

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions



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***Please note that not all classes in this course description book are available every year. Please refer to the yearly course sheet for the current offerings. ***

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Academic Intervention Services (AIS)

Academic Intervention Service (AIS):

AIS is a mandated program designed to help students meet state standards. Any student who is at risk of not meeting standards is enrolled in an AIS course to receive additional instruction and assistance related to the specific subject area. Additionally, any student who has not met state standards either by receiving a level 1 or 2 on the New York State 8th grade assessments or by failing a High School Regents Exam will receive AIS Instruction. Students will be required to receive AIS services in each subject area that they did not achieve state standards or Regents requirements.

According to the Commissioner's Regulations, school districts must provide AIS to identified students no later than the beginning of the semester following a decision that a student needs AIS.

At P.H.S. we have an AIS Committee with members from all departments that meets on a monthly basis. During those meetings students' academic histories are reviewed and appropriate AIS services are assigned when necessary. Classroom teachers can make referrals to the AIS committee when they think a student is at risk of meeting state standards.

AIS Teacher Responsibilities:

The AIS teacher communicates with the classroom teacher and then provides the students with additional practice and assistance with the material currently being taught. Assistance is also provided in the learning standard areas which students have been identified as deficient in. Homework assistance may also be provided, though this is not the focus of the class. Students may also hone organizational skills, practice academic content, and prepare for classroom exams and/or prepare for Regents exams at the appropriate time.

Communication:

Schools are required to send a letter home to parents and guardians to notify them that their child has been enrolled in AIS services. The letter will include all services being received along with the names of instructors. Quarterly progress notes are also sent home attached to school report cards. Parents and guardians should feel free to contact their child's AIS instructor with any questions or concerns.

Exiting AIS:

Students will exit from the program when: teachers and the AIS Committee agree assistance is no longer needed, the student passes the course and is no longer considered at risk, and/or the student passes the necessary Regents Exam.

AIS Classes offered at PHS:

AIS Literacy (for students who have been identified as needing assistance with reading and comprehension), AIS English (9-12), AIS Social Studies (Global History 9/10 and U.S. History), AIS Science (Earth Science, Living Environment, and Chemistry), and AIS Math (Algebra Part 1, Algebra Part 2, Algebra).

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR AIS:

Course Name: AIS Math

Course Number: 252

Credits: None

Target Audience: Students who have failed the Common Core Algebra 1 exam, an Out-of-State Transfer Student needing to pass the Common Core Algebra 1 Exam for graduation, or a score of 1 or 2 on a NYS Math Assessment.

Description: This class provides additional assistance to students in a pull-out format. Class size is usually limited to ten students. The focus of the class is to prepare students to retake the Algebra Regents examination and be successful on it.

Culminating Activity: Students will exit the program upon successful completion of the Integrated Algebra Regents or upon teacher recommendation.

Course Name: AIS Social Studies

Course Number: 255

Credits: None

Target Audience: Students that have failed the NYS Regents Exam for Global History & Geography or the NYS Regents Exam for US History & Government.

Description: This class provides test preparation for students who have not passed exams required for graduation for either Global History & Geography or US History & Government.

Culminating Activity: Students will exit the program upon successful completion of required social studies exams or upon teacher recommendation.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AIS English
Course Number: 260
Credits: None

Target Audience: Students who struggle with ELA skills such as writing and/or students who have taken and failed the Common Core ELA Exam.

Description: This class provides small-group instruction in ELA skills, as well as test preparation for the Common Core ELA Exam.

Culminating Activity: Students will exit the program upon successful completion of the required ELA exam or upon teacher recommendation.

Course Name: AIS Science
Course Number: 265
Credits: None

Target Audience: Students who need assistance with mastering science skills or students who need to re-take a Regents Exam for Earth Science, Living Environment, or Chemistry in order to meet graduation requirements.

Description: AIS Science provides instruction on science skills and test preparation for NYS Regents Exams.

Culminating Activity: Students will exit from the class upon successful completion of the required Science exam and/or upon teacher recommendation.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR ART:

Course Name: Studio Art
Course Number: 904
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Any student who is interested in earning their required humanities credit through art.

Description: Studio art is an introductory foundation art course for students who are interested in developing and improving basic art skills and knowledge of artists, media, techniques, and processes of art. Emphasis is placed on the Elements of Art (Line, Shape, Form, Space, Color, & Texture), as well as the movements and trends in Art History.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam Project.

Course Name: Ceramics I
Course Number: 905
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student who has completed Studio Art and is interested in completing an advanced art elective.

Description: Ceramics is a one-semester, ½ credit, elective art course for students interested in exploring the techniques and methods of hand built and wheel thrown clay forms using the clay forming methods of pinch, slab, coil, and wheel. Students will be introduced to clay preparation, forming methods, surface decoration, underglazing, overglazing, and firing of clay forms.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Drawing and Painting
Course Number: 907
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student who has completed Studio Art and is interested in completing an advanced art elective.

Description: Drawing and Painting is a one-semester, ½ credit, elective art course for students who want to develop or improve drawing skills (with emphasis on drawing from observation using line, value, shape, form, texture, perspective, and proportion) and painting skills in the medium of watercolor, acrylic and oil.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Course Name: Advanced Drawing and Painting
Course Number: 908
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student who has completed Painting and Drawing and is interested in completing an advanced art elective.

Description: Advanced Drawing and Painting is a one-semester, ½ credit, elective art course for students who want to further develop or improve drawing skills using pencil, charcoal, pen, and ink, and painting skills in the medium of watercolor, acrylic and oil.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Business and Technology

Course Name: Yearbook
Course Number: 129
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 10-12 with teacher permission.

Description: In this class, students will work on all aspects of creating the annual yearbook at Plattsburgh High School. These include photography, editing, marketing, sales, graphic design, and writing.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Course Name: MS Office
Course Number: 619
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who would like to learn how to use the different software in the MS Office suite.

Description: Students will learn basic keyboarding skills and will apply these in MS Word, MS Powerpoint, MS Publisher, and MS Excel.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Course Name: Accounting
Course Number: 620
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 10-12 who are interested in learning about accounting practices.

Description: Students will learn about basic book keeping practices using widely used software.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Personal Finance
Course Number: 621
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11-12 who would like to learn how to manage their income.

Description: Students will learn about best practices for managing their personal finances through budget creation, developing long-term financial plans to meet their goals, and making responsible choices about income and expenses.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Final Exam

Course Name: Production Systems
Course Number: 621
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 9-12 who are interested in participating in completing projects made of wood.

Description: This is a project-based instructional setting wherein students will learn basic woodworking skills and learn how to safely use a variety of machines to complete projects.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Principles of Engineering
Course Number: 730
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Student should be enrolled in, or have completed Drawing and Design for Production, Intro to CADD, or Physics, or by teacher recommendation. *9th Graders can take class for Computer Science/Tech classes.

Description: This is a full year introductory engineering course that helps students understand the field of engineering/engineering technology. Students will explore various technology systems and manufacturing processes. Students will explore how engineers and technicians use math, science, and technology in an engineering problem solving process to benefit people. Topics include: careers in engineering, mechanisms, thermodynamics, electrical systems, control systems/automation, statics, engineering materials, aerospace topics. This course is an activity-, problem-, project-based learning experience based on the Project Lead The Way curriculum.

Culminating Activity: Project Lead The Way Final Exam

Course Name: Graphic Design
Course Number: 704
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student in grades 9-12 who enjoys computers and art.

Description: This is a half-year course which examines the major computer graphic concepts at a comprehensive yet introductory level. The course will focus on the principles, equipment, and skills used in the advertising and computer graphic industries through hands-on computer work using Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe Illustrator. Independent projects will allow students to create exciting publications of their own concept and design by combining their art skills with their computer graphic skills.

Culminating Activity: Final Design Portfolio

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Introduction to Computer Science
Course Number: 706
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student in grades 9-12 who is interested in learning more about computers and programming.

Description: This course is design to offer an introduction to computer science. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computation thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems. This course provides a solid foundation for taking AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A. The course is internet-based provided by Edhesive. The instruction is self-driven with substantial coaching provided by the teacher/coach.

Culminating Activity: Semester Exam/Project

Course Name: AP Computer Science Principles
Course Number: 707
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12 who are interested in furthering their understanding of computers and programming.

Description: AP Computer Science Principles introduces students to the central ideas of computer science, instilling the ideas and practices of computational thinking, including creativity, abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, and the internet. Students will develop skills vital to success in subsequent college courses including using computation tools to analyze, visualize, and study data, and effective communication and collaboration. The course is intended to excite students to the possibilities of Computer Science in a variety of career fields. The final assessment consists of the completion of two performance tasks in the classroom, and a 100-minute multiple choice exam administered in May. This course is an activity-, problem-, project-based learning experience based on the Project Lead The Way curriculum.

Culminating Activity: AP Computer Science Principles exam in May; Project Lead The Way final exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AP Computer Science A
Course Number: 708
Credits: 1
(Independent Study)

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12 who are interested in furthering their understanding of computers and programming.

Description: AP Computer Science A introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design methodology and strategies, organization of data (data structures), algorithms, analysis of potential solutions, programming in the Java language, and the ethical and social implications of computing. Students who complete the AP Computer Science A course and exam are well prepared to continue their study of computer science and its integration into a wide array of computing and STEM-related fields. The course is internet-based provided by Edhesive. The instruction is self-driven with some coaching provided by the teacher/coach.

Culminating Activity: AP Computer Science A exam in May

Course Name: Drawing and Design for Production
Course Number: 709
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Any student in grades 9-12 who enjoys using computers and likes problem solving.

Description: The student will learn problem-solving skills, computer analysis, and drafting techniques using a 3-D development process. Models of product solutions are created, analyzed and communicated using solid modeling computer design software. 3-D models or solid renderings of objects are created using Inventor, a powerful 3-dimensional software. This computer-based process replaces traditional board drawing methods while incorporating all the concepts and skills of that process. Students will learn the product design process and how a model of that product is created, analyzed, rendered and produced. This course is an activity-, problem-, project-based learning experience based on the Project Lead The Way curriculum.

Culminating Activity: Project Lead The Way Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: School Store
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student in grades 9-12 who is interested in working in The Hive, the school store at Plattsburgh High School.

Description: Students will learn all of the basic activities involved in running a school store. These will include keeping inventory, daily book keeping, and interacting with customers.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for the English Department:

Course Name: Mythology and Folklore
Course Number: 111
Credits: .50

Target Audience: 11th and 12th Grade.

Description: This course is designed to explore and understand the myths and legends which have been woven into cultures around the world. Starting with an overview of mythology and folklore, students will journey with ancient heroes as they slay dragons and outwit the gods, follow fearless warrior women into battle, and be mesmerized as clever animals outwit humans, and see how the power of love and song can bring back those from the Underworld. The course is designed to have students read, write, analyze, research the significance of myths and folklore, and see how these stories are still used to shape society today.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Course Name: English 9
Course Number: 120
Credits: 1

Target Audience: All students in grade 9.

Description: This is a one-year Regents preparatory course. This course introduces the student to literary analysis and discussion, essay writing, the fundamentals of grammar, and vocabulary development. The literature for this course includes American as well as international literature.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: English 10
Course Number: 117
Credits: 1

Target Audience: All students in grade 10 who have passed English 9.

Description: This course continues the student's instruction in literary analysis and discussion, essay writing, the fundamentals of grammar, and vocabulary development.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: English 11
Course Number: 114
Credits: 1

Target Audience: All students in grade 11 who have passed English 10.

Description: This is a one-year preparatory course for the Common Core ELA exam. The course concentrates on literary analysis and discussion, essay writing, grammar, and vocabulary development. The literature in this course is primarily American.

Culminating Activity: Common Core ELA Exam.

Course Name: AP English Language and Composition
Course Number: 130
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Advanced students in grades 11 and 12 who have passed English 9 and English 10 with an overall average of 85% or above.

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

Culminating Activity: AP English Language and Composition Exam and Common Core ELA Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Creative Writing
Course Number: 106
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 11 and 12.

Description: The emphasis in this course is on student-produced writing. The major types of writing examined during the semester will be the short story, the poem, the character sketch, and the play. Students taking this class share in the evaluation of their work and in the evaluation of their classmates' work. At least one class per week is given to the student for writing. One class per week is also given to reading and maintaining a reading log to examine the work of published authors.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam/Project

Course Name: College Prep English
Course Number: 108
Credits: .5

***Students may be able to earn college credit through CLEP exams. ***

Target Audience: Students in grade 11 and 12.

Description: College Prep English provides practice in college-level reading and writing through weekly assignments, class discussions, and reflections in written and oral form. Reading and writing assignments will vary, but students will write 200-400 words per week. Students will also gain experience with in-class writing. Students also receive targeted lessons in preparation to take the CLEP exam in English Composition which can earn them between three and 6 college credits.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam/Project

Course Name: Public Speaking
Course Number: 107
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Description: The emphasis in this course is on student participation. Students will be required to produce some pieces for speaking and will participate in a variety of communication activities.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Literary Analysis A
Course Number: 125
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Description: This course emphasizes literary analysis and discussion and is designed to teach college-bound seniors active reading skills that will enable them to improve comprehension and analysis of all literary genres.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: AP/CAP English Literature & Composition
Course Number: 131
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Advanced students in grades 11 and 12 who have passed English 9 and English 10 with an overall average of 85% or above.

Description: The CAP/ AP English Literature and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level Literature course. The course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of how writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

Culminating Activity: AP English Literature Exam CAP exam and possible CLEP exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Science Fiction
Course Number: 133
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Description: Students will analyze works of Science Fiction and determine how they address philosophical issues in today's society. This will include literature, non-fiction texts and multi-media works with the subgenres of Science Fiction like Dystopia, Artificial Intelligence, and Alternative History. Students will be able to see the important relationship between scientific progression and the predictions of Science Fiction authors. The course objectives focus on the ability to critically read and/or view and make connections to real world issues, both past and present.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam or Project.

Course Name: Examining Diversity Through Film and Literature
Course Number: 138
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12.

Description: This course is designed to afford students the opportunity to examine diversity through film, readings, presenters, and discussion. The themes addressed in this course are: ability, race, gender, sexual orientation, class and privilege. Students will develop critical analysis skills and will understand the differences between prejudice, stereotype, bias, discrimination, and "isms." Through their interactions, students will understand the power of both groups, and the individual, in creating a just society.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam or Project.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Multicultural Literature
Course Number: 139
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12

Description: Students will analyze literature written by authors of various cultures and subcultures. Works include novels, spoken word poetry, non-fiction texts, and multi-media pieces. Through these texts, students will explore literary movements of different groups around the world. As students are exposed to various perspectives, they will work toward analyzing the impact of these literary movements in an increasingly globalized world.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam or Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Foreign Languages:

Course Name: French I

Course Number: 300

Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students in grades 9-12.

Description: French I is an introductory course designed to develop in students the knowledge, understanding and skills involved in learning French. It is the first year of a five-year French Language sequence. Although it is usually offered at the ninth-grade level, the course is open to all grade levels. The course covers the development of the four skills in foreign language learning: listening, reading, speaking and writing with an emphasis on oral skills. Audiovisual materials supplement the basic text and provide cultural insights and information.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: French II

Course Number: 301

Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed French I.

Description: French II is an intermediate course which continues practice in the language skills acquired in the first level and emphasizes these special objectives: oral competence, development of reading skills, the continuation of a formal study of grammar, progressive skill in writing, and the nurturing of cultural awareness. This course is usually taken at the ninth-grade level but is open to any grade level. No student may enroll in French II without passing French I except with permission of the instructor.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: French III
Course Number: 302
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed French II.

Description: French III is an advanced course designed to continue the development of the student's skills in French. It culminates with a Local exam. The goals for this level include writing of simple compositions and letters, reading a variety of texts and speaking in everyday situations. This course is usually taken in the tenth grade by the majority of students but is open to any grade level. Students who successfully complete this course will be granted 3 NYS Regents credits in French.

Culminating Activity: Local Exam

Course Name: French IV
Course Number: 303
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed French III and the Local Exam.

Description: French IV is an advanced course designed to continue the development of the student's skills in French. This course continues to build fluency in speaking and writing. Cultural projects involve listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: French V
Course Number: 312
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed French IV.

Description: French V is an advanced class for students who have successfully completed four years of high school French. The class prepares students for intermediate levels of college French. Students may work on cultural projects, read works of literature, or watch feature films. Advanced grammar is introduced as it relates to the instructional materials. Students are graded on communicative skills in speaking and writing.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Spanish I
Course Number: 304
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students in grades 9-12.

Description: Spanish I is an introductory course designed to develop in students the knowledge, understanding and skills involved in learning Spanish. It is the first year of a five-year Spanish Language sequence. Although it is usually offered at the ninth-grade level, the course is open to all grade levels. The course covers the development of the four skills in foreign language learning: listening, reading, speaking and writing with an emphasis on oral skills. Audiovisual materials supplement the basic text and provide cultural insights and information.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: Spanish II
Course Number: 305
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed Spanish I.

Description: This is an intermediate course which continues practice in the language skills acquired in the first level and emphasizes these special objectives: oral competence, development of reading skills, the continuation of a formal study of grammar, progressive skill in writing, and the nurturing of cultural awareness. No student may enroll in Spanish II without having passed Spanish I or without the permission of the instructor.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: Spanish III
Course Number: 306
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed Spanish II.

Description: Spanish III is an advanced course designed to continue the development of the student's skills in Spanish and it culminates with a Regents' exam. The goals for this level include writing of simple compositions and letters, reading a variety of texts, and speaking in everyday situations.

Culminating Activity: Local Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Spanish IV
Course Number: 307
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed Spanish III and passed the local exam.

Description: Spanish IV is an advanced course designed to continue the student's skills in Spanish and broaden their cross-cultural experience. It includes reading selected excerpts of Spanish and Latin American literature, the study of Latin American history, and continues to build fluency in speaking and writing. Several projects and essays require students to use Spanish as they examine cultural differences.

Culminating Activity: Project and Final Exam

Course Name: Spanish V
Course Number: 313
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed Spanish IV.

Description: Spanish V is an advanced class for students who have successfully completed four years of high school Spanish. The class prepares students for intermediate levels of college Spanish. Students may work on cultural projects, read works of literature, or watch feature films. Advanced grammar is introduced as it relates to the instructional materials. Students are graded on communicative skills in writing and speaking.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: German I
Course Number: 310
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students in grades 9-12.

Description: German I is an introductory course designed to develop in students the knowledge, understanding, and skills involved in learning German. It is the first year of a four-year German Language sequence and is open to any student in grades 9-12. Students can expect to learn basic expressions organized around topic such as home, school, leisure activities, clothing, calendar, weather, shopping, etc. Conversational skills are practiced regularly as well as beginning grammar and reading comprehension. Students who enroll in German I should also expect to study history, geography, and culture. All students planning to participate in the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) exchange must enroll and successfully complete this course.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: German II
Course Number: 309
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed German I.

Description: German II is an intermediate course which continues practice in the language skills acquired in the first level and emphasizes these objectives: oral competence, development of reading skills, and the continuation of a formal study of grammar, progressive skill in writing, and the nurturing of cultural awareness.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: German III
Course Number: 311
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students who have successfully completed German II.

Description: German III is an advanced course designed to continue the development of the student's skills in German. The goals for this level include writing of simple compositions and letters, reading a variety of texts, and speaking in everyday situations.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Farsi I
Course Number: 315
Credits: 1

Targeted Audience: Students in grades 9-12.

Description: This course is designed to provide the students the skills necessary to learn Farsi at the high school level. It aims to help students read and understand simple sentences and to write simple responses to oral or written questions. Listening and speaking which support the reading skills are also very important in this course. Students can recognize and comprehend simple spoken statements or questions. They can articulate simple Persian phrases and convey meaning in controlled situations. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate proficiency in Level 1 Farsi language skills as well as an in-depth understanding and appreciation of Iranian and Middle Eastern culture.

Culminating Activity: Project and Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Mathematics

Course Name: Algebra Part 1

Course Number: 430

Credits: 1

***Note: This course will not be offered after 2021-2022 school year. ***

Target Audience: Students must have a score of less than a 2 on the Math 8 assessment, passing grade for 15:1 Algebra, or a math teacher recommendation.

Description: This course is the first year of a two-year Algebra I course that addresses the current New York State standards for Mathematics. Student learning will emphasize a deeper understanding of few topics in order to gain greater skill and fluency of concepts within the curriculum. Major emphasis will be placed on foundations of algebra, solving equations and inequalities, function notation, linear equations and inequalities, as well as systems of equations and inequalities.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Course Name: Algebra Part II

Course Number: 433

Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 10 who have successfully completed Algebra Part I.

Description: This course is the second half of the Algebra I curriculum. It will provide students with the remaining skills and concepts of the Algebra I course that will prepare students for the State Regents exam. Topics will include exponents and exponential functions, quadratic functions and equations, radical expressions and equations, as well as data analysis.

Culminating Activity: Common Core Algebra I Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Algebra I
Course Number: 440
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students must have a score of 2 or higher on the Math 8 Assessment or math teacher recommendation.

Description: This one-year course addresses the current NYS standards for Algebra and meets 1.5 periods per day. At the Algebra I level, each topic will reach the design principles of focus, coherence, fluency, deep understanding, application, and dual intensity. Major emphasis on functions, including but not limited to Linear, Absolute Value, Quadratic, and Exponential. Algebra skills and practice related to simplifying, factoring, and solving equation. All types of algebraic expressions including but not limited to polynomial, radical, and rational expressions will be presented throughout the curriculum. Finally, the application of statistical data and its relation to algebraic expressions and expressions including line of best fit, regression, and statistical plots.

Culminating Activity: Common Core Algebra I Exam.

Course Name: Hands on Geometry
Course Number: 464
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students must have successfully passed Algebra I (course 440) or Algebra Part II (course 433) and have a teacher recommendation.

Description: Hands on Geometry is a way to explore the content of Geometry in a tactile and applicable way. Students will create scale models, art, clinometers, constructions, and more! This is a fantastic way to learn the Geometry curriculum without a regents exam. Have fun with math and learn along the way!

Culminating Activity: Final Examination and/or Project.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Geometry
Course Number: 463
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students who have successfully passed Algebra I or Algebra Part II, passed the Regents Algebra I Exam, and have a math teacher recommendation.

Description: Students will focus on Euclidean Geometry and expand their prior geometrical education from elementary and middle school by using precise definitions and developing proofs. Concepts include congruence, similarity, right triangles, trigonometry, circles, expressing geometric properties with equations, geometric measurement and dimension, modeling geometry, and mathematical practices. The algebra of geometric relationships is taught using the properties of congruence and similarity, parallel and perpendicular, quadrilaterals, calculation of angles/ lengths of the chords formed by the various line segments associated with a circle, interior and exterior angles of a polygon, and the calculation of lateral surface area and volume of cylinders, spheres, right circular cones, and regular pyramids. Coordinate geometry is taught using the midpoint and distance formula along with many transformations on the coordinate plane.

Culminating Activity: NYS Geometry Regents Exam.

Course Name: Algebra II
Course Number: 465
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students must have successfully passed Algebra I AND Geometry courses, along with the Regents exams for both courses.

Description: More advanced study of topics covered in Algebra I with an extensive curriculum that will require a fast and difficult-paced math course. Content covered includes polynomials, negative/fractional exponents, rational/irrational expressions, complex numbers, absolute value equations, systems of equations with three variables, logarithms, radical equations, arithmetic/geometric series and sequences, functions, inverses, composition of functions, statistical analysis based off of real life situations and simulations, six trigonometric ratios, sketching of the trig functions, as well as discussions of amplitude, period, and frequency.

Culminating Activity: Common Core Algebra II Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: CAP Pre-Calculus
Course Number: 472
Credits: 1

Students may also earn college credit through Clinton Community College if they qualify to do so

Target Audience: Students who have successfully passed Algebra II and the NYS Algebra II Regents Exam. Students also require a math teacher recommendation.

Description: This course is designed to prepare students for calculus and technical courses. Course topics include exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; trigonometric identities and equations, oblique triangles; polar coordinates; conic sections. If time permits, financial applications and calculus topics will be covered. The use of a graphing calculator is required for this course to further the exploration of these topics and their applications.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: Calculus I
Course Number: 475
Credits: 1

Students may also earn college credit through Clinton Community College if they qualify to do so.

Target Audience: Students who have successfully completed Pre-Calculus and have the recommendation of a math teacher.

Description: Calculus is a senior elective for college bound students wishing to pursue higher mathematics. Topics covered are limits, rate of change of a function, formal differentiation and application, integration and application of the definite integration.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam, AP Exam, and/or CAP Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: College Prep Math I
Course Number: 480
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students must have passed Non-Regents Geometry or are seniors needing a 3rd credit to graduate.

Description: This course covers basic algebraic skills essential to the study mathematics. It will prepare students to take their first math course in college and strengthen and expand on the skills learned in Algebra I. Students wanting to take College Prep Math II next year for college credit will also be prepared to take the Clinton Community College placement exams. Course topics include linear expressions, functions, exponents, sequences of numbers, rational and radical expressions and equations; and graphing on the coordinate plane. Applications to various fields of study will be explored.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Course Name: College Prep Math II
Course Number: 481
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students must have successfully passed College Prep Math I or Regents Geometry and have a math teacher recommendation.

Description: This course emphasizes mathematical skills and techniques applicable to business, life sciences, and social sciences. Course topics include linear functions, quadratic functions, mathematics of finance, systems of equations, matrices, linear programming, set theory, basic probability, and combinatorics.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Hands on Stats
Course Number: 482
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students must have successfully obtained two high school math credits and have passed the NYS Algebra I Regents Exam.

Description: Hands on Statistics and Probability is a way to explore the mathematical realm of Statistics and Probability in a real world and project-based approach. Topics covered include regression analysis, probability and combinatorics and statistics. Students will participate in real world application of statistics through the analyzing real world data, lotto, birthday's, the stock market and more! Have fun with math and learn along the way!

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Course Name: AP Statistics
Course Number: 484
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students who have successfully passed, or are currently co-enrolled in, Algebra II or who have successfully passed College Prep Math II.

Description: This AP course in statistics will teach students to react intelligently to the many statistical claims that dominate our world on a daily basis and will provide them with the tool necessary to distinguish valid information from faulty information. Students will be introduced to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Four major conceptual themes are taught, including exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have the opportunity to complete a comprehensive AP final exam and may earn college credits.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam and/or AP Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Financial Applications
Course Number: 485
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students who have successfully passed Algebra and Geometry or Non-Regents Geometry.

Description: Financial Applications is an algebra-based, applications-oriented, technology dependent course that requires Algebra 1 and Geometry as a prerequisite. The course addresses college preparatory mathematics topics from Advanced Algebra, Statistics, Probability, Precalculus, and Calculus under seven financial umbrellas: Banking, Investing and Modeling a Business, Employment and Income Taxes, Automobile Ownership, Independent Living, and Retirement Planning and Household Budgeting. Students use a variety of problem-solving skills and strategies in real-world contexts. The mathematics topics contained in this course are introduced, developed, and applied in an as-needed format in the financial settings covered.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam/Final Project

Course Name: Visual Mathematics and Problem Solving
Course Number: 483
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students must have successfully obtained two high school math credits and have passed the NYS Algebra I Regents Exam.

Description: Visual Mathematics and Problem Solving will take students on a journey through math using games, discussion, and written reflection. Assessment will not focus on getting the right answer but on the process and discovery of any answer. Students should be prepared for written and oral discussion of topics covered. Attendance will be crucial to a student's success in the course. The course is meant to shift any student's mindset into believing they are capable of learning any type of math, no matter their previous experiences or knowledge.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: S.T.E.A.M
Course Number: 486
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students must have passed the Algebra I Regents exam and completed the survey that goes along with taking the course.

Description: S.T.E.A.M. will be a project-based course using the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics as a conduit of student inquiry, exploration, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Projects will be designed specifically for each class. This course is for anyone desiring connections across multiple subject areas, something tailored to their interests and curiosities, who is seeking to be challenged and have some fun in the process. This course will focus on intellectual growth without relying on traditional testing. Students should be prepared for written reflection, group discussions, and presentations of topics covered.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Music:

Course Name: Band

Course Number: 950

Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who have experience playing a wind or percussion instrument or a desire to play a wind or percussion instrument and perform in an ensemble.

Course Description: Students enrolled in band meet daily for band class. Participants will study music theory and music history as it relates to the music that is being prepared and performed by the class. In addition, band students meet for one class period once a week for a group lesson. In the group lesson students will have the opportunity to learn specific techniques that apply to their instrument. There are 4 concerts per year, which take place on school nights. Students will receive ‘Satisfactory’ or ‘Unsatisfactory’ at each ten-week marking period as well as a written progress report.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam or Project

Course Name: Chorus

Course Number: 951

Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who have previous experience singing or a desire to learn how to sing in an ensemble.

Course Description: Students enrolled in chorus meet daily for chorus class. Participants will study music theory, improve sight-reading skills, and apply music history knowledge to the pieces they are preparing for performance. In addition, chorus students meet for one class period once a week for a group lesson. There are 3 or 4 concerts per year, which take place on school nights. Students will receive ‘Satisfactory’ or ‘Unsatisfactory’ at each ten-week marking period as well as a written progress report.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam or Project.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Orchestra
Course Number: 960
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who have experience playing a stringed instrument.

Course Description: Students enrolled in orchestra meet daily for orchestra class. In addition, orchestra students meet for one class period once a week for a group lesson. There are 3 concerts per year, which take place on school nights. Students will receive ‘Satisfactory’ or ‘Unsatisfactory’ at each ten-week marking period as well as a written progress report.

Culminating Activity: Final exam or Project.

Students who are interested in participating in more than one musical group may take the following courses for a full credit:

- **Course 957: Band/Chorus**
 - **Course 961: Orchestra/Chorus**
 - **Course 962: Band/Orchestra**
 - **Course 963: Band/Chorus/Orchestra**
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Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Jazz Ensemble
Course Number: 954
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who play the saxophone, trombone, trumpet, percussion, bass, guitar, and piano at the intermediate or advanced level and have advanced music reading and performance skills. Students must also be co-enrolled in one of the courses described above.

Course Description: The class is a select (approximately 20-25 students) music performance class designed to provide the opportunity for qualified musicians to learn classic and contemporary jazz, jazz-rock, rock, and Latin music in a traditional “big band” (saxophone, trombone, trumpet, and rhythm sections) setting. Participants will study the performance practices necessary to successfully play a broad repertoire of music. They will learn the jazz/music theory necessary to solo improvise in varied styles. All participants will improvise in class. Selected students will have the opportunity to solo improvise with the ensemble in performance. Participants will be exposed to the history of jazz, as it applies to the music they are performing. There are three in-house concerts per year, which take place on a school night. There are several other additional performances, which take place throughout the community and region. Students are expected to participate in all performances. They will receive “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory” at the ten-week marking periods.

Culminating Activity: Formal Evaluation.

Course Name: Music Theory
Course Number: 958
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 with past experience in band, chorus, and/or orchestra.

Course Description: Music Theory students will learn the basic musical language of music and use this understanding as a basis for musical composition. Studies will include note reading, rhythmic reading, musical notation, harmonic analysis and part writing. Students will also obtain and practice ear-training skills (which will help improve performance in their ensemble) and acquire skills required sight-reading musical literature successfully. Throughout the year, students will compose (using music notation software) and conduct their own musical creations.

Culminating Activity: Teacher guided/student created composition. Some students may also choose to take the AP Music Theory exam in May.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Introductory Piano
Course Number: 965
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who have not taken a music class. Students may not be co-enrolled in a performing ensemble music course that is listed above.

Course Description: This course covers music topics at a very basic and beginner level for students who would like to learn how to play the piano. Students will learn basic technique and music reading in addition to basic improvisation, ensemble playing, and lead sheet reading.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam, Project, or Evaluation.

Course Name: Rock and Roll Guitar
Course Number: 966
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who have a desire to study the current state of rock and roll music, its roots, and basic guitar skills.

Course Description: This class focuses on the current state of rock and roll music, examines its roots and the events that have led to, and inspired, the genres of popular music that we listen to today. The class is a student-centered, media-based experience that utilizes video and audio recordings for analysis and discussion. Students will also learn basic guitar skills and implement this knowledge into performance of rock songs.

Culminating Activity: Final Project.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Physical Education and Health

Course Name: Health

Course Number: 510

Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11-12 who must satisfy the graduation requirement.

Course Description: Health is a mandated course designed to foster positive attitudes, awareness, and knowledge intended to enhance personal health and quality of living. This class provides opportunities to acquire experiences and skills to encourage students to engage in healthy behaviors through exposure to speakers, projects, interactive activities and visual aids. The curriculum includes human growth and development, emotional health, nutrition, environmental health, family life, diseases and disorders, consumer health, substance abuse, safety, first aid and community health. Health literacy is to obtain, interpret, and understand health information and related services in a custom which are health enhancing.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Course Name: Physical Education

Course Number: 921 (Fall Semester)

922 (Spring Semester)

Credits: .25 (per semester)

Target Audience: All students in grades 9-12.

Course Description: This class is offered every other day and covers a range of team sports and personal fitness activities.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Leadership in Sport
Course Number: 935
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who are aspiring coaches, future physical education teachers, or sports and recreation enthusiasts.

Course Description: Topics covered in this course will include coaching principles and leadership models, outdoor education, non-traditional sports, sports administration, contemporary issues in sport and physical education, and amateurism in international and collegiate sports. Students will be taught through a mix of classroom and experiential education techniques.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Science:

Course Name: Earth Science

Course Number: 509

Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 9.

Course Description: The overall objective of this course is to develop an understanding in the four major areas of specialization in earth science. These are the following: 1) Astronomy: the study of cosmic objects or objects in the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere. 2) Meteorology: the study of weather and the forces and processes that cause it. 3) Geology: The study of Earth, its materials, and the processes that form and change it. 4) Oceanography: The study of Earth's oceans.

Culminating Activity: Earth Science Regents Exam.

Course Name: Living Environment

Course Number: 505

Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 10.

Course Description: Living Environment is the study of living things and life processes, including growth, structure, reproduction, genetics, ecology, and evolution. This course is designed to provide students with a background in life sciences with which they will be able to: 1. Interpret more effectively the increasing amount of scientific information being disseminated by the mass media. 2. Develop an increased awareness of the consequences that can result from the ways we interact with our environment. 3. Consider career opportunities that are evolving as a result of accelerating technological advances.

Culminating Activity: Living Environment Regents Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Living Environment Honors
Course Number: 516
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students who completed Earth Science in the 8th grade or students who received an 85% or higher on the Earth Science Regents.

Course Description: This course covers the same material as Living Environment, but students are provided greater depth in their instruction.

Culminating Activity: Living Environment Regents Exam.

Course Name: AP Biology
Course Number: 514
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who have successfully completed Living Environment or Living Environment Honors.

Course Description: The course is equivalent to a first-year college biology course. Specific areas covered are more diverse and covered in much greater depth than those in Living Environment.

Culminating Activity: AP Biology Exam.

Course Name: Regents Chemistry
Course Number: 502
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students who have successfully completed Earth Science and Living Environment, as well as Algebra I.

Course Description: The core curriculum for regents chemistry is designed as an introduction to chemistry for all students. Topics include but are not limited to; organic chemistry, atomic structure, states of matter and laboratory activities.

Culminating Activity: Regents Chemistry Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AP Chemistry
Course Number: 504
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 10-12 who have successfully completed Earth Science and Living Environment, as well as Algebra I. Students should be enrolled in Algebra II or a higher math.

Course Description: The course is equivalent to a first-year college chemistry course. Specific areas covered are more diverse and covered in much greater depth than those in Regents Chemistry.

Culminating Activity: AP Chemistry Exam.

Course Name: Forensics A
Course Number: 521
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12 who have successfully completed a science course and a science Regents exam who are interested in learning about this criminal science.

Course Description: This course teaches students a variety of techniques used to solve crimes and is taught through an experiential learning approach.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Course Name: Forensics B
Course Number: 522
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12 who have successfully completed a science course and a science Regents exam who are interested in learning about this criminal science.

Course Description: This course teaches students a variety of techniques used to solve crimes and is taught through an experiential learning approach.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Environmental Science A
Course Number: 530
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12 who have successfully completed a science course and a science Regents exam who are interested in learning about environmental science.

Course Description: Students in this course will learn about ecology and the impacts of our decisions on the environment.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Course Name: Environmental Science B
Course Number: 531
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12 who have successfully completed a science course and a science Regents exam who are interested in learning about environmental science.

Course Description: Students in this course will learn about ecology and the impacts of our decisions on the environment.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Course Name: AP Environmental Science
Course Number: 538
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 10-12 who have successfully completed Earth Science and Living Environment.

Course Description: The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.

Culminating Activity: AP Environmental Science Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Regents Physics
Course Number: 500
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Typically, students 11-12 to satisfy the Physical Setting science requirement.

Prerequisites: Math Geometry with a Regents grade of 75 or higher

Co-Requisite: Students should be enrolled in or have already completed/passed Math Trigonometry.

Description: Physics is the branch of science that studies the physical world, matter and energy and their relationships. Major areas of study include: motion, electricity, optics, and modern physics.

Class Time: Class meets every day with an additional lab period every other day.

Culminating Activity: Students will complete Regents exam in June as their final exam.

Course Name: AP Physics I
Course Number: 550
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Any student interested in pursuing a college level science course in high school. Any college bound student should consider taking AP Physics. Any student intending to pursue science or science related fields in college especially should consider taking AP Physics 1.

Pre-Requisite: Math Geometry

Co-Requisite: Students should be enrolled in, or have already completed/passed Math Trigonometry.

Description: This is a one-year, non-calculus, survey course in physics. Major areas of study include: motion, internal energy, sound and electricity. The course is at a higher mathematical level and goes deeper into physics than the regent's physics course. Classes meet every day for two periods.

College Credit: Students will take a single AP exam in May allowing them to be eligible for 4 college credits.

Regents Exam: Students will complete Regents exam in June as their final exam.

Culminating Activity: Physics Regents Exam and/or AP Physics Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AP Physics C: Mechanics
Course Number: 553
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11-12 who have completed math trigonometry and AP Physics 1.

Course Description: The Physics C: Mechanics course is equivalent to a one-semester, calculus-based, college-level physics course. It is especially appropriate for students planning to specialize or major in physical science or engineering. AP Physics C is offered as a full credit science class meeting every other day for one period. The course will heavily depend on your prior knowledge of physics and is designed as a continuation of physics. This will not be a lab class; class time will focus on working through problems within the AP Physics C course and incorporating calculus. Depending on the year this course may only be offered as independent study.

Culminating Activity: AP Physics C: Mechanics Exam

Course Name: AP Physics II
Course Number: 554
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students having completed or concurrently enrolled in AP Physics 1 with an interest and aptitude in continuing their education in physics. This class should only be considered if you are already proficient in science and have an interest in physics or physics related fields (engineering, computer science, etc), or intend to pursue other sciences in post-secondary education.

Pre-Requisite: Math Trigonometry

Co-Requisite: Must be enrolled in AP Physics 1 or have already completed it

Description: This class covers the topics of Electricity, Electromagnetic Induction, Fluid Physics, Thermodynamics, Optics, and Modern Physics. The rigor and intensity of this course is similar to that of AP Physics 1.

College Credit: Students will take an AP exam in May allowing them to be eligible for 4 college credits.

Culminating Activity: AP Physics Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Robotics I
Course Number: 555A
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 9-12 are eligible for this class, though 9th and 10th are the target.

Description: The makerspace—sometimes referred to as a hackerspace—is often associated with fields such as engineering, computer science, and graphic design. Students will gain hands on experience in 3D Design and 3D Printing, Computer Programming, Robotics, Micro-Controllers (Arduino) and sensors, as well as a basic introduction to machining using a CNC mill & laser. Students do not need any prior technical engineering experience, though students interested in this class should be proficient in using computers and be willing to participate in the creative process. At its heart this course is a makerspace with a focus on robotics.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Course Name: Robotics II
Course Number: 555B
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12 who have successfully completed Introduction to Robotics and are interested in learning more about robotics.

Course Description: To begin this course, students will build on their knowledge of robotics and create an autonomous robotic vehicle from the ground up. This process, which will include the design, manufacturing, and programming of their vehicles. Autonomy includes, but is not limited to, obstacle avoidance, line following, Bluetooth control, and plenty more. As the semester progresses students will work in small teams to undergo various robotics challenges.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Course Name: The Big Questions in Physics
Course Number: 529
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student whom has successfully completed any physics course at PHS.

Description: The goal of this course is simple: To tap in to what excites physicists (and future physicists!) through addressing some of the biggest questions in physics today. Modern advancements in technology and theory coupled with fundamental physics theory we are faced some pressing questions of the universe. Is the Universe infinite? Are there parallel universes? Do aliens exist? We will explore such topics as the big bang theory, time travel, relativity, extraterrestrial life, gravitational waves, and string theory.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Science Olympiad 2020
Course Number: 5154
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student passionate in STEM related content and who has shown prior aptitude in STEM courses.

Pre-Requisite: Students must complete an application to join the Science Olympiad team. Applications for current 9-12 graders are available in the spring.

Description: Science Olympiad (Scioly) is an exciting team science competition. Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 events. Teams of up to 15 students participate in potentially a series of competitions. Every year, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering technology and astronomy. Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on, group participation, making teamwork a required skill.

Culminating Activity: Science Olympiad Competitions.

Course Name: Astronomy
Course Number: 557
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 11-12 who have successfully completed Earth Science and Living Environment.

Course Description: This course will allow students to explore scientific phenomena in space. We will be researching the history of planets, how stars form, what makes the night sky move, what is our nation's space exploration history, and its relevance to where the United States plans to explore in the future. This class will be project-based. Students will be encouraged to learn through showing different ways of broadcasting what they learn. Trips to the North Country Planetarium at SUNY Plattsburgh will be planned so students can experience the night sky in a way that they may not otherwise be able to experience.

Culminating Activity: Final Project.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Science Research, Service, and Inquiry
Course Number: 533
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12

Course Description: Students will have the opportunity to engage in authentic science research, inquiry-based problem-solving activities and/or science service learning opportunities. Students will use their creativity and problem-solving skills, develop independent study skills, and collaborate with others about STEM related topics. Students will explore their interests, engage in writing and public speaking, work on time-management skills, and participate in interesting projects and presentations. Students will also have opportunities to communicate their science knowledge with other students and educators.

Culminating Activity: Project, presentation, or service activity

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Social Studies

Course Name: Global History 9
Course Number: 213
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 9.

Course Description: This course provides students with the opportunity to explore what happened in different geographical regions and civilizations from 10,000 BCE to 1750 CE. In addition, students will be able to investigate issues and themes from multiple perspectives and make global connections and linkages that lead to in-depth understanding.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Course Name: Global History 10
Course Number: 210
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 10.

Course Description: This course provides students with the opportunity to explore what happened in different geographical regions and civilizations from 1750 CE to the present. In addition, students will be able to investigate issues and themes from multiple perspectives and make global connections and linkages that lead to in-depth understanding. Special emphasis will be given to critical reading and writing skills in preparation for the Common Core exam given at the end of the course.

Culminating Activity: Common Core Global History Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AP World History
Course Number: 232
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 10. This course can be taken in place of Global History 10.

Course Description: AP World History is taught at the college level. It incorporates interpretive skills, analytical thought, and complex concepts in the study of world history by examining the politics, geography, culture, and economics of various time periods. This curriculum provides students with the opportunity to explore what is happening in various regions and civilizations. In addition, it enables students to investigate issues and themes from multiple perspectives and to make global connections leading to a greater depth of understanding.

Culminating Activity: AP Exam in May and Common Core Global History Exam in June.

Course Name: US History
Course Number: 207
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 11.

Course Description: Regents United States History & Government is designed to focus on the NY social studies standards, common themes, and historical eras. Throughout this course students will be introduced to various social, political, economic, and cultural changes that the United States has undergone since its early development. Students will learn about the basic constitutional principles and values that our founding fathers established and how these ideologies have been tested throughout the course of American history.

Culminating Activity: Regents Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AP US History
Course Number: 235
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grade 11.

Course Description: AP United States History is designed and taught at a level parallel to 4-year undergraduate colleges and universities, employing a textbook endorsed by the College Board. It incorporates analytical thought, research, complex concepts in history, political science, geography, cultural sciences and economics, as well as, major interpretive processes and foundational knowledge. The course will trace major themes throughout the year emphasizing the ways in which United States history is interconnected, complex, and dynamic. These themes include: *American Diversity, American Identity, Culture, Demographic Changes, Economic Transformations, Environment, Globalization, Politics and Citizenship, Reform, Religion, Slavery and Its Legacies in North America, and War and Diplomacy.*

Culminating Activity: AP US History Exam in May and Regents US History Exam in June.

Course Name: Participation in Government
Course Number: 204
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Course Description: Participation in Government is an introduction to government as a distinct discipline of study and examines the processes of American local, state and national politics. Political theory will be studied, analyzed and integrated with actual field experiences required to provide practical knowledge and application. This course aims to enhance self-government, through the development of knowledgeable, committed, capable and active citizens.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AP US Government
Course Number: 208
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Course Description: AP United States Government is designed and taught at a level parallel to 4-year undergraduate colleges and universities, employing a textbook endorsed by the College Board. It incorporates interpretive skills, analytical thought, and complex concepts in the study of U.S. government and politics. A theoretical analysis of key concepts from early U.S. history is salient to appreciate and apply core philosophical and ideological traditions to later studies. Building extensive knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and its interpretations enables students to evaluate notions of shared government and citizenship as key democratic foundations. Investigation of political processes and behaviors are juxtaposed in a contemporary and historical context and demonstrates the complex nature, operations, and interconnectedness of individuals, groups, and institutions contributing to government decision-making.

Culminating Activity: AP Exam.

Course Name: Economics
Course Number: 205
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Course Description: Economics is the study of how individuals, businesses, and governments make decisions about the use of scarce resources in a world of unlimited wants and needs. This is done at both the microeconomic and macroeconomic level, both of which will be examined in detail. At the microeconomic level, students will investigate the smaller units of the economy and individual firms and markets. In macroeconomics, students will study the global economy and economics of nations and governments as they try to foster growth and stability.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics
Course Number: 206 and 209
Credits: .5 each (1 when taken together)

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Course Description: AP Economics is designed and taught at a level parallel to 4-year undergraduate colleges and universities, employing a textbook endorsed by the College Board. It incorporates interpretive skills, analytical thought, and complex concepts in the study of economics. Economic literacy in microeconomics is the foundation for this course, as students understand and evaluate the market economy. Within a market economy, students learn advanced analysis in supply and demand to examine various roles between consumers, producers, and governments.

Culminating Activity: AP Exams (2) for Microeconomics and Macroeconomics.

Course Name: AP Psychology
Course Number: 226
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Students in grades 11 and 12.

Course Description: AP Psychology is designed and taught at a level parallel to 4-year undergraduate colleges and universities, employing a textbook endorsed by the College Board. The course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Culminating Activity: AP Exam.

Course Name: World War Two
Course Number: 217
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grade 12.

Course Description: World War II traces the events that took place beginning with 1919 through 1938 (the rise of dictators) and through the war years (1935 – 1945). The events and leaders of this period will be studied through visual and audiovisual means, as well as traditional readings and maps. It may seem like “ancient” history for high school age students, but much of the world in which PHS students live was largely impacted by the force of that upheaval.

Culminating Activity: Final Project and Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Sociology
Course Number: 202
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Students in grades 9-12.

Course Description: Sociology introduces students to the study of social behavior and the interaction of contemporary peoples. Particular emphasis is given to age and gender roles, marriage and family, criminology and delinquency, and modern society's problems and social issues.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam.

Course Name: America in the 60s
Course Number: 221
Credits: .5

Target Audience: 11th and 12th graders. Exceptions could be considered for strong 10th grade students with Social Studies Teacher recommendation.

Course Description: Welcome to “America in the 1960s.” Our class will be looking at one of the most tumultuous decades in American history. We will learn about the Kennedy Years, the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Nationalism Movement, the Women’s Liberation Movement, and the culture of the 1960s in general. Our study will include skills as well as content-based study goals. The class will use a myriad of sources to accomplish our goal of becoming good historians or students of the past. This will include the use of text-based sources, primary sources, secondary sources, historiographies (an analysis of the interpretations of a specific topic written by past historians), movies, art, music, the internet and any other portal into the past that we can find.

Culminating Activity: Final Project
