steps involved in meat processing. Hands-on learning opportunities will allow students to transform agricultural materials into finished goods, while gaining experience with food preservation techniques including canning, freeze-drying, and dehydrating. This course is designed for students curious about agriculture, food systems, or production, building practical skills for converting farm products into usable and saleable items.

ART DEPARTMENT

ART CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

<u>Illustrator:</u>	<u>Designer:</u>	<u>Art Historian/Museum:</u>	<u>Studio Artist:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
Advertising	Branding	Art Appraiser	Ceramicist	Art Teacher
Animation	Costume	Art Law and Law Enforcement	Fiber Artist	Art Therapist
Book	Fashion	Collection Manager	Jeweler	
Comic	Graphic	Conservator	Muralist	
Concept	Interior / Furniture	Curator	Painter	
Film Story Board	Landscaping	Education Director	Photographer	
Graphic Novel	Product	Gallery Owner	Sculptor	
Letter Form	Theater Set/Prop			
Manga	Video Game			
Medical	Website			

Art Classes

- **ART MEDIA SURVEY- 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
This is a hands-on elective for students interested in exploring a variety of art styles and media tools. This includes but is not limited to printmaking, painting, fiber art, sculpture, ceramic, epoxy resin, and glass. Along the way we will learn terms and definitions connected to studio art. Students will be assessed on recognition of art terms, ability to recognize famous works of art, and the techniques shown in artwork they create in studio as well as use of studio time.
- **CERAMICS 1 – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
This is a hands-on elective for students interested in learning how to create functional and sculptural ceramic pottery. Students will learn the vocabulary of ceramic techniques, materials, and tools. Students will learn slab building, coil building, and wheel throwing as well as glaze application techniques. Students will be assessed on work created and use of studio time.
- **CERAMICS 2 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: CERAMICS 1
This advanced course will continue to refine students' skills while focusing on the student's creative style. The course will begin with a production boot camp where we will use repetition to hone our skills. Half of the course will be dedicated to time spent on the potter's wheel and half of the course will focus on hand building. We will delve deeper into the science of clay bodies and glazes. Students will be assessed on their planning, experimentation, work created, and use of studio time.
- **CERAMICS 3 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: CERAMICS 1 and 2
To be considered for enrollment in this course, applicants must meet with the instructor. During this meeting the instructor will review the student's portfolio of work. This is a student-led independent course where students will plan, create, and reflect on projects they choose. Students will also participate in weekly meetings with the instructor to track progress. Students will be assessed through the use of studio time, artwork created, and written reflections.

- **DIGITAL ART - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

Students will review software tools in the Adobe Suite to create works of art. Students will utilize digital drawing tablets as well as digital cameras. Students will create gifs, short stop motion animations, and stylized short films. Students will explore branding by creating a promotional campaign including logo and merchandise such as 3D printed key chain and vinyl sticker. Students will be assessed through use of studio time, software skills, and artwork created.
- **DRAWING and PAINTING 1 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

This course focuses on the study of studio art and on foundational media techniques of drawing and painting. We will cover use of pencil, charcoal, acrylic, watercolor, and India ink. Portrait, landscape, perspective, and abstract subjects will be covered. This course will allow for creative application of various techniques and will reflect using art criticism. Students will be assessed on their planning, work created, and use of studio time.
- **DRAWING and PAINTING 2 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: DRAWING and PAINTING 1

This class follows Drawing and Painting 1 and will be a more in depth look into various media. We will also delve into mixed media and other more advanced techniques. Students will participate in live drawing sessions referencing still life, models, and painting in plein air. Students will begin to focus on their preferred method and style of drawing and painting and will create a website featuring their work. Students will also create their first artist's statement. Students will be assessed on their planning, work created, and use of studio time.
- **DRAWING and PAINTING 3 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: DRAWING and PAINTING 1 and 2

To be considered for enrollment in this course, applicants must meet with the instructor. During this meeting the instructor will review the student's sketchbook and a portfolio of work. This is a student-led independent course where students will plan, create, and reflect on projects they choose. Students will also participate in weekly meetings with the instructor to track progress. Students will be assessed through the use of studio time, sketchbook entries, artwork created, and written reflections.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY 1 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

This course will allow students to learn and practice the skills necessary to create art through digital photography. Starting with the basics of lighting and composition, students will learn what goes into creating a captivating image. Then images will be edited, enhanced, and manipulated using Adobe Photoshop. Students will cover portrait, still life, abstract, and landscape photography. Students will learn to use both auto modes and manual settings for the Canon Rebel DSLR camera.
- **PHOTOGRAPHY 2 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITES: PHOTOGRAPHY 1

This class follows Photography 1 and will be a more in depth look into digital photography techniques. Students will begin to focus on their preferred method of photography and will create a website featuring their work. Students will also create their first artist's statement. Students will be assessed on their planning, work created, and use of studio time.

- JUNIOR PORTFOLIO PREP - 0.5 credit**
GRADE 11 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (repeatable)
PREREQUISITES: DRAWING/PAINTING 1 & 2, PHOTOGRAPHY or CERAMICS
****MEETING WITH INSTRUCTOR IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT REQUEST**

This studio course is open to juniors who have taken at least two studio courses and who plan on taking Senior Art Portfolio next year. To be considered for enrollment in this course, juniors must meet with the instructor. During this meeting the instructor will review the student's sketchbook and an outline of the student's plan for the course. This is a student-led course where students will focus their style and will create a body of work that reflects their unique voice. Students will be responsible for providing an art sketchbook. Students will also participate in weekly meetings with the instructor to track progress. Students will be assessed through the use of studio time, sketchbook entries, artwork created, and written reflections. Juniors are also required to write three essays about artists whose unique style inspires the student's work. Students must organize an exhibit of their work sometime during the second quarter of the semester.
- SENIOR ART PORTFOLIO - 0.5 credit**
GRADE 12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (repeatable)
PREREQUISITES: DRAWING/PAINTING 1 and 2, PHOTOGRAPHY or CERAMICS
****APPLICATION LETTER / SKETCHBOOK REVIEW / CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED**

This studio course is targeted to seniors who plan to be involved in the visual arts after high school. The goal of this course is to create a collection of 10 cohesive works of art that explore a specific idea as a visual investigation. The portfolio can be used to apply to university programs, art schools, and will be entered into the State Scholastic Art Competition. Seniors will hone their distinct art style and will create a body of work that reflects their unique voice. Students will be responsible for providing an art sketchbook and portfolio. Senior Portfolio students will create 10 original works of art, an artist statement, will participate in group critiques, and will submit the portfolio to a panel of artists for review. Students will be assessed through use of studio time, use of sketchbook, artwork created, participation in group critiques, and presentation to panel. Students are also required to write a final artist's statement describing the context and method of their work.

MOUNT VERNON BUSINESS EDUCATION

BUSINESS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Accounting Clerk	Commodities Broker	Hospital Administrator
Administrative Assistant	Community Rel. Dir. /Specialist	Hotel Desk Clerk/Manager
Associate Real Estate Broker	Computer Customer Service Rep.	Ins Actuary/Underwriter/Agent
Bank Chief Executive Officer	Computer Sales/SysConsultant	Internal Revenue Agent
Bank PR/Marketing Specialist	Computer Key punch Operator	Job Training Counselor
Bank Teller	Consumer Credit Counselor	Legal Assistant/Secretary
Bill Collector	Cost Accountant	Mail Carrier/Clerk
Bookkeeper	County Clerk	Medical Secretary
Broker	Court Reporter	Office Machines Operator
Business Manager	Credit Manager	Probation Officer
Career Resource Specialist	Customer Service Representative	Restaurant Owner/Manager
Cashier	Data Entry Operator	School Secretary
Certified Public Accountant	Department Manager	Secretary/Word Processor Operator
City Manager	Display Manager	Software Engineer
Clerical Worker	Executive Secretary	Stenographer
Commercial Tax Specialist	Financial Planner	Teacher/Counselor

Available Classes

- **FINANCIAL LITERACY - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (graduation requirement)

NO PREREQUISITES

This course introduces students to money management and personal financial tasks that students will use in everyday life. Students will learn how to earn money through career search and method of payments, manage money through banking and budgeting, make money grow through investments such as stocks and bonds, make sound purchasing decisions, and be a responsible user of credit. Community and business involvement, including guest speakers and field trips will provide support to students as well as foster positive relationships in the community. This course relies heavily on project based assessment allowing students to demonstrate their ability to apply, analyze and synthesize what they are learning.

The Financial Literacy graduation requirement could be waived under the following circumstances:

- If a student completes AP Macroeconomics and earns a 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Exam, a Financial Literacy **waive** will be placed on the student transcript - lower than a 3, the student must pass a competency exam.
- If a student completes AP Microeconomics and earns a 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Exam, a Financial Literacy **waive** will be placed on the student transcript - lower than a 3, the student must pass a competency exam.
- If a student successfully completes **both** Kirkwood Macroeconomics **and** Kirkwood Microeconomics, a Financial Literacy **waive** will be placed on the student transcript.
- If a student successfully completes **either** Kirkwood Macroeconomics **or** Kirkwood Microeconomics only, the student must pass a competency exam.

- **COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES (CSP) – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

Code.org's Computer Science Principles (CSP) introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. More than a traditional introduction to programming, it is an engaging and approachable course that explores many of the foundational ideas of computing so all students understand how these concepts are transforming the world we live in. The course covers a broad range of foundational topics such as programming, algorithms, the internet, big data, digital privacy and security, and the societal impacts of computing.

- **ACCOUNTING I - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

Accounting I is designed for students desiring entry level preparation for careers in business and is highly recommended for students seeking further accounting study at the collegiate level. Emphasis is on the understanding of basic accounting concepts for a sole proprietorship (a business owned by one person). The class will take students through an entire accounting cycle for a sole proprietorship. Students will learn the fundamentals of double-entry accounting for personal and small business use. Computers and various business forms will be used to help students develop a beginning understanding of the business world.

- **WORKPLACE SOFTWARE AND SKILLS – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

Workplace Software and Skills is designed to flexibly support a range of courses covering computer literacy, Microsoft Office, and Google Suite applications. Lessons cover both hard and soft skills that are applicable to a broad range of academic majors and careers. Chapters combine studio learning and guided practice with activities designed to reinforce a student's ability to perform higher-order tasks independently. Workplace Software and Skills features skills in spreadsheet, word processing, presentation, and similar applications. Modules are designed for maximum flexibility by including both Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite applications, in order to best reflect the skills needed for today's workforce. Authentic activities and real-world contexts develop a cumulative and thorough understanding, which reinforces the importance of cross-platform proficiency.

- ENTREPRENEURSHIP - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

Entrepreneurship provides a look at starting your own business, what marketing is, how it is carried out, and what factors shape how it influences businesses and consumers. It will cover the 4 Ps, as well as ethics, identifying target markets, and understanding consumer behavior. The class will also review positioning, branding, digital marketing, and social media marketing. Students are presented with the components of a marketing plan and how to create one.
- theSTABLE (may take this class twice, both times for credit) - 0.5 Credit**
GRADES: 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: ENTREPRENEURSHIP or PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR

Students will be involved in the continued development and operations of theSTABLE, a student-run business specializing in selling branded Mustang apparel and merchandise in conjunction with the Booster Club. Students should expect to spend their time focused on market planning, marketing research, product/service management, promotion, pricing, merchandising, selling, distribution, and financial analysis. Skills needed to be successful include: creative and logical thinking, willingness to work as a team, effective communication, ethical behavior and professional demeanor when working with customers and investors.

***This class has a work component built-in that requires students to work outside of normal instructional time.*
- KW PERSONAL FINANCE - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)
Fulfills graduation requirement for Financial Literacy
NO PREREQUISITES

Personal Finance provides a comprehensive examination of the concepts and principles of personal finance and offers solid strategies for successful management and planning. Students learn planning, analyzing and controlling financial resources, and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to take advantage of favorable financial opportunities, resolve personal financial problems, achieve self-satisfaction and strive towards financial security.
- KW INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS - 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (10th grade needs instructor permission)
NO PREREQUISITES

This course will give students an overview of the study of business. It will allow students to see and briefly experience all aspects, including Business Ownership and Entrepreneurship, Management and Organization, Human Resources, Marketing, Finance and Accounting. This course will help the student understand economic, social and political influences that affect business success. Focuses on American and global business and introduces the student to each primary facet of operating a business.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Advertising Agent	Journalist	Reporter
Auctioneer	Lawyer and Paralegal	Retail Manager
Book Store Manager	Lecturer	Salesperson
Claims Agent	Librarian	Scriptwriter
Clerk	Lyric and Song Writer	Secretary
Communications Director	Newspaper Reporter	Social Worker
Consultant	Personnel Manager	Sportscaster
Editor	Poet	Stenographer
Electronic Mass Marketing	Poet Versifier	Teacher
Employment Manager	Promotion Manager	Telecommunications
ESL (Eng. as a 2 nd Language Instructor)	Proofreader	Translator
FAX Operator	Public Relations Agent	Travel Agent/Guide
Film, TV, Stage Performer	Publicist	Typist
Government Service	Radio & TV Announcer	Word Processor Operator
Insurance Agent	Receptionist	Writer

English Required Courses

- **ENGLISH 1 – 1.0 credit**
GRADE 9 YEAR LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

This course prepares students for high school reading, writing, and speaking. Reading includes major texts such as Of Mice and Men, Lord of the Flies, Romeo and Juliet, and a literature circle unit with several recent works to choose from. Students will analyze film as literature and study short stories, articles, and poetry. Writing is seen as a recursive process, where multiple drafts and revision are encouraged. Students will learn to write clear paragraphs, descriptive narratives, and essays that cite evidence from literary texts. Our writing education will build to a culminating project of a persuasive research paper. Speaking will be a daily part of class through discussion, but assessments will include group and individual presentations, an impromptu speech, panel or Socratic discussion, and dramatic interpretation.

- **ENGLISH 2 – 0.5 credit**
GRADE 10 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (1st or 2nd semester)
PREREQUISITE: ENGLISH 1

English 2 is the third semester of required core English and includes units in literature, writing, and speaking. This course will use a variety of literary works to explore the ways in which the events that shape us as people lead to greater empathy and broader knowledge of the world around us.

English Department Curriculum Guide

The State of Iowa requires students to take a total of EIGHT SEMESTERS of English during high school. ALL students take ENGLISH 1 (two semesters) and ENGLISH 2 (one semester). We strongly encourage that the remaining five semesters represent a balance of the three curricular areas within the department: composition, literature, and communication.

Beginning sophomore year, students may plan on taking any course in the English department; however, Alternative Concurrent Enrollment (Kirkwood), PSEO (Cornell/UI) and AP courses may have prerequisites.

Composition	Literature	Communication
English 1*		
English 2		
English 3		
AP Language and Composition*		<i>Interpersonal Communication</i>
AP Literature and Composition*		
Fiction Writing	Modern Literature	KW Public Speaking
Journalism	Mystery Stories	
KW Composition I	<i>Film as Literature</i>	Introduction to Theatre Literature
KW Composition II	KW Forms of Literature: Nonfiction	

- * indicates a year-long course (all others are one semester long)
- Course titles in italics indicate a course that does NOT meet NCAA requirements for Div. I, II, and III athletes
- KW Composition I and KW Composition II plus either KW Public Speaking (all 3 offered onsite @ MVHS) or KW Introduction to Oral Communication satisfy the Rhetoric requirement at the University of Iowa.

Plan ahead:

Work with your parents, teachers and the guidance department to pick classes that are the best fit for YOU. Some classes are only offered in specific semesters, so make sure to ask questions. The next step is to have your current English teacher sign off on your choices prior to registration.

English Elective Courses

The English courses listed below are open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors unless otherwise noted. Students must take at least five (5) semesters of English electives as a requirement for graduation from MVHS. In addition, the English Department strongly encourages students to enroll in at least one elective in each of the major areas: composition, literature, and communication. College bound students should also be aware of the requirements for entrance into the college they are considering when planning their high school schedules. Students must confer with a department member before selecting their English courses for future semesters.

The writing process is an integral part of the writing done in all classes. Students should expect to meet the writing requirement in all English elective courses by sharing their writing with other students at various stages of the writing process. Outside reading is required in most literature courses because reading is the basis of all language skills. Verbal class participation is also very important in all English classes. Therefore, regular attendance in class plays a key role in a student's success in the learning process. Orally questioning, arguing, or reiterating literary themes usually results in a higher level of achievement. Reading, writing, listening, viewing, and speaking are important components of our English curriculum.

- ENGLISH 3 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITES: SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ENGLISH 1 AND ENGLISH 2
 English 3 is an optional final semester of core English for students who will benefit from additional practice in literacy and fluency. This course aims to prepare students for success in upper-level English electives, including units in literature, writing, and speaking. This course will use a variety of literary works to explore the concept of dystopia and how it reflects our current society, asking the question “what would you do?”
- FICTION WRITING - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
 This class emphasizes the composition of short fiction with instruction to guide the student through the composition process. Activities provide a laboratory experience in which students write daily. Although composition is an independent activity, peer editing, class discussion, and teacher conferences provide feedback to the writer. Short fiction published in current literary magazines as well as contemporary classics and recent student work will be studied as models. For students who enjoy writing, this class provides an outlet for expression; at the same time it attempts to expose them to the complexities of contemporary fiction writing.
- JOURNALISM - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
 In Journalism, students become familiar with journalistic writing through reading both peer and professional examples and writing many types of stories. Assignments include personality profiles, news stories, opinion editorials, editorial cartoons, feature stories, as well as creating podcasts and video documentaries. Students will learn to conduct interviews, post stories on a Wordpress website, and use software such as iMovie and Photoshop. Students will learn about law and ethics of journalism and the importance of media literacy, especially in identifying trustworthy sources and differentiating among bias, opinion, fake news, and satire.
- KW COMPOSITION I - 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)**
GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
 Develops expository writing with emphasis on organization, supporting details, style, vocabulary and library research skills.
- KW COMPOSITION II - 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)**
GRADE 12 only ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: KW COMPOSITION I
 Teaches precise and responsible use of research tools. Requires critical analysis of reading materials, audience and self when communicating content material. Develops students’ ability to use effective and ethical arguments.
- MODERN LITERATURE – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
 This semester-long literature course allows students a chance to participate in and succeed in a literature course based on writings of high interest to high school-aged students. Students will read works of their own choice, complete an author study, and participate in literature circles with their peers. Several books will be read from a mixture of genres and assessments and will include a variety of written and verbal evaluations. This course aims to aid students in fostering a lifelong appreciation for the habit of reading.
- MYSTERY, SUSPENSE, AND DETECTIVE STORIES - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
 This course is a study in the conventions of a mystery and its development as a genre of literature. Students will study short stories by early detective story authors such as Edgar Allen Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle. Students will continue with short stories and films from “The Golden Age” of detective stories and the “hardboiled” school of writing. The true crime book Catch Me If You Can by Frank Abagnale and mystery novel Hold Tight by Harlan Coben are two of the whole-class books read. Students will conduct research on an unsolved mystery of

their choice and provide a case file of evidence. If time allows, students will read a mystery novel in a literature circle, listen to a true crime podcast, or analyze detective film or TV.

- **FILM AS LITERATURE - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
One definition of literature is “the stories in which we see ourselves reflected and find meaning in that reflection.” Film has become this literature for most Americans. This class will view, discuss, and write about films. Sometimes students will read the books which inspired the film and give speeches about them. Thus, the course will use a popular art form to practice writing, reading, and speaking while increasing awareness of film techniques and of the history and cultures the films recreate. Some adult themes are studied. Typical units include: History of Film-The Silent and the Oldies; Film Language and Style; Film Noir; Major Directors past and present; Morals of Society as portrayed through film; Science Fiction; Heroes; Academy Awards.
- **KW FORMS OF LIT: NONFICTION - 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)**
GRADE 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: KW COMPOSITION I
Focuses on literary nonfiction - essays, memoirs, profiles or criticism - that aspires not only to inform, but also to employ language aesthetically and prompt reflection on experience. Students will explore, through literature and critical theory, the following questions: What is literary nonfiction? How are works of literary nonfiction crafted, read and interpreted? How are they different from and similar to other forms of literary expression? How does form affect interpretation?
- **INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
This course will serve as an introduction to the principles of effective communication. Students will learn to communicate more effectively and improve relationships through the study of the communication cycle, modes of communication (including written, verbal, nonverbal, and mass media), personal perception, gender differences, and conflict resolution. Students will analyze the different styles and uses of communication in business, social, formal, and informal situations. Students will also explore the benefits and liabilities (including ethical and legal issues) of social media. While several assignments will be shared orally, there are no formal speeches in this class. Robust class discussion and sharing is also encouraged.
- **INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE LITERATURE – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
This course is a study of drama/plays from Shakespeare to contemporary theater. Students will learn about the role and contribution of each of the major participants in theater--the actor, the playwright, director, designer, and audience. The student will explore ways of bringing drama from the page to the stage, emphasizing equally the literary and theatrical qualities of play texts and individual expression. Students will be encouraged to read and experience plays from both an academic and theatrical point of view. Curriculum will include: reading plays aloud; research topics in theater history; creative writing activities such as scene writing, parody and satire; and the performance of a partner scene and solo monologue. Previous experience in theatre activities is not required.
- **KW PUBLIC SPEAKING - 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)**
GRADE 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
Studies the fundamentals of public speaking, emphasizing the process of speech preparation and delivery.
- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT® ENGLISH LANGUAGE and COMPOSITION – 1.0 credit**
GRADE 9 (with recommendation) & GRADES 11-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
AP Language and Composition prepares you to be a better and more critical writer. This course will count as one semester of literature credit and one semester of composition credit, and then will culminate in the AP test in May. While the majority of the reading in the course will be non-fiction, there will be some literature as well. Students should expect a heavy load of reading and challenging writing prompts.

- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT® ENGLISH LITERATURE and COMPOSITION – 1.0 credit
GRADE 10 (pre-req of AP Lang & Comp) & GRADES 11-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES for Grades 11 & 12**

The AP English Literature and Composition class is intended to provide the experience of a typical introductory college literature course. This course, which counts as one semester each of literature credit and composition credit, will engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of American and British literature to prepare for the AP test in May for the opportunity to earn college credit. Through the close reading of texts, students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to create meaning. We will focus on structure, style, contemporary connections, historical relevance, and themes. We will focus both on reading and writing skills. Writing assignments will be frequent and varied in type, although the most common will be in-class essay writing. The goal of all writing assignments is to increase the ability to explain clearly and cogently how an author's techniques in a piece contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole. In addition to many short pieces of prose and poetry, our major literary works will include the following: Macbeth, The Scarlet Letter, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Death of a Salesman and The Glass Menagerie.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT – (FCS)

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Advertising Analyst
Appliance Sales
Babysitter
Caterer
Chef
Child Care Worker
Cosmetologist
Day Care Operator
Department Store Manager
Dietary Consultant
Dietician
Extension Service Specialist
Fashion Designer
Fashion Illustrator

Flight Attendant
Food Sales
Genetic Counselor
Home Economist
Home Service Director
Homemaker
Institution Superintendent
Interior Decorator
Interior Designer
Milliner
Nanny
Nutritionist
Occupational Therapist
Parent

Physical Therapist
Practical Nurse
Preschool Teacher
Psychiatric Social Worker
Registered Nurse
Reporter
Restaurant Employee
Restaurant Owner Manager
Seamstress
Social Service Worker
Social Worker
Vocational Teacher

HEALTH CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Aerobic Instructor
Athletic Coach
Athletic Trainer/Sports Medicine
Bacteriologist
Business Administration
Chiropractor
CPR Instructor
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist
Dental Technician
Dentist
EMT

Laboratory Technician
Lifeguard
Nutrition Researcher
Orthopedic Surgeon
Osteopath
Practice Nurse
Professional Athlete
Public Administration
Public Health Educator
Public Health Engineer
Public Health Statistician
Health Club Manager

Recreation Leader
Sanitary Engineer
School Nurse
Social Worker
Speech Health Pathologist
Sports Writer or Editor
Swimming Instructor
Teacher
Umpire
Veterinarian
Virologist
X-Ray Technician

Available Classes

- **CULINARY ARTS 1 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

This course deals with safety, sanitation, culinary techniques, nutrition and wellness. Students will demonstrate safe handling of knives, tools and equipment and how to respond to kitchen accidents. Students will demonstrate proper handling of foods and maintain a clean working environment to prevent food borne illnesses. Students will learn and apply culinary techniques related to preparation, mixing methods and nutrition. Food topics we will cover and prepare include vegetables, fruits, grains, cakes, cookies, candies, beef, pork, poultry, soups, casseroles, etc.

- **WORLD FOODS (formerly CULINARY ARTS 2) - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: CULINARY ARTS 1

This course explores the world of foods. Focus will be on safety and sanitation, preparation skills, cooking technique, and cultural cuisine. We will cover international cuisine by exploring different cultures, holidays, the cuisine and history. Knowledge, skills and career practices will focus on culinary arts in our weekly food labs.

- **BAKING - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: CULINARY ARTS 1
 We will dive into the world of baking by discovering why people bake. We will experiment with different flours, baking functions and food history. Throughout the course we will bake a variety of sweet and savory breads along with different desserts, all while exploring baking terms and techniques. In the end we will test our skills by trying our hand at replicating TV baking shows.
- **HUMAN GROWTH and DEVELOPMENT - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
 This course combines adult living and child development to focus on growth and development of pregnancy, infancy, children, teens, and adults. Focus will be on life skills, relationships, management practices, careers, nutrition and wellness. Areas include consumer skills, career planning, housing, budgeting, stress management, communication, child development and nutrition. Furthermore, students will prepare themselves for life after high school, living on their own and exploring career pathways.
- **INTERIOR DESIGN - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
 This course deals with designing interior and exterior spaces. Integrating the elements and principles of design to make sure the design elements fit the clientele. Floor plans are also drawn to scale with proper traffic flow and clearance space. Overall the client's needs and goals will be met using interior design resources. Interior design knowledge, skills and career practices will be incorporated throughout the course.
- **SEWING 1 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES
 This course deals with learning how to sew and to further develop your sewing skills. Areas included are layout and construction, proper equipment use and career practices. Furthermore, being productively engaged to problem solve and follow proper procedures in order to complete the sewing products. This is an individualized class for the student who is interested in any aspect of sewing.
- **SEWING 2 - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITES: SEWING 1
 This course deals with further developing one's sewing skills. Areas to further develop and perfect are layout and construction, proper equipment use and career practices. Productivity with proper fit, use and alterations. Furthermore, being accountable and engaged to problem solve and follow proper procedure in order to complete the sewing products of choice.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Aircraft Mechanic	Forest Manager	Mechanic Maintenance
Architectural Drafting	Forester	Mechanical Drafting
Auto Mechanic	Foundry Worker	Mechan. Drawing Instructor
Auto-body and Fender Repair	Furniture Maker	Mechanical Engineer
C.A.D. Drafter	Gunsmith	Model Builder
Cabinet Maker	Hardware Store Worker	Paint Store Manager
Cable Television Installer	House Design/Building Contractor	Plant Operator
Cable Television Line Tech	Industrial Manufacturing Engineer	Plumber
Carpenter	Industrial Technology Teacher	Power Plant Mechanic
Computer Repair Technician	Interior Designer	Service Station Attendance
Diesel Mechanic	Jewelry Maker	Sheet Metal Worker
Electrical Drafting	Job Training Counselor	Stained Glass Maker
Electrician	Log Grader	Tool Designer
Electrician Helper	Log Sawyer	Toy Maker
Electronics Engineer	Logger	Welder
Engineer Aide	Lumber Broker	Wood Pattern maker
Equipment Rental Manager	Lumber Grader	Wood Turner
Farm Equipment Mechanic	Lumber Yard Worker	
Farmer	Machinist	

Available Classes

- **COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES (CSP) – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

Code.org's Computer Science Principles (CSP) introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. More than a traditional introduction to programming, it is an engaging and approachable course that explores many of the foundational ideas of computing so all students understand how these concepts are transforming the world we live in. The course covers a broad range of foundational topics such as programming, algorithms, the internet, big data, digital privacy and security, and the societal impacts of computing.

- **ARCHITECTURAL PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS – 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

This course introduces the skills and methods for understanding and interpreting construction drawings and technical specifications for residential and commercial buildings. Students will use construction blueprints, both in hand and online, to display a working knowledge of this form of graphic communication.

- **COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

Students in this class will develop knowledge and skills to communicate graphically with engineers, architects, CNC operators, machinists, builders, and other production workers. Emphasis will be placed on drafting vocabulary and processes. Coursework will include class discussion and lessons from written sources, but will focus on production of workable CAD drawings for a variety of production applications. Instruction and projects will progress from simple drawings to complex 3D modeling and architectural drawings using Autodesk CAD, Autodesk Inventor, and Autodesk Revit. By the end of this class students should be able to produce drawings detailed and accurate enough to guide actual production.

- **INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

This survey course allows students to sample architecture and construction, manufacturing, STEM, and power and energy career cluster areas. Classroom discussion, workshop demonstrations, and hands-on activities will be completed that cover all course areas offered at Mount Vernon High School.

- **EXPLORING INDUSTRIAL TECH – GIRLS ONLY – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

Designed for female students to be able to take Industrial Technology without being the minority in a class of males, this course aims to help young women build skills and confidence working with their hands. These skills and experiences will hopefully help students become better informed consumers, use these skills in their everyday lives, or enter a profession in one of these areas. Potential topics for class include but may not be limited to the following:

*Changing Oil in your Car

*Changing a bad light switch

*How to change a sink fixture

*How to build a small project from wood

*How to design a new kitchen or bathroom

*Changing your car tire

*How to change a light fixture

*How to set a toilet

*How to repair metal by welding

*How to measure accurately

- **POWER TECHNOLOGY - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

This course is an introduction in small engine repair. Areas covered will include:

occupations, safety, tools, engine identification and inspection, basic engine principles and design, basic electricity, ignition systems, lubrication systems, cooling systems, fuel systems, governor systems, troubleshooting, principles of operation of the four cycle engine, and principles of operation of the two-cycle engine.

- **AUTO MECHANICS - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

The auto mechanics course is a study of the different systems of the automobile. Areas covered will be safety, tools, lubrication system, cooling system, fuel system, electrical system, ignition, computerized fuel and ignition systems, transmission, brake system, and careers in auto mechanics. Activities will consist of individual assignments using the equipment in the auto mechanics area.

- **RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY AND PLUMBING - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

An introduction to the electrical and plumbing systems of residential and commercial buildings, this class strives to familiarize students with the basics of these essential systems. Electrical and Plumbing theory will be emphasized as base knowledge for students to build their practical skills in multiple lab projects in both disciplines. This class is an introduction to these skills and will not lead to any practice certification or licensure in these fields.

- **MATERIALS PROCESSING - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

This course is designed to teach skills necessary for basic woodworking and carpentry applications. Specific and safe use of a wide variety of power equipment is stressed through demonstration and testing. Students will also learn basic skills in proper material use, joinery, process planning, estimating, and finishing. Coursework includes academic and classroom work, but is focused on producing good projects in the lab. Students will benefit from being self-motivated, paying attention to detail, and having a desire to produce quality products. It is possible that

students will be planning personal project(s) that they will take home with them. There is a fee equal to the cost of such projects, unless exception has been obtained from instructor or administration.

- **ADVANCED MATERIALS PROCESSING - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (repeatable one time with instructor permission)

PREREQUISITE: MATERIALS PROCESSING

An extension of Materials Processing, this course focuses on woodworking and carpentry skills at the next level. Specific and safe use of already introduced power equipment is reviewed and more specialized equipment is introduced. Coursework can include classroom work including discussions and testing, but is centered on planning and executing the building of a quality project(s). The expectation is that the projects of students in this class will involve the same areas of emphasis with higher level skills and more detailed planning than in the introductory class. All students will benefit from being self-motivated, paying attention to detail, and having a desire to produce quality products. It is expected that students will be planning personal project(s) that they will take home with them. There is a fee equal to the cost of such projects, unless exception has been obtained from instructor or administration.

- **CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (repeatable one time with instructor permission)

PREREQUISITES: MATERIALS PROCESSING AND ADVANCED MATERIALS PROCESSING

Students will work to develop core residential construction skills. Safe operation of relevant hand and stationary power equipment is covered. Current residential construction materials, methods, and terminology are covered in classroom work and discussion, hands-on lab activities, and the building of small structures. This class focuses on general knowledge in a broad range of building systems and the coordination requirements between those systems. All students are expected to be self-motivated, pay attention to detail, and have a desire to produce quality products.

- **FLEXIBLE MANUFACTURING – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (repeatable one time with instructor permission)

NO PREREQUISITES

Within Flexible Manufacturing students are introduced to the knowledge and skills used in the proper application of principles of manufacturing. The study of manufacturing technology allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities. These activities will include sheet metal projects, welding laboratory exercises, and computer numerically controlled product development.

- **CONSTRUCTION LAB – 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 3 KW credits)**

****Must be taken at Kirkwood Regional Center in Hiawatha**

GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITES: MATERIALS PROCESSING, ADV. MATERIALS PROCESSING, AND CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Students will apply prior knowledge of construction practices to hands-on modules and real-world projects. Projects will allow students to display skills that can be used for post-secondary employment or further education opportunities. Student will be expected to provide basic tools and safety glasses.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

MATHEMATICS CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Accountant	Commercial Pilot	Insurance Salesperson
Actuary	Computer Animator	Landscape Designer
Aircraft Mechanic	Computer Programmer	Machinist
Architect	Construction Manager	Mathematics Teacher
Auto Mechanic	Dental Technician	Mobile Application Developer
Bank Cashier	Dentist	Navigation
Banker	Economist	Optician
Bookkeeper	Electrician	Optometrist
Broadcasting Tech	Electronic Technician	Photographer
Cardiovascular Tech	Engineer	Plumber
Carpenter	Forester	Registered Nurse
Chemist	HVAC Technician	Teacher
Surveyor	Statistician	Video Game Designer

Available Classes

Entering 9th grade students MUST have a recommendation from the middle school Mathematics instructor to take Algebra Prep, Algebra, or Geometry.

- **ALGEBRA PREPARATION – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 9-11 YEAR LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITE: TEACHER RECOMMENDATION
This course provides students with an introduction to the concepts of algebra and at the same time solidifies their grasp of arithmetic concepts and procedures. Students will learn to think flexibly about relationships among fractions, decimals, percents and proportions. Students will also learn to recognize and generate equivalent expressions, solve single-variable equations and inequalities and strengthen their understanding of linear functions. The course is designed to prepare students for algebra and geometry.
- **ALGEBRA 1 – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 9-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: ALGEBRA PREP and Teacher Recommendation
The content is organized around families of functions, with emphasis on linear, exponential and quadratic functions. Students will continue to practice and refine the algebraic skills of simplifying and solving algebraic expressions and equations. Students will learn how to represent functions both symbolically and graphically and use these functions to model and solve real life problems. It is intended for the capable mathematics student who has successfully mastered the mathematical skills learned in middle school.
- **GEOMETRY – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 9-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITE: ALGEBRA 1 and Teacher Recommendation
Students will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills as they study topics such as congruence and similarity, and apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Transformational and coordinate approaches to geometry are introduced. This course is recommended for college-bound students or those considering such trades as carpentry, surveying, construction, etc.

- ALGEBRA 2 – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 9-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: ALGEBRA 1 and GEOMETRY

This course is designed to follow Geometry in our mathematics curricular sequence. The first part of the course deals mainly with transforming different types of functions, solving equations and using those functions to model real-life situations. The latter part of the course covers special topics, such as sequences and series, probability, data analysis and statistics. This course is a required prerequisite for students continuing on to our Honors Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry course.
- PRE-CALCULUS and TRIGONOMETRY – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 9-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: ALGEBRA 1, GEOMETRY and ALGEBRA 2 (a minimum grade of B in Algebra 2 is highly recommended)

This course is designed for students interested in the sciences, engineering, mathematics, business, or other college related careers with a strong mathematical emphasis. Areas of study include polynomial functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, graphing, trigonometric identities and equations, vectors, complex numbers, sequences and series, and problem solving. Emphasis will be on real-world application of mathematical concepts. Second semester is dedicated primarily to studying trigonometry.
- APPLIED MATHEMATICS – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 11-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: TWO FULL YEARS OF HS MATH COMPLETION and Teacher Recommendation

Applied Mathematics is designed to help students develop and refine job and real-world related math skills. Topics include different trades, job and work professions (carpentry, sales, mechanical work, plumbing, etc.), automobiles and transportation, and personal finance topics that include investing, housing and taxes, banking and credit. Emphasis is on the ability to apply functional mathematics to solve problems in real world scenarios and everyday life.
- KW STATISTICS - 0.5 CREDIT (dual credit course – earns 4 KW credits)**
GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITES: ALEKS score of 30-45% OR a minimum ACT MATH score of 19

This course focuses on the following Statistics topics: descriptive statistics, correlation and linear regression, inferential statistics and probability distributions as applied to confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, and applications to business and other fields. This course is designed for the college bound student and is designed to offer challenge.
- ADVANCED PLACEMENT® CALCULUS – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 10-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: PRE-CALCULUS and TRIGONOMETRY

The curriculum in this course follows a College Board-approved AP Calculus syllabus, and is designed to cover the same material as a college semester-long Calculus I course. At the end of this course, all students will be encouraged to take the AP Calculus AB examination with the potential to earn college credit at many colleges and universities.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MUSIC CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Actor	Dancer	Orchestra Leader
Actress	Dramatic Reader	Orchestrator
Arranger of Music	Impersonator	Organist and Pianist
Choir Director	Manager Sales	Piano Tuner/Technician
Choreographer	Musician	Popular Singer
Chorus Dancer/Singer	Music Critic	Radio or TV Director
Clergy	Music Librarian	Recreational Therapist
Comedian	Music Supervisor	Religious Ed Director
Composer	Musical Director	Sales Clerk
Concert Singer	Musical Entertainer	Teacher
Conductor	Occupational Therapist	

Available Classes

- **FALL MARCHING BAND/CONCERT BAND - 0.5 credit/semester**

** students taking band AND orchestra will receive 1.0 credit per semester*

GRADES 9-12 1ST SEMESTER ONLY

NO PREREQUISITES

Open to all 9-12 students. Emphasis will be on experience in a variety of styles of instrumental music. This class includes Marching Band 1st quarter and Concert Band 2nd quarter. Marching Band presents ten (10) or more public performances including home football games, a parade, and multiple Saturday competitions. Concert Band presents one (1) concert in December. Opportunities are available to participate in other instrumental activities such as Jazz Band or Pep Band. Students are also required to attend individual or small group lessons each quarter.

- **EARLY BIRD MARCHING BAND - 0.125 credit (2-3 mornings/week - 1st QUARTER ONLY)**

GRADES 9-12

NO PREREQUISITES

Students signed up for FALL MARCHING BAND will automatically be registered for the early bird portion of band.

Early Bird Marching Band is a required part of the band class (see above). Students will be given credit for both Early Bird Marching Band and for the standard Band class.

- **COLOR GUARD - 0.25 credit (students will attend 1st QUARTER ONLY, have study hall 2nd quarter)**

GRADES 9-12

BY AUDITION

The Color Guard course is open by audition to students wishing to participate in the marching band Color Guard, who are not already enrolled in Fall Marching Band. The Color Guard rehearses and performs with the Marching Band at ten (10) or more public performances including home football games, a parade, and multiple Saturday competitions.

Auditions take place in the spring prior. All students enrolled in Color Guard are also automatically enrolled in Early Bird Marching Band (0.125 credit, 2-3 mornings per week)

- **SYMPHONIC BAND - 0.5 credit/semester**
GRADES 9-12 2ND SEMESTER ONLY
BY AUDITION

Symphonic Band is an auditioned ensemble that meets during the Spring semester only. The focus of this band is on more advanced musical concepts through challenging literature and developing individual musicianship. This ensemble is open to all students 9-12 by audition. Auditions will take place in May of the previous year.

Symphonic Band presents two (2) concerts, one each in 3rd and 4th quarter. Symphonic Band also performs at Large Group Contest in May. Students in Symphonic Band are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival in March. Opportunities are available to participate in other instrumental activities such as Jazz Band or Pep Band. Individual or small group lessons are also required each quarter.

- **CONCERT BAND - 0.5 credit/semester**
GRADES 9-12 2ND SEMESTER ONLY
NO PREREQUISITES

Concert Band is a non-auditioned band that meets during the Spring semester only. The focus is on the basic fundamentals of music and gaining confidence on your individual instrument. This ensemble is open to all students 9-12. It is a prerequisite to Symphonic Band for all students new to band or to the district.

Concert Band presents two (2) concerts, one each in 3rd and 4th quarter. Concert Band may also perform at Large Group Contest in May. Students in Concert Band are encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival in March. Opportunities are available to participate in other instrumental activities such as Jazz Band or Pep Band. Individual or small group lessons are also required each quarter.

- **CONCERT CHOIR - 0.5 credit/semester**
BY AUDITION YEAR-LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

All students 10 – 12 have the opportunity to audition into Concert Choir. (9th grade by select audition only). This is an advanced ensemble focusing on the All-State literature, a cappella singing, and advanced music theory. The purpose of Concert Choir is to expose students to a variety of quality choral literature of an advanced nature from all time periods while maintaining a tradition of excellence with an emphasis on singing independence. World languages are common. Advanced music theory and compositional techniques are also explored. Students are required to attend and perform in one concert per quarter, plus State Large Group Contest and Pops Show. Students are encouraged to take a solo to contest and participate in State solo/ensemble contest but will not be required to do so. Additional vocal experiences available include: chamber choir, carolers, jazz choirs, honor choirs, anthem singers and the spring musical.

- **TREBLE CHOIR - 0.5 credit/semester**
BY AUDITION YEAR-LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

Treble singers in grades 10 – 12 have the opportunity to audition for Treble Choir. (9th grade by select audition only) The purpose of Treble Choir is to develop a deeper understanding of proper breathing technique, vowel formation, posture, and music theory while improving vocal control and developing independence. Students are exposed to a variety of quality choral literature while exploring various styles. World languages are explored but not a focus. Basic elements of music theory will also be explored. Students are encouraged to grow individually, while understanding the importance of individual commitment to excellence in building a quality ensemble. Students are required to attend and perform in one concert per quarter, plus State Large Group Contest and Pops Show. Students are encouraged to sing solos and encouraged to participate in small group contest in at least one ensemble. Additional vocal experiences available include: anthem singers, carolers, jazz choirs, and the spring musical.

- **MIXED CHOIR - 0.5 credit/semester**
GRADES 9-10 YEAR-LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

All 9th grade students will participate in Mixed Choir for a year of technical and musical development and growth. (Unless notified otherwise by the director) 10th – 12th grade students will also be enrolled in Mixed Choir when more musical growth is needed for the more advanced ensembles. The purpose of Mixed Choir is to develop a basic understanding of proper breathing technique, vowel formation, posture, and music theory while gaining control of the singing voice. Students will be exposed to a variety of quality choral literature. Basic elements of music theory will also be explored. Students are encouraged to grow individually while understanding the importance of individual commitment to excellence in building a quality ensemble. Students are required to attend and perform in one concert per quarter, plus State Large Group Contest and Pops Show. Students are encouraged to participate in State solo/ensemble contest but will not be required to do so. Additional opportunities include jazz choir and the spring musical.

- **ORCHESTRA - 0.5 credit/semester (students taking band AND orchestra will receive 1.0 credit per semester)**
GRADES 9-12 YEAR-LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: Prior participation in orchestra or audition for instructor

This course is open to all string players interested in playing orchestral literature and chamber music. Orchestra presents five or more public performances during the year, including concerts and contests. Members from this group can also choose to participate in honor orchestras, solo/ensemble contest, and musical pit orchestra. Students receive group instruction during Orchestra class and have an individual or small group lesson.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Adapted Physical Education Teacher	Exercise Physiologist	Rehabilitation Specialist
Adventure/Outdoor Educator	Health & Wellness Coordinator	Sport Official/Referee
Aquatics Director	Kinesiology Professor	Sport Official/Referee
Athletic Coach	Occupational Therapist	Sports Journalist
Athletic Director	Park & Recreation Director	Sports Management Professional
Athletic Equipment Manager	Personal Trainer	Sports Medicine Physician
Athletic Trainer	Physical Education Teacher	Sports Performance Coach
Biomechanist	Physical Therapist	Sports Psychologist
Camp Director	Professional Sports Scout	Strength & Conditioning Coach
Cardiac Rehabilitation Specialist	Recreation and Fitness Studies Professor	University PE Professor
Corporate Wellness Coordinator	Recreational Therapist	Wellness Coach
Event Coordinator (Sports & Recreation)		Youth Sports Director

Available Classes

Physical Education is a state and school district requirement for all students each school year. This PE requirement may be waived by the high school principal for the following reasons:

1. Physical disability waiver – physician’s written approval is required.
2. Religious waiver – parental written request is required.

Numbers 3 - 6 below require completion, submission and approval of the “PE Waiver” document.

3. Student is enrolled in a cooperative, work-study, or other educational program authorized by the school which requires the student’s absence from the school campus during the school day & have a full academic schedule both semesters. *(Only for Seniors)*
4. Student is enrolled in academic courses not otherwise available and have a full academic schedule both semesters. (9-12)
5. Student is enrolled in the Mount Vernon High School’s Marching Band which requires at least as much time of participation as 900 minutes of PE. (9-12)
6. Student is enrolled in a supervised and organized extracurricular activity sponsored by MVHS which requires at least as much time of participation as 900 minutes of PE. (9-12)

Students who qualify or are approved for the waivers listed above must still complete the minimum credits required for MVHS diploma. Courses that are waived DO NOT earn credit.

- **MUSTANG STRENGTH and SPEED PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (repeatable course, can take both semesters)
NO PREREQUISITES

This course is designed for athletic strength and speed training as it is the hope that all athletes (and any student interested in strength training) will take this course to get their strength training during the school day, thus saving practice time for coaches. The emphasis of this course is on strength, speed, power, agility, and increased durability. Weight room safety, athletic performance education, leadership development, movement technique, nutrition, and individual goal setting are all important components of this course.

*****Mustang Strength & Speed is offered as an Early Bird option Monday through Thursday from 7:05-8:00am.***

*****Q1 EB Music students who want EB PE should sign up for S2***

*****For EB Mustang Strength & Speed PE, enrollment priority will be given as follows:***

1. Underclassmen with year-long elective courses
2. Seniors
3. Juniors
4. Sophomores
5. Freshmen

- **LIFETIME WELLNESS – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (repeatable course, can take both semesters)

NO PREREQUISITES

Students will be taught and instructed in lifetime activities that they will be able to do in their lifetime as an adult. Students will learn the fundamentals of each game/activity and be able to practice their skills during class. Games that will potentially be taught include Net Games (badminton, pickleball, ping pong), Kickball, Disc Golf, Tennis, Volleyball, Wiffle-ball, and Yard games. Fitness activities will include mobility, cardio, Tabata (HIIT), and weight room lifting. Fitness activities will be every day during the course of each game unit.

*****Lifetime Wellness will also be offered as an Early Bird option Monday through Thursday from 7:05-8:00am.***

*****Q1 EB Music students who want EB PE should sign up for S2***

*****For EB Lifetime Wellness, enrollment priority will be given as follows:***

1. Underclassmen with year-long elective courses
2. Seniors
3. Juniors
4. Sophomores
5. Freshmen

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Annealer Welder	Electrolysis Plater	Entomologist	Nursery Operator
Anthropologist	Environmental Scientist		Nutritionist
Artist	Exterminator		Occupational Therapist
Assayer	Farmer or Rancher		Pharmacist
Bacteriologist	Family/Consumer Scientist		Physical Therapist
Biochemist	Fish/Wildlife Service		Physician/Surgeon
Biologist	Forest Ranger		Photographer
Botanist	Game Warden		Practical Nurse
Ceramic Engineer	Gardener		Research Chemist
Curator	Geologist		Registered Nurse
Chemical Engineer	Herpetologist		Research Nutritionist
Chem. Processing Plastics	Horticulturist		Science Teacher
Dentist	Immunologist		Taxidermist
Dental Hygienist	Landscape Architect		Veterinarian
Detective	Laboratory Technician		X-ray Technician
Dietician	Medical Secretary		Zoologist
Ecologist	Metallurgist		

Science Course Sequence

Acceleration Options

9th Grade- Earth 1 and Chem 1

Add Physics 1 or Biology

10th Grade- Biology

Add Chem 2 or Physics 1

11th Grade- Physics 1 and Elective

Add another Elective

12th Grade- Electives

Elective Options

Chem 2 recommended

Anatomy and Physiology Full Year

Advanced Placement Chemistry Full Year

Advanced Placement Physics Full Year

Earth 2

Integrated Science Case Studies 26/27

Physics 2 26/27

AP Environmental Science 27/28 Full Year

Available Classes

THE FOLLOWING COURSES LISTED BELOW ARE REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS:

- **EARTH SCIENCE 1 – 0.5 credit**
GRADE 9 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (required for graduation)
NO PREREQUISITES
Earth Science/Geology is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of their home planet. It is a science that deals with the Earth, its structure, changing processes, history and the processes that occur on the surface. Special emphasis will be placed on studying Iowa's unique geological features and how they impact the entire planet.
- **CHEMISTRY 1 – 0.5 credit**
GRADE 9 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (required for graduation)
NO PREREQUISITES
Course topics included will be: elements and the universe, types of materials, and chemical reactions. Chemistry principles will be developed using models, lab investigations, and mathematical concepts.
- **BIOLOGY – 1.0 credit**
GRADE 10 YEAR-LONG COURSE (required for graduation)
PREREQUISITE: EARTH SCIENCE 1, CHEMISTRY 1
Course topics included will be: Chemistry of life, Cells, Genetics, Evolution, Human body, and Ecology. Biological principles are developed through laboratory experiences, model building, and argumentation using methods of observation and scientific inquiry.
- **PHYSICS 1 – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (required for graduation)
PREREQUISITE: ENROLLMENT IN ALGEBRA 1 (WITH COMPLETION PREFERRED)
Course topics included will be: motion and forces, energy and its uses, waves and their applications. Physics principles will be developed through laboratory experiences, hands on manipulation, modeling, mathematical concepts and data analysis.

THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE SCIENCE ELECTIVES:

- **CHEMISTRY 2 – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITES: CHEMISTRY 1, PHYSICS 1 AND ENROLLED IN ALGEBRA 2
Chemistry 2 completes the year requirement for chemistry by most state college admissions. It focuses more on the math concepts central to chemistry. The approach will be lab-based learning and inquiry. Topics include the mole and stoichiometry, thermodynamics and solution chemistry.
- **PHYSICS 2 – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (offered every other year – will be offered in 2026-27)
PREREQUISITES: ENROLLMENT OR COMPLETION OF ALL REQUIRED SCIENCES: EARTH 1, CHEM 1, PHYSICS 1 AND BIOLOGY AND ENROLLMENT IN ALGEBRA 2 (completion is preferred)
In this course we will investigate real world physics problems and examples of the application of engineering design. This second level course will cover additional physics concepts commonly covered in a college freshman-level course. It is designed as an elective course for those that want to complete a full year of physics or to improve proficiency before AP Physics 1. Math concepts will be more involved than those in Physics 1 and some basic trigonometry will be included. Topics covered may include: Work/Energy/Power, Fluids and Pressure, Thermodynamics, Waves/Radiation/Electromagnetism, and Modern Physics. Course standards will focus on developing and using models, math and computational thinking, and scientific communication.

- EARTH SCIENCE 2 – 0.5 credit**
GRADES 9-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: EARTH SCIENCE 1
 This course is split into 3 big topics; the first topic will cover astronomy concepts. Astronomy is the study of the objects in space, including stars, planets, comets, and their origins. This course is designed to provide the students with an understanding of these topics; the history of space travel will also be investigated. The second topic will discuss Meteorology concepts; students will develop an understanding of the unique conditions that take place daily to create the variety of diverse weather conditions experienced in the Midwest and other parts of the world. The third topic will discuss human impact on the Earth and how our actions impact our Earth. Climate data, global warming, and human use of the land will be the main focus of this portion.
- ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS® – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 11-12 YEAR-LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: PHYSICS 1 (CAN BE TAKEN CONCURRENTLY), ALGEBRA 1, GEOMETRY, ALGEBRA 2 (COMPLETION OR ENROLLMENT, COMPLETION RECOMMENDED).
 AP Physics is an in depth, one year program. Our approach will be a combination of lab-based learning with conceptual and mathematical calculations. There is a heavy emphasis on mathematics and ideas in AP Physics. We will focus on how mathematical calculations can give insight into the physical phenomenon. Topics will include Kinematics, Force and Translational Dynamics, Work, Energy, Power, Momentum, Torque, Rotational Dynamics, Energy, Oscillations and Fluids. Students will have an opportunity to earn College credit dependent upon results of the AP exam and your college's acceptance of the exam score. This class is recommended to those pursuing engineering, medical professions (including nursing, athletic training, and dental), and stem careers.
- ADVANCED PLACEMENT® CHEMISTRY – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 10-12 YEAR-LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITES: SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CHEMISTRY 2 AND ALGEBRA 2 RECOMMENDED
 AP Chemistry is an introductory college-level chemistry course. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based lab investigations as they explore the four Big Ideas: scale, proportion and quantity; structure and properties of substances; transformations; and energy. College credit is dependent upon the AP exam and your college's acceptance of the exam score.
- ADVANCED PLACEMENT® ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 11-12 YEAR-LONG COURSE (offered every other year – will be offered in 2027-28)
PREREQUISITES: COMPLETION OF CHEMISTRY 1, EARTH 1, AND BIOLOGY. ENROLLMENT OR COMPLETION OF PHYSICS 1 AND PREFERRED ENROLLMENT OR COMPLETION OF CHEMISTRY 2.
 The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.
- ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 11-12 YEAR-LONG COURSE
PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY
 This is a year-long, laboratory-based science course that examines the structure and function of the human body and how body systems work together to maintain health and homeostasis. Students study major organ systems through hands-on labs, modeling, case studies, and real-world applications related to exercise, injury, disease, and medical technology. The course emphasizes scientific thinking, data analysis, and college-level expectations, making it ideal for students interested in health sciences, medicine, nursing, athletic training, biology, or other STEM fields. Students also participate in college and career exploration experiences through field trips.

- **INTEGRATED SCIENCE CASE STUDIES – 0.5 credit**

GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE (offered every other year – will be offered in 2026-27)

PREREQUISITES: ENROLLMENT OR COMPLETION OF ALL REQUIRED SCIENCES: EARTH 1, CHEM 1, PHYSICS 1 AND BIOLOGY

In this course we will investigate real world problems and examples of the application of all sciences through the lens of case studies. We will research, discuss, and argue about historical examples of how science and society have intertwined. For example: What can the Island and people of Rapa Nui teach us about using our resources wisely? What evidence can we analyze to determine the cause of a fire at Daisy’s house? How can medical treatments be tailored to the individual? How can a house be designed to reduce heat loss? The topics will vary each year and can be tailored to student interest. If you are interested in any of the STEM fields, history, or law and enjoy discussing science and research, then this class is for you. Standards include scientific writing and argumentation, analyzing data, and using scientific models.

SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL SCIENCE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Archaeologist	Foreign Service	Newspaper Editor/Pub
Archivist	Foreign Travel Escort Officer	Newspaper Reporter
Attorney	Geographer	Publishing
Behavior Researcher	Geologist	Radio News Reporter
Census Taker	Governor	Reference Librarian
Clergyperson	Historian	Research Director
Community Manager	Historic Site Administer	Social Worker
Conservation Officer	Historical Novelist	State Legislator
Conserv./Historical Papers	International Ed and Development	Stock Broker
Cultural Anthropologist	Internat.Exchange Program Director	Survey Interviewer
Economist	Judge	Teacher
Environmental Planner	Literary Writer	U.S. Senator/Rep
Export Manager	Missionary	Urban Planner
Foreign Correspondent	Museum Exhibits Director	Wire News Editor

Available Classes

THE COURSES LISTED BELOW ARE REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS:

- **UNITED STATES HISTORY – 1.0 credit**

GRADE 9 YEAR LONG COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

U.S. History will promote both historical content and historical thinking skills to prepare students for a strong foundation in significant historical context in U.S. History. In addition, the student will be equipped with the skills necessary to apply historical thinking to any historical context.

- **OR HONORS U.S. HISTORY – 1.0 credit**

GRADE 9 YEAR LONG COURSE

**** TEACHER RECOMMENDATION REQUIRED**

Honors U.S. History is taught in a thematic approach, utilizing primarily document-based lessons. The course will inspire intellectual curiosity, deep engagement with the past and open questions that relate our past to our present. This class will replace the U.S. History requirement for graduation.** *Instructor recommendation from the 8th-grade staff is required.*

- **WORLD HISTORY – 1.0 credit**
GRADE 10 YEAR LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

World History will promote an emphasis on both historical content and historical thinking skills in the historical context of World History. In addition, the students will be equipped with the skills necessary to apply historical thinking to any historical context. The course will emphasize major historical transformations and historical processes which have shaped the interrelated global experience.

- **OR ADVANCED PLACEMENT® WORLD HISTORY - 1.0 credit**
GRADES 10-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
Instructor Approval Needed
PREREQUISITE: HONORS US HISTORY

In the AP World History course students will learn to analyze and interpret historical facts and evidence in order to achieve an understanding of major developments in World History. The course is divided into six historical periods and encompasses five major geographic regions of the globe. *This is a college level course. Students are encouraged to take the AP Exam in the spring to attempt to earn college credit.*

- **BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES - PSYCHOLOGY and SOCIOLOGY – 0.5 credit**
GRADE 11; GRADE 10 (with permission), GRADE 12 (as an elective is permissible)
ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

**** Graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2022**

Students are required to select one behavioral science strand, **either Psychology or Sociology**, recommended during their junior year, but required for graduation. The courses will encourage students to see, think, and act in ways that reflect behavioral science. Psychology is the study of the individual mind. Sociology is the study of social structures and how they affect our lives. Students are required to take one behavioral science course, but are welcome to take both, and encouraged to do so if they are wanting to pursue a career in behavioral sciences or a related field.

- **POLITICAL SCIENCE - 0.5 credit**
GRADE 12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

Political Science introduces students to the fundamental theories, institutions, and behaviors that shape government and politics. Moving beyond basic civics, this course analyzes the mechanics of power, examining the philosophical foundations of the American experiment, the structural functions of the three branches of government, and the “invisible” forces—such as media, political parties, and interest groups—that drive public policy. Through the study of constitutional law, election dynamics, and comparative political systems, students will develop the analytical skills necessary to evaluate conflicting ideologies, interpret political data, and participate effectively as informed citizens in a complex global society.

- **AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS® - 0.5 credit**
GRADE 12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

AP U.S. Government and Politics is a spring semester course that not only seeks to prepare students for success on the AP Exam in May, but also provides students with the political knowledge and reasoning processes to participate meaningfully and thoughtfully in discussions and debates that are currently shaping American politics and society. It is important to note that this course is not a history course; it is a political science course that studies the interconnectedness of the different parts of the American political system and the behaviors and attitudes that shape this system and are the byproduct of this system. This course provides learners with a thorough understanding of the operations of the institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that shape the United States federal government. Students will sharpen critical thinking skills as they analyze, evaluate, and assess the general concepts used to interpret U. S. politics. Students will also examine the manner in which political scientists conduct research in order to further

strengthen their ability to analyze government and politics in the United States. Students will take the AP Government Exam in May.

THE FOLLOWING COURSE IS A SOCIAL SCIENCE ELECTIVE:

- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE- 0.5 CREDITS**

GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

NO PREREQUISITES

Criminal Justice will utilize social science and law in understanding the phenomena of crime and justice and how the two relate. The goal is for students to see, think, and act in ways similar to a professional in related fields.

LEARNING SKILLS PROGRAM

- **DIRECTED STUDIES – 1.0 credit**

GRADES 9-12 YEAR LONG COURSE

PREREQUISITES: PLACEMENT BY STUDENT STUDY TEAM

Students will work on IEP goals and objectives during this class. Students in the Learning Skills Program will be enrolled in at least one period daily in a Directed Studies class.

VOCATIONAL COURSES

- **ELEMENTARY AIDE - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 10-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITES: Completion of contract; willingness / ability to work directly with elementary students

An elementary aide will assist in a Washington Elementary classroom working in cooperation with and under the supervision of the regular classroom teacher. The aide will have a chance to experience the many responsibilities and tasks that are part of a teacher's every-day activities. Daily attendance is required. Grading is Pass or Fail and is based on daily attendance, teacher evaluation, and the completion of a final paper. Actual classroom placement will be assigned by Washington Elementary based on the needs of the staff. *A student may take the Elementary Aide course a maximum of two semesters while in high school.*

- **WORK STUDY - 0.5 credit**

GRADES 11-12 ONE SEMESTER COURSE

PREREQUISITES: COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

This is a vocational program designed for juniors and seniors. During the work portion of the curriculum, students will keep a log of hours worked. Regular attendance at the job site is required. Transportation to the job site is the student's responsibility. Grading will be based on a pass/fail basis. An evaluation form completed by your work supervisor and the completion of a final paper at the end of the semester is required for successful completion of this course.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Anthropologist
Composer
Customs Examiner
Diplomat
Dramatic Coach
Essayist or Author
Export Clerk
FBI Agent
Flight Attendant
Foreign Corresp Services
Foreign Exchange Clerk

Foreign News Interpret/Translator
Historian
Immigration Inspector
Information Clerk
Lawyer
Librarian
Medical Assistant
Messenger
Missionary
Musician
Physician

Receptionist
Salesperson
Social Group Worker
Stage Performer
Stenographer
Teacher
Travel Agent
Travel Guide
Tutor

- **GERMAN 2-4 - 1.0 credit per year**
GRADES 10-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
- **SPANISH 1-4 - 1.0 credit per year**
GRADES 9-12 YEAR LONG COURSE

Students will acquire the target language (German or Spanish) through comprehension-based and student-centered language experiences. The target language will be used 90% or more for class communication. There will be a focus on high frequency structures, as well as relevant and compelling phrases and vocabulary. Classes will consist of a variety of activities on universal topics to keep a lively pace. Discussions will typically be infused with cultural insights and context through teacher guided comparisons and contrasts to the target culture.

Each course will build on language proficiency levels according to national ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language) standards to encourage language acquisition growth from year to year. Student progression from year to year (or semester) will be determined by each student's proficiency as demonstrated in their EBR grade and by teacher recommendation. For example, after taking Spanish 1 for a full year, a student's proficiency may demonstrate the student should take Spanish 2, continue to Spanish 3 (thus allowing the student potential to take Kirkwood dual enrollment Spanish courses while still enrolled in MVHS), or advance to Spanish 4 (thus allowing the student to take two Cornell PSEO courses while still enrolled in MVHS after completing Kirkwood dual enrollment courses).

- **KW INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I - 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 4 KW credits)**
ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITES: ELEMENTARY SPANISH II OR SPANISH 4
Provides practice of language beyond the controlled situations of the elementary course. Develops fundamental skills in Spanish through activities aimed at expressing original ideas and conveying messages in correct Spanish with the aid of authentic resources. Class activities offer advanced training in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and understanding the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Grammar study includes a review of previously learned topics as well as new concepts.
- **KW INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II - 0.5 credit (dual credit course – earns 4 KW credits)**
ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITES: KW INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I
Enables students to continue to develop all communication skills, using primarily materials from literature, contemporary newspapers and magazines aimed at providing a better understanding of the Hispanic and Latin cultures and pertinent current issues. Class activities include a variety of discussion topics and a continued study of grammatical concepts to promote spontaneous conversation.

- ADVANCED GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION – 0.5 credit (dual credit course with Cornell College)**
ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: COMPLETION OF KW INTERMEDIATE SPANISH 2 OR EQUIVALENT
 Students will grow in comprehension and expression of the Spanish language through an intense practice of grammatical aspects and writing. Students will begin to study the social historical context of Latines living in the United States as they refine grammatical structures in their writing and oral presentations as well as analysis of text, videos and film.
- INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH TEXTUAL ANALYSIS – 0.5 credit (dual credit course with Cornell College)**
ONE SEMESTER COURSE
PREREQUISITE: COMPLETION OF ADVANCED GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION OR EQUIVALENT
 Students will be presented with strategies for understanding and analyzing literary texts as we further our study of Latines in the United States. This course will continue expanding on the awareness of authors, preoccupations, and themes of Spanish literature within literary movements, along with the social historical and political context of the regions we analyze. Students will develop literary and cultural competence by means of critically analyzing texts and artifacts in Spanish.

World Language course offerings by proficiency level:

Spanish 1 (novice mid) Spanish 2 (novice mid) Spanish 3 (novice high) Spanish 4 (intermediate) Kirkwood Intermediate Spanish 1 & 2 Cornell Advanced Grammar & Composition Cornell Introduction to Literary Analysis

What are students capable of producing at each proficiency level?

Novice Low	Novice Mid	Novice High	Intermediate Low	Intermediate Mid
You use a small number of repetitive words and phrases. You use some simple words to provide basic information.	You use a limited number of words and phrases, but they are repetitive. You use words, phrases and occasional sentences to provide basic information. Your speech may be incomprehensible.	You use familiar words and phrases and elaborate a little. You use phrases and short, simple sentences to provide basic information. Your speech is mostly comprehensible.	You use a variety of words and phrases and give details. You can combine words and phrases to create original sentences. Everything that you say is comprehensible.	You use a wide variety of words and phrases to give detailed elaboration. You use strings of combined sentences to describe or explain. The language that you produce is mostly accurate in the present tense.

Source: Allison Weinhold, Mis Clases Locas. For more information on proficiency levels, view [Iowa World Language Competencies](#)

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IOWA BILITERACY SEAL
 Mount Vernon High School has implemented the Iowa Biliteracy Award. This honor is awarded to graduating seniors who demonstrate proficiency in English as well as another language. Students of German and Spanish will take the online STAMP 4 Skill Assessment, which assesses their skills in reading, listening, writing and speaking. These students must achieve the level of Intermediate-Mid in ALL four skill levels in order to receive the award. We have had a few students demonstrate their proficiency in ASL (American Sign Language) with the SLPI (Sign Language Proficiency Interview) given by the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD), and there are other equivalent assessments that have been approved for other languages. We ask seniors to sign up around spring break and these assessments typically take place during the same time as Iowa Assessments for 9-11th grade students in April. The cost will be determined each year, but typically the fee has been reduced to around \$10. Seniors who earn the Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized for their outstanding achievement at the MVHS graduation and Senior Awards, will wear a special cord at the graduation ceremony, and will receive a stamp of biliteracy on their transcript. Students may use this special achievement to demonstrate their proficiency to future employers or educational institutions for placement in special programs and/or consideration for additional credits.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE COURSES

- **PUBLICATION/ DESIGN (YEARBOOK) – 1.0 credit**
GRADES 9-12 YEAR LONG COURSE
NO PREREQUISITES

NOTE: ALL YEARBOOK EDITORS MUST ENROLL IN THIS COURSE

The work of this class is creating the high school yearbook and publishing on www.themustangmoon.com; therefore, it is both an activity and a class, much like music classes. Students can take this course multiple years, moving up the ranks to editing positions. (The English composition elective Journalism is strongly suggested for those students wishing to become editors of the yearbook or news website.)

This class is for dedicated, responsible students who pay attention to details and work well independently and with others. Its focus is developing skills in photography, design, news writing, advertising, and meeting deadlines. Students will learn to use current technology, taking pictures with a digital camera and using computer layout software to design yearbook pages. Students who enroll in this course must dedicate themselves to the full year of study and must be trusted with valuable equipment and important files. Students must have the skills to independently interview students and to write stories that are edited correctly for publication.

The Mount Vernon Community School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status (for programs), socioeconomic status (for programs), disability, religion, and creed. Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services with the district who feel that they have experienced discrimination are encouraged to contact Matt Thede, Equity Coordinator, Mount Vernon Community High School, 731 Palisades Road SW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314, telephone: [319-895-8843](tel:319-895-8843) x4005, where our district has a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Director of Civil Rights – Region VII, US Department of Education,; 310 W. Wisconsin Ave.; Suite 800; Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203-2292 (phone: 414-291-1111) or to the Iowa Department of Education; Grimes State Office Building; Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-0146 (phone: 515-281-5294).