



2017 – 2018

Course Description Handbook

This handbook includes general information and course descriptions that outline the curriculum offerings at Sugar Valley Rural Charter School. Use it as a guide, along with the help and advice of your counselors, teachers, and family, to plan an appropriate program of studies for the coming year.

#### Graduation Requirements

Students must compile a minimum of twenty-five (26) credits in order to graduate from high school. These credits are to be acquired in Grades 9 through 12.

Courses required by the Sugar Valley Rural Charter School are as follows:

four (4) credits in English

four (4) credits in mathematics

four (4) credits in science

four (4) credits in social studies

two (2) credits in art

two (2) credits in music

two(1) credits in health and physical education

four (4) electives

Graduation Project

Credits earned in the Ninth Grade are counted toward graduation from high school. However, some Eighth Grade subjects may be offered to satisfy entrance requirements to certain colleges and universities.

Students may graduate early providing they are able to complete all of the requirements prescribed by the Sugar Valley Rural Charter School.

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## Grading Scale

A = 93-100

B = 86-92

C = 78-85

D = 70-77

F = 0-69

## Graduation Project

All students must complete a Graduation Project.

Each student will be assessed as passing, or failing. the graduation project

IT WILL NOT HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE.

Projects may take the form of the following: a community service experience, an original research effort, a career exploration, or another student initiated proposal.

All projects must be approved in advance. Projects may be completed at any time during the high school experience, but SHOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE END OF THE FIRST SEMESTER (JANUARY) OF THE SENIOR YEAR.

## Keystone Assessments

Students must score at either the advanced or proficient level on the Keystone Algebra I, Biology, and Literature assessments. If a student does not score at either the advanced or proficient level by the conclusion of eleventh grade, an advanced or proficient score must be obtained on the twelfth grade project-based assessment in order to graduate.

# COURSE CREDITS

## GRADE 9 REQUIRED COURSES

English 9 – 1 credit  
Biology – 1 credit  
US History II – 1 credit  
Algebra – 1 credit  
Health/PE - .50 credit  
Art - .50 credit or  
Music - .50 credit  
Electives – .50 credit    Totals: 6. Credits

## GRADE 10 REQUIRED COURSES

English 10 – 1 credit  
Science – 1 credit  
History – 1 credit  
Geometry – 1 credit  
Health/PE - .50 credit  
Art - .50 credit  
Music - .50 credit  
Electives – 1.5 credits    Totals: 7 Credits

## GRADE 11 REQUIRED COURSES

English 11 – 1 credit  
Science - 1 credit  
History – 1 credit  
Math - 1 credit  
Health/PE - .50 credit  
Art - .50 credit  
Music - .50 credit  
Electives - 1.5 credit.....Totals: 7 Credits

## GRADE 12 REQUIRED COURSES

English 12 – 1 credit  
Science – 1 credit  
History – 1 credit  
Math – 1 credit  
Health/PE – .50 credit  
Art - .50 credit  
Music - .50 credit  
Elective- .50 credit  
Senior Project            Totals: 6 Credits

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ENGLISH

### **ENGLISH 9 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed and focuses primarily on the writing aspect of Language Arts. However, it also incorporates corresponding literature to teach students to correctly interpret, analyze, and produce all aspects of Language Arts. Students will write business letters, essays, and memoirs using correct grammar, varying sentence structure, and paragraph formats. They will also create a mini-portfolio by the end of the year to prepare them for completing their senior portfolio to meet the graduation requirement.

All students are required to take a ninth grade English course

### **ENGLISH 10 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to incorporate an equal mixture of literature and writing. Students will write, and deliver speeches while analyzing effective speaking techniques. Students will use their knowledge from the speech unit and apply it to poetry through performance as well as recognizing literary devices and interpreting meaning. Various types of literature will be used to support given writing and speaking assignments.

All students are required to take a ninth grade English course

### **ENGLISH 11 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to incorporate an equal mixture of literature and writing. Students will refine researching skills and produce a 5 page research paper using MLA formatting. Students will read and write forms of suspense and satire following the style of the genre. Literature will be supplemented as needed to facilitate students' understanding of units.

All students are required to take an eleventh grade English course

**ENGLISH 12 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to incorporate an equal mixture of literature and writing. Students will prepare for life after high school by assembling a functional resume and working toward finalizing their senior portfolio. Students will be exposed to world issues and different cultures through various texts and will demonstrate knowledge of critical analysis by connecting textual evidence to today's society.

All students are required to take a twelfth grade English course

**ENGLISH 11 HONORS (Full year course – 1.5 credits)**

This scholastic course prepares accelerated students for English 12 or English 12 Honors. Students should have a strong background in grammar, reading comprehension, literary techniques and concepts, and writing acumen. In addition, students will learn the critical approaches to writing and analyzing of fiction and nonfiction and the strategies to interpret literature and evaluate its quality. To enrich the students' verbal skills in preparation for the verbal sections of the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exam, cumulative vocabulary units will be incorporated into the assignments throughout the school year.

**ENGLISH 12 HONORS (Full year course – 1.5 credits)**

Aligned with the PA Common Core Standards for English Language Arts 6-12, English 12 Honors deepens and advances the curriculum of English 12. Students read and analyze a variety of literary texts, recognizing major forms and their stylistic elements. Using nonfiction texts, students will analyze and synthesize information to propose individual interpretations of the literature read and/or viewed. Language study expands students' general and specialized vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and viewing. Writing includes the production of informational, expository, and persuasive/argumentative papers, logically organized demonstrating knowledgeable judgments, and effective conclusions. They also apply their oral communication skills to craft formal oral presentations and their listening skills to analyze the relationships among purpose, audience and content of presentations.

**DRAMA (Full year course – 1 credit – elective)**

This course will explore all facets of drama production. Students will examine stagecraft, direction, acting and various genres of plays. Students will engage in oral presentations that allow them to practice skills explored and studied. While students will produce and present a variety of short productions through the semester, the final assessment will be a full length production to be presented to the school and community.

# MATHEMATICS

## **ALGEBRA I (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course will deepen student understanding of mathematical concepts such as functions and real numbers, will teach students how to solve a variety of different types of equations, and will enable students to read and interpret graphs. Special emphasis will be placed on connecting algebra to the real world and in preparing students for Algebra II.

## **KEYSTONE ALGEBRA I (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to complete the study of Algebra I. Mastery of basic computation is expected. The course will continue the development of skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in upper level math and science courses by teaching students to approach problems in a logical and organized sequence of steps. Course content is aligned to Algebra I Keystone Anchors and begins with a review of integer operations, order of operations, evaluating expressions, solving one-step and multi-step equations, and working with functions. Students will progress to new topics that will include functions and their graphs, coordinate geometry, systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, and data analysis and probability. Students will explore application problems that focus on developing problem solving skills. The graphing calculator will be introduced as a tool in exploring functions and graphs.

## **Algebra 2 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

The main portion of this course broadens the topics that were first seen in Algebra I. The students will continue to study probability and statistics along with a variety of functions. With successful completion of this course, the student will be properly prepared for a Trigonometry course.

## **GEOMETRY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

The study of plane geometry has two points of emphasis. The first is to learn and apply numerous geometric properties to real world situations. The second is to provide students with an opportunity to develop organizational abilities and both deductive and inductive reasoning skills. Course content begins with a single point and expands to include lines, angles, polygons, circles, and solids. Congruency, similarity, and inequality are investigated and proofs are developed through the application of postulates, definitions, and theorems. Students will develop skills in the use of geometer sketchpad and also the compass and straightedge



constructions. Additional topics include the concepts of coordinate geometry, transformations, and the perimeter, area, and volume of plane figures and solids. Daily homework is a course requirement.

### **TRIGONOMETRY AND PRECALCULUS (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Students taking this course will concentrate on algebraic concepts and trigonometric applications. The use of graphing calculators and other technologies is emphasized as a problem-solving strategy. This course is highly recommended for students planning to attend college.

### **CALCULUS (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course, when completed, thoroughly prepares students for taking the Advanced Placement Calculus exam. The course emphasizes infinite series, limits, derivatives, and integration. Practical applications include related rate, maximum and minimum, area, and volume problems.

## **SCIENCE**

### **SCIENCE 9 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

The 9th grade science course is designed to prepare the students for their high school career in science. They will learn the aspects of Earth and Space, covering things like the structure of Earth and the environment. They will also get a look at the sun, planets, and the stars.

### **BIOLOGY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course will teach students about the different kingdoms of organisms. The students will look at and study organisms from all five of the kingdoms. They will leave the class with knowledge of all organisms. The main focus is to look at all other organisms and to finally show how they are similar to the human body. Along the way the students will be asked to perform a few dissections of simple organisms.

### **ADVANCED BIOLOGY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Through this laboratory-based course the students will investigate the structure and function of the human body. Topics covered will include the basic organization of the body; biochemical composition; and major body systems along with the impact of diseases on certain systems. Students will engage in many topics and competencies related to truly understanding the structure and function of the human body. Working from the topics of basic anatomical terminology to the biochemical composition of the human body, all the way into great detail of each of the major systems of the body, students will learn through reading materials, study

guides, unit worksheets, group work, projects, and labs. Students will also compare and contrast the human body to the structure and function of other groups of organisms. Students will be responsible for proper use of lab equipment, lab reports, and projects assigned throughout each unit. One of the goals of this course is to prepare students with the skills necessary to be successful in future science classes in college. (The prerequisites for this course are that you must have passed the High School Biology course and either been proficient on the Keystone Exam or passed the High School Keystone Biology course.)

### **PHYSICS (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to teach students the basic concepts of Physics, specifically Mechanics. A secondary goal is to teach students to be effective problem solvers. Students are actively involved in laboratory activities where they are given the opportunity to make predictions and then observe the actual outcome. If time allows, students will study additional Physics concepts including waves, electricity, and magnetism.

### **CHEMISTRY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This is a course of introductory chemistry. Topics include, but are not limited to, classifying and quantifying matter and energy, the phases of matter (especially water), the structure of matter at the atomic and sub-atomic levels, the periodic table and chemical bonds, including the types of compounds that result. The class culminates with investigations of the mole concept, percentage composition, empirical formulas, chemical equations and reactions and stoichiometry.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course deals with animals and natural resources and their interactions with society. Problems that face society, such as pollution and energy, are studied and discussed. The class will also conduct a formal debate involving a topic that is relevant to science.

### **SOILS AND LAND MANAGEMENT (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is designed to teach students the importance of soil. They will look at the formation of soil, the biology of the soil, and proper farming techniques. This course is designed to give the students the proper information they need to move out into the community and use the proper techniques to maintain the soil for future generations.

### **WETLANDS AND AQUATICS (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is arranged to teach students the different types of wetlands and aquatic ecosystems. The students will also look at the aquatic life (Fish, Reptiles, Amphibians, and

Macroinvertebrates) and how to preserve wetlands. They will also test water and learn how to make a stream more beneficial for living organisms.

### **WILDLIFE ECOLOGY (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Through this course students will learn the natural history of wild birds and mammal species in Pennsylvania. Students will be able to identify and evaluate the habitat that each of the species lives in and to explain the niche (role) that each species has within their habitat. Students will be able to identify the basic needs that each species requires from its habitat and how to manage their habitat for them. Students will also learn to identify, describe, and explain any specific anatomical, physiological and/or behavioral adaptations of wildlife to their environment and how they help the animal survive. Students will have to define and explain terms to describe the species physical traits, behaviors, wildlife biology and wildlife populations, as well as to identify the trophic level of each species. Students will also have to identify bird calls. One of the goals of this course is to get students prepared for future studies about our environmental resources. (This will be based on the Pennsylvania Envirothon Wildlife Profile for that specific year.)

### **GEOLOGY (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course will cover the main topics of geology. The course will be taking an in depth look at the processes that shaped Earth throughout history. Topics covered include rock and mineral identification, fossil identification, plate tectonics, volcanoes, and geologic history among others.

### **FORESTRY (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Students will learn to research current forestry and natural resource issues. Students will learn to identify and discuss leaves, resources, etc.

### **ANIMAL SCIENCE (Half year course - .50 credit)**

An introduction to fundamental principles of animal science, including the economic impact of animal agriculture upon the United States and the world, animal genetics, anatomy and physiology, growth, reproduction, artificial insemination, lactation, egg laying, nutrition, animal disease, animal research; laboratory includes visits to animal industries in the area, livestock selection.

### **PLANT SCIENCE (Half year course - .50 credit)**

The basic principles of plant growth, including human and environmental influences and the theoretical and practical application of agronomic principles to crop production. Includes the historical and economic importance of crop plants for food, feed, and fiber; origin, classification, and geographic distribution of field crops; environmental factors and agronomic problems; crop plant breeding, growth, development, and physiology; cropping systems and

practices; seedbed preparation, tillage, and crop establishment; pests and controls; and harvesting, storing, and marketing practices.

### **WILDLIFE I (Half year course - .50 credit)**

The wildlife course is dedicated to the care and preservation of Pennsylvania plants and animals. Students will study habitat development and other ways to increase wildlife. They will also examine methods for controlling wildlife growth and preventing damage to wildlife. This class will include classroom, shop, and outdoor activities.

### **WILDLIFE II (Half year course - .50 credit)**

A deeper continuation of Wildlife I. Students observe examples of how introducing different species affects other species within an ecosystem. This wildlife biology class does a hands on approach to plant and animal wildlife.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

The objective of this class is to teach the students about the History of the United States from Reconstruction to and including the present. The students will learn about the major conflicts in which this country has been involved since Reconstruction and the causes for each one of these conflicts. The students will learn about the Great Depression, the Civil Rights and Anti-War Movements in the 1960's. The students will also learn about the moon race and all other major historical events that occurred in the 1970's, 80's, 90's and up to and including the year 2004.

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY II (Full year course – 1 credit)**

A study of the history of the United States since the era of Reconstruction following the Civil War to the present--focusing on political, economic, and social events related to industrialization and urbanization, major wars, domestic and foreign policies of the Cold War and post-Cold War eras, reform movements (including the progressive and Civil rights movements). Students will study geographic influences on major historic events and causes and effects of the Great Depression, examine modern constitutional issues, evaluate the relationship of the three branches of the federal government, and analyze efforts to expand the democratic process. The class will spotlight the labor movement, artistic and cultural influences on American history, the impact of technology upon American History and develop

the students' use of critical thinking skills to interpret historical methods, points of view, and place events in historical context

### **WORLD HISTORY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

One of the objectives for this class is to show how early civilizations came about, how they expanded and how their improvement in technology help each civilization to grow and prosper. The second objective is to show the students what life was like in the early years of civilization and how their way of life, in some parts of the world, has not changed that much from early times. The last objective is to show the students how inventions of the early civilizations impacted the world. The Greeks, Romans and other early civilizations will be studied and discussed.

### **WORLD HISTORY II (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Textbook and supplementary readings are assigned. A variety of written work and projects are expected. Extensive oral and written work will be required. Course load is demanding.

### **SOCIOLOGY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This heterogeneous course is designed to make students more aware of the various roles that individuals play in society. This course will investigate such important contemporary issues as family roles, gender stereotyping, racism in America and the world, crime and the criminal justice system, the educational system, and recent social movements. Each topic will be researched and discussed in an open forum.

### **WAR, PEACE and TERRORISM (Full year course – 1 credit)**

As outbreaks of violence around the world continually remind us, war, terrorism, and the elusiveness of peace are among the deepest problems facing humankind throughout history. The War, Peace, and Terrorism course provides students with an opportunity to study the nature, implications and ethical foundations of war, pacifism, and terrorism. Drawing on expertise from various departments, this course explores the issues surrounding armed conflict from many different perspectives including historical, legal, moral, political, philosophical, social, cultural, religious, and psychological.

### **CIVICS (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to teach students how the American Constitution is the basis for all government decisions is the United States. Students will learn the roles and functions of the three branches of government and how each interacts with the other. This course will cover human rights, the election process, and campaigning.

### **REVOLUTIONS (Half year course - .50 credit)**

The semester course will introduce the various types of revolutions that have occurred over time throughout the world. One major focus will be on the reasons revolutions occur and the expected political, societal, and economical outcomes. Students will then explore a handful of the most influential revolutions in history, both violent and non-violent, and the aftermath of each.

Revolutions to Explore: French, Russian, Chinese, American, Industrial (1&2), and one of student's choice

### **PSYCHOLOGY (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This semester course is based on the systematic study of individual human behavior and experience. The course content will include the general academic overview of psychology, including its vocabulary, research methods and important individuals in the area of psychology. It will also present the general methods of scientific investigation as they are applied to human behavior. It is a broad academic survey of problems, methods, facts and principles. The course content will give students the opportunity to examine and reflect upon their beliefs, attitudes and feelings about themselves and their ideas of what people are like and why they behave as they do. Also included are topics such as: personality, intellectual abilities and adjustment, learning skills, perception, emotions, motivation, personality disorders, thinking and biological influences on behavior.

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **INTRO TO VOCATIONAL AG SHOP (Half year course – no credit, for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades)**

This course will introduce the students to the areas taught in the Vo-Ag shop throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The course is basic with an emphasis placed on woodwork. The students will learn to measure, cut, shape, attach, and finish wood. Students will learn to use the rules and regulations book provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Students will develop the ability to identify shop and hand power tools. Students will be required to know and demonstrate shop safety. All activities and projects revolve on a two year cycle.

### **BASIC BUILDING SKILLS (Half year course - .50 credit)**

In today's world, everyone should be able to perform some basic construction, even if it is a simple repair job in his/her home. Therefore, this course will teach beginner woodwork, metalwork, welding/torch, plumbing, and block laying/concrete work.

### **FFA and AG LEADERSHIP/TRACTOR CERTIFICATION (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Students in this class will study topics in the Future Farmers of America program and will learn how to become a leader in agriculture. The following topics will be studied: public speaking, parliamentary procedure, a review of contests used in FFA competition, and a thorough study of agriculture related vocations.

This class will be taught entirely from the state certification curriculum. All students 16 years of age and under must have a certificate to legally drive a tractor on the road unless they are working for their parents. This course will prepare students toward achieving a tractor certification.

### **SMALL GAS ENGINES (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This class is for the student who is interested in the workings of small engines. Students will work with 4-cycle Briggs and Stratton engines (provided by the school). They will perform a complete tear-down and rebuild during this class. Upon successful repair of the school engine, the students will be permitted to work on engines from home.

### **TOOLS and WOODWORKING (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Students enrolling in this course will learn how to handle and keep tools in working condition. Woodworking will consist of basic wood building skills. This course will consist of approximately 9 weeks of woodworking and 9 wks of fitting tools. The use of effective writing skills will be incorporated into this course.

### **WELDING (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is designed for the beginner Welder. Students will be taught the safety and use of the Gas torch, Arc welder, and Mig welder. Common welds and cuts will be taught and graded throughout the semester. Students will discuss employment in this field. Proper clothing will be required.

### **HORTICULTURE (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Horticulture is a diverse field involved with producing and utilizing a multitude of 5 specialized plants. Benefits of this industry to all people are both physical and emotional. Horticulturists provide the fruits and vegetables so important to good nutrition. Horticulturists also improve the human environment, through both beautification and conservation, by providing the ornamental plants and designs utilized to enhance aesthetics within and around the home, workplace, and other areas.

# ART

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course provides an introduction to the necessary skills in the use of photographic tools, including cameras, computer programs, and so on. Students will create successful compositions using a camera and/or digital manipulation. Students will learn about the various photographic terms important to the course such as worm's and bird's eye view, the rule of thirds, f-stop and aperture, as well as bracketing. By the end of the course, students will have improved their eye as a photographer having stronger compositions than when they started. The students will explore their work by writing critiques, completing assessments, and compiling a photographic portfolio displaying all of their work throughout the semester.

## **DRAWING I (Half year course - .50 credit)**

In this course, students will learn the basics of drawing such as techniques, the elements and principles of art and design, and so on. Students will keep a sketchbook in which they will practice various drawing exercises to assist them in artistic growth. Students will experiment with "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" by drawing images upside down, drawing with their dominant and non-dominant hand, etc. Students will utilize a wide variety of media such as drawing pencils, charcoal, chalk and oil pastels, ink pens, and markers. Students will learn about various artists and their styles throughout the course as well.

## **GENERAL ART (2D or 3D) (Half year course - .50 credit)**

In General Art, students will learn the basics and fundamentals of art production, history, aesthetics, and evaluation. Students will explore a variety of art media while learning about the Elements and Principles of Art and Design. Students are meant, in this course, to get a general exposure to the art world involving art creation. The students will experiment with drawing, painting, sculpture, multi-media art, and other forms of art.

## **PAINTING (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Relationships between the basic fundamentals of art, both elements and the principles of design, will be emphasized as students study introductory painting techniques and materials. Students will focus on watercolor and acrylic painting media. Exploration of styles, artists, subject matter, and painting media will be addressed.

## **FLEECE TO SHAWL I (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Fleece to Shawl is the process of combing wool from a sheep, spinning it into yarn, and then weaving it into a wearable shawl. While learning this competitive technique, this course will cover four social studies units: Local Pennsylvania Culture, Economics, Geography, and History.



The course requires an overnight trip and participation in the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. *This course may be used as an Art credit.*

### **THREE DIMENSIONAL ART (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is a study of basic principles of three-dimensional visual organization and skills. It includes line, value, texture, color, shape, and other elements of form as they relate to three-dimensional art and design.

### **FIBERS (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course will introduce students to the both ancient and modern day art form of textiles. Students in this course will explore the media of textiles through its vast and varied history, focusing on elements such as textiles as historical documents, clothing and artworks. Students will study various elements of textile history and fabric manipulation techniques. With each unit students will create a small reflective artwork of the area studied which will focus upon an overarching rural theme. Topics and techniques covered will include dyeing, fabric painting and transfer, shibori, batik and embroidery all of which will provide students with rich investment in experimentation as well as deeper understandings of the historical and cultural impacts of each unique textile form. A cumulative quilt will serve as the final project, which will incorporate and highlight all the elements learned, as well as thorough research completed throughout the semester. This collaborative quilt will echo an element of rural history, culture and or traditions selected at the beginning of the course.

### **A WORLD OF COLOR (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Throughout this course students will study in depth the history, cultural uses and importance as well as the physical properties of color. Students will develop through research, reading, writing and experiences an understanding of the way that color is an element of all disciplines such as the arts, sciences and humanities. The course will progress as if traveling through the color wheel itself. Every unit will be based upon a different color. Within each unit students will examine the use of color through dyes, paints. They will interpret the ways that color has been used to communicate in nature and culture, study biological and psychological aspects of color perception, enjoy the use of color in the production of images, objects, performance, environments and experiences, and understand the physical properties of color. As students carefully study each color they will document their journey through constant journaling within a research notebook. With the conclusion of each individual color investigation students will create a small reflective piece in their research notebooks which will serve as a strong foundation for their final project. The culminating project for this course will be the creation of a presentation and project based upon a topic specific to color theory, history and or cultural impacts. Students will present their topic as well create an artwork based on their research.

### **RURAL ARTS (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art) (Half year course - 0 credit)**

This unique and very specialized course will not only provide students with the opportunity to fulfill their required art credit, it will also provide them with integrated lessons, projects and experiences which will link all elements of the four pillars of our charter; K-12 Continuum, Personalized Learning, Community Involvement and Rural Environment to every lesson and artwork they create. Students will closely and thoroughly investigate, read about, and study the unique history of Pennsylvania as well as the arts and crafts which were inspired from our distinct history.

This local and regional investigation will allow students the opportunity to experience and understand the processes of the incredible crafts and artworks such as traditional embroidered samplers, candle-making, basket weaving, weathervanes, barn stars and finally the traditional craft of quilting. Too, students will get to experience local artisans and crafters with the possibilities of field trips to local craft and art museums or workshops. Every lesson will not only provide students with a deeper investment and understanding of their local Pennsylvania culture and history, but allow them the opportunity to create individualized works, as each project will be based upon elements unique to your student's personality, interests and experiences.

### **Book Arts (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course will introduce students to the unique story of the history of books, modern day books including children's books, artist's books as well as rich traditions in binding and creating. Students will learn and investigate through experimentation and studio creation, various approaches to book binding techniques, including paper decoration, various closure techniques, page and paper designs and printing processes. Students will examine and compare the connections which exist between books as stories, books and culture, books and the physical materials of which they are made, as well as artist's books created solely as an artwork. Throughout the course students will create a book based around each individual unit, the units will progress following a timeline of the history of books, highlighting significant differences in design as well as the significance of books in varying cultures and geographical areas. The culminating project for this class will be the creation of a book which combines a historical book element with modern application such as content, materials or theme.

### **Business of Art (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course will introduce students to the process of the collection, organization, management and business of artworks and objects and how those elements work together to create the museums and galleries we visit today, as well as personal collections people keep. Students will investigate topics and questions such as the history of museums and galleries, collecting as

a hobby and as a business, private vs. public museums and collections. They will pursue this study with questions such as what is a collection? Why do we collect things? How do we document these collections? Throughout the duration of the course, students will not only develop their own personal collections, they will do thorough research on a topic of their choosing to develop and create an actual museum of that topic to be displayed at a “Night at the Museum” event. Students will gain skills in researching, collecting, documenting, budgeting, public relations and thorough planning and preparation as they advance throughout this course.

### **American Art History 1 (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This unique art history course will offer students the opportunity to explore the story of art through the history and evolution of artists and artworks of America, her history, environment and culture. Students will study in depth through reading, writing, small studio creation, discussions, museum visits and related experiences the way in which the American history, culture, and landscape has impacted art forms and artists, as well as the significant ways in which artists broke boundaries and created a unique American identity represented through visual expression. Students will study areas and topics of art history as it developed throughout the timeline of the history of America, beginning with those who inhabited these lands prior to any colonial settlements, continuing through in the first semester, to the Civil War. Students will document their American journey through constant journaling, note-taking and experiences within a research notebook which will serve as a rich foundation for the final project. The culminating project for this course will be the creation of a presentation and project based around a topic specific to American art, history and or culture. Students will present their topic as well create an artwork based off their research.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

### **COOKING ON A BUDGET (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course introduces students to food and kitchen safety, measurements, recipe standardization and scaling, plate costs, food budgets, knife skills and cooking methods. Products made will include soups, eggs, stir-fry rice, bean, pork and chicken dishes. The course includes several cooking labs and field trips. An emphasis will be placed on using local and seasonal products to cook nutritious and affordable family meals.

### **DESSERTS ON A BUDGET (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of hot and cold dessert production. Topics of study will include nutritional and cost considerations, ingredient substitutions and the integration of the dessert with the meal. Products made will include sauces, frozen

desserts, soufflés, cakes, pies and pastries. *Prerequisite: Students must have successfully completed Cooking on a Budget or similar program at another district.*

### **LIVING ON YOUR OWN (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is designed to prepare students to live on their own. Topics will include budgets, managing money, credit cards, housing needs, meal management, and making wise consumer decisions. Activities include research, simulations, comparison shopping, and lifestyle/career options.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

### **GERMAN I (Full year course – 1 credit – elective)**

German I is an introductory course to the German language. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the German language and will be taught to communicate in German orally and in writing. The class addresses grammar, vocabulary, and German culture.

### **GERMAN II (Full year course – 1 credit – elective)**

German II is a continuation of German I, to include further development of knowledge in German grammar, vocabulary, and culture. Additional emphasis will be placed upon conversational German.

### **ADVANCED GERMAN (Full year course – 1 credit – elective)**

Advanced German is a continuation of German language education, to include further development of knowledge in German grammar, vocabulary, and culture. Additional emphasis will be placed upon written and conversational German. *Prerequisite - Successful completion of German II with at least a "C" average.*

### **\*DISTANCE LEARNING FOREIGN LANGUAGE (Full year course – 1 credit – elective)**

Distance Learning Foreign Language provides students the opportunity to study a foreign language on a computer. The languages currently offered are Spanish, French and Latin. The course requires a strong work ethic and is geared toward the independent learner.

## HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### **NUTRITION and FITNESS (Half year course - .50 credit – wellness)**

During this course the students will develop a greater knowledge of their bodies and the function of foods that individuals take in on a daily basis. The students will differentiate between myths and facts of diets, foods, and medications as they relate to teens. This course will further the students' knowledge about their current health, fitness level and the nutritional values of foods eaten by teens.

### **OUTDOOR EXPLORATION (Half year course - .50 credit – wellness)**

This course will have an emphasis upon fishing and boating. Students will explore both fly and spin casting equipment. They will learn CPR and water safety techniques. At the end of the unit students will take a trip to fish at a pond or stream. Other outdoor activities covered may include: hiking, archery, canoeing/boating, and an overnight camping trip.

### **WELLNESS (Half year course - .50 credit – wellness)**

This course will focus on a deeper examination of the health issues facing teens today. Students will discuss dealing with problems and challenges in a healthy manner and will study first aid, CPR, sexual education, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Nutrition, fitness and health related current events will be discussed on a weekly basis. This course will present basic rules, skills, and teamwork with others in games and activities. Emphasis will be placed on lifetime sports, personal growth, cooperation and fitness.

## MUSIC

### **CHORUS (Full year course – 1 credit – semester course - .50 credit)**

This course is open to any secondary student who enjoys singing, or would like to learn how to sing better. Students will study proper and healthy vocal technique and will learn to sing standard choral repertoire from a variety of musical styles and musical time periods in a choral ensemble setting. Students are required to participate in the Holiday and Spring Concerts. Private lessons will also be offered to students as a part of the choral curriculum. Students who participate in chorus may also participate, upon invitation by the director, in District Chorus.

### **MUSIC IN AMERICA (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is a music appreciation course designed for students with little or no prior music background. The course will explore all aspects of listening to and analyzing various musical styles. Although the main focus of the class is on American musical styles such as Jazz, Blues,

Rock and Roll, Country and Folk, the course will examine music from other cultures and time periods as well.

### **MUSIC THEORY I (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is designed for students who have studied an instrument, are currently studying an instrument, or who are current members of the band or chorus. The focus of the course is on the understanding and use of music notation in the analysis of music. Students will analyze music aurally (by ear) and visually through music notation.

### **MUSIC THEORY II (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is a continuation of Music Theory I. It is designed for students who have studied an instrument, are currently studying an instrument, or who are current members of the band or chorus. The focus of the course is on the understanding and use of music notation in the analysis of music. Students should have a firm grasp in the understanding of basic music notation prior to taking this course. Students will continue their study of the analysis of music aurally and through music notation. Students will also explore composition, and study the basic skills necessary to create their own musical compositions. *Pre-requisite: Music Theory I or teacher approval.*

### **MUSIC and MOVEMENT (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Students will become acquainted with the basic objectives, methods and materials of a music and movement program. Students will also become familiarized with the techniques used in introducing songs, finger plays, rhythm instruments, group dances, song play and creative movement activities.

### **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY I and II (Half year course - .50 credit)**

This course is designed to introduce the students to the world of digital audio and computer recording. By using the tools of digital recording, the students will be able to create their own musical compositions and arrangements to produce their own audio CD archives to use for listening, websites, video, or any other application where music is used.

### **Music History (Half year course - .50 credit)**

Music History is a music class designed to help students develop an appreciation for music and all of its components. In this class, students will be learning about various musical time periods, composers, instruments, and musical styles. Students will be expected to take notes in a notebook, listen and analyze musical selections, and differentiate between various musical styles. Time periods that will be covered will be the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical time periods.

# LIFE SKILLS

## **LEARNING SUPPORT MATH (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course teaches students basic math concepts and how they relate to real life situations. It allows students to practice every day math skills with concepts like balancing a checkbook, calculating hourly, weekly and overtime pay. It also allows students to practice math concepts seen in extracurricular activities like measuring for cooking, home repairs, and woodworking.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT ENGLISH (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Learning support English develops language skills that we use in everyday life. It breaks down a sentence and teaches and describes the basic parts of speech and their uses. This class also focuses on basic reading skills, such as phonics, sight word identification, spelling, and introduction to literature.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT SOCIAL SKILLS/DAILY LIVING SKILLS (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to teach students how to use manners, express feelings, and act as a responsible, kind, and helpful adult. The course focuses on how to initiate appropriate conversations and how to respond to others in several different circumstances. Ways of treating others and yourself in a positive manner and self esteem builders are also emphasized. This course will also focus on daily living skills. It will prepare students for everyday activities such as shopping, budgeting, eating in restaurants, cooking and more

## **LEARNING SUPPORT SCIENCE (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course will teach students about the world around them. The goal of this course is to provide a well-grounded understanding of selected concepts in physical science while at the same time developing thinking skills that enable and encourage independent thinking. It will focus on many components such as the environment, animals, machines, sound and light, electricity, motion and more.

## **LEARNING SUPPORT HISTORY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is adapted from the general education curriculum. This course offers the same concepts that are found in the general education curriculum, but modified to fit each student's educational need.

## SUPPORT SERVICES MATH

### **MATH 54 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Math 54 consists of five instructional components: Facts Practice, Mental Math and Problem Solving, Daily Lesson, Daily Practice, Daily Problem Solving and Cumulative Tests. Math 54 contains a thorough review of concepts and procedures related to whole number operations, including single-digit multiplication and division. Word problems are incrementally developed and continually practiced throughout the year.

### **MATH 65 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Math 65 consists of five instructional components: Facts Practice, Mental Math, and Problem Solving, Daily Lesson, Daily Practice, Daily Problem Solving and Cumulative Tests. Math 65 is an integrated basic mathematics course that reviews and expands upon all of the mathematical content from Math 54. The emphasis on problem solving continues as students are called upon to apply mathematical tools and techniques to real-life mathematical situations expressed through word problems.

### **MATH 76 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Math 76 consists of five instructional components: Facts Practice, Mental Math, and Problem Solving, Daily Lesson, Daily Practice, Daily Problem Solving, and Cumulative Tests. Investigations, which are activity-based variations of the Daily Lesson, are distributed throughout the text. Math 76 reinforces the basic mathematical concepts and skills that students acquired in Math 54 and Math 65. Concepts, procedures, and vocabulary that students will need in order to be successful in upper-level algebra and geometry courses are introduced and continually practiced. Daily mental math and problem-solving exercises enhance students' repertoire of skills.

### **MATH 87 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Math 87 consists of five instructional components: Facts Practice, Mental Math, and Problem Solving, Daily Practice, Daily Problem Solving and Cumulative Tests. Investigations, which are activity-based variations of the Daily Lesson, are distributed throughout the text. Math 87 provides students with a solid foundation of skills and concepts needed for success in analytic and quantitative courses. The interrelationship of fractions, decimals, and percents is reinforced throughout the text, and geometric concepts are continually practiced. Daily mental math and problem-solving exercises further augment student student skills.



**GUIDED MATH FOR LIFE (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course will require students to use basic mathematical computation skills and learn how to apply these skills as a wise consumer in real world situations. This course reinforces and extends the students' mastery of basic mathematical concepts. The skills taught in this course will be individualized to the students' educational needs.

**GUIDED PRE-ALGEBRA (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Pre-Algebra prepares for Algebra. Pre-Algebra includes several broad topics including new types of numbers such as integers, fractions, decimals, and negatives. It also introduces factorization, associative and distributive properties, along with powers, roots, and order of operations. Pre-Algebra begins preparing for evaluation of expressions and understanding of variables.

**GUIDED ALGEBRA 1 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Algebra 1 covers all topics in a first-year algebra course, from proofs, statistics and probability to algebra-based real-world problems. With Algebra 1, students begin developing the more complex and understanding required for advanced mathematics.

**GUIDED GEOMETRY (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Geometry includes formulas for lengths, areas, volumes, and degrees to determine information for geometric shapes and figures. This includes finding circumference and area of circles, lengths of sides, area of space and degrees of angles. Formulas are introduced and used in each area of geometry to find the necessary information for those shapes and figures.

**GUIDED ALGEBRA 2 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Algebra 2 extends on the solution of linear equations from Algebra and focuses on solutions of quadratic equations. Skills such as factoring, completing squares, using formulas and graphing are involved in Algebra 2, along with the use of complex numbers and relations to graphs.

## SUPPORT SERVICES SCIENCE

**GUIDED SCIENCE (Full year course – 1 credit)**

This course is designed to teach students the concepts of Physical Science. Students learn through reading and by completing experiments in this class. Students focus upon four key elements of science in this class, sounds, machines, electricity, and energy.

# SUPPORT SERVICES ENGLISH

## **Guided English 9 (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Guided English 9 is a complete course in the fundamentals of grammar, usage, and mechanics as well as literature. Students work toward higher level comprehension of material from various genres, while incorporating grammar, vocabulary and paragraph construction in relation to the material provided. Guided English 9 provides a solid approach through an accessible reading level, strong vocabulary instruction, clear learning objectives, and manageable lessons. This course includes current standardized testing applications as well as writing and speaking exercises.

## **Guided Phase IV English (Full year course – 1 credit)**

Guided Phase IV English is a literature course that focuses on improving fluency, comprehension, grammar and written expression. Students are responsible for reading material of various genres that promotes higher level thinking, while meeting the needs of each individual student. Vocabulary, spelling, paragraph construction and grammar concepts are strong components of this course.