

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 catalogue 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.

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), AIS Regents Math, AIS Math (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2).

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR AIS:

Course Name: AIS Algebra 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.

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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

Course Name: AIS Literacy
Course Number: 812
Credits: None

Target Audience: Students transitioning back to core ELA classes from Ci3T. Students who have completed a strategic level ci3t course but still need assistance and support with content area literacy skills.

Description: AIS Literacy is a class designed to provide students with techniques and strategies to improve their reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

Culminating Activity: Students can exit this course when a majority of their teachers provide recommendations stating that the student is being successful in class and the service is no longer necessary.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name:	Ci3T CRDcode/Ess Write to English
Course Number:	811
Credits:	None

Target Audience: Students who have completed Language! through book C but still have fluency scores below the 10th percentile for multiple benchmark assessment periods.

Description: “Corrective Reading Decoding”:

The Decoding program focuses on word attack skills and include isolated sound/word practice, group reading activities to develop accuracy and oral reading fluency, workbook exercises, and opportunities to enrich reading with chapter books aligned with program levels.

“Essentials for Writing”:

Essentials for Writing is a research based direct instruction program with appropriately scaffolded lessons that prepare students to produce work that contains well-developed and pertinent ideas, supporting examples, and appropriate detail.

- Lessons target the skills, strategies, and knowledge students need to be successful.
- Outline diagrams set specific goals to help students focus on particular aspects of their writing.
- Grammar, language use, and mechanics are woven throughout the program to provide long-term benefits to students’ writing abilities.

Culminating Activity: When students complete this paired program their EasyCBM score will be reviewed to determine if they should return to Language! Or transition into core ELA classes with possible AIS Literacy Support.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Ci3T “Language!”
Course Number: 800
Credits: None

Target Audience: Any student whose overall risk rating is high on the EasyCBM benchmarks. This indicates a lack of foundational reading skills. A placement test is given to ensure entry point.

Description: Language! is a core replacement English Language Arts program. It is a researched based comprehensive program that provides direct instruction in six important areas of language arts: phonemic awareness and phonics, word recognition and spelling, vocabulary and morphology, grammar and usage, listening and reading comprehension, and speaking and writing.

Culminating Activity: Students can exit Language! When they have completed the program sequence (Book A or alternative entry point through E) or have met benchmark testing criteria for two consecutive testing periods. After exiting Language! students may be recommended to take AIS Literacy to support their transition back to core ELA classes.

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.

Pre-requisites: None

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: Digital Portfolio

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

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

Pre-requisites: Studio Art

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 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: Digital Portfolio

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: CAP Painting

Course Number: 907

Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student who has completed Studio Art and is interested in completing an advanced art elective where college credit through Clinton Community College is offered.

Pre-requisites: Studio Art

Description: CAP Painting is a spring semester, ½ credit, elective art course for students who want to develop or improve painting skills in watercolor and acrylic with an emphasis on line, value, shape, form, texture, perspective, and proportion.

Culminating Activity: Digital Portfolio

Course Name: CAP Drawing

Course Number: 915

Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any student who has completed Studio Art and is interested in completing an advanced art elective where college credit through Clinton Community College is offered.

Pre-requisites: Studio Art

Description: CAP Drawing 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. Students will study and develop skill in line, value, shape, form, texture, perspective, and proportion.

Culminating Activity: Digital Portfolio

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Descriptions for Business and Technology

Course Name: Yearbook
Course Number: 129
Credits: 1

Full-year course: 1 credit (computer or elective)/ half-year course credit with approval from Mrs. Sullivan

Target Audience: Upper grade-level students interested in spending time with classmates and the school community producing a quality, professionally published book documenting the school year who enjoy teamwork and creativity.

Prerequisites: Students interested must fill out an application through the Guidance Department and have received a minimum of an 85 in their previous English course.

Course Description: Students are introduced to the realities of publishing: creative layout designs using Jostens' publishing software, photography, writing articles and captions, meeting publication deadlines, fundraising, selling advertising space, pre-selling books, and book distribution. Motivated members of the yearbook team can apply for various editor positions within the course, which provides additional opportunities for leadership and organizational experiences. The PHS Yearbook is a self-sustaining school business, and the activities involved relate directly to real-world situations.

Design & Publishing: Yearbook I (for NEW students - **Juniors & Seniors ONLY**) Application is attached - making its first appearance since COVID. They can also come to my room to get one.

Design & Publishing: Yearbook II (for 2nd year RETURNING students)

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

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

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: Introduction to Business
Course Number: 970
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors interested in owning or managing a business.

Description: Students will learn how to identify the role and purpose of business and provide an overview of individual function areas of business including management, accounting, finance, marketing, and operations. This course will focus on ethics and social responsibility of business and the influence of the global, financial, and legal environment by applying business concepts and vocabulary to case studies.

**CAP course (3 credits) with no pre-requisites.*

Culminating Activity: Final Exam and Business Plan

Course Name: Entrepreneurship / Business Ownership
Course Number: 975
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors interested in owning their own business after graduation.

Description: Students will learn the basics of starting and managing a new venture, evaluating new opportunities, market research, customer validation, and feasibility analysis. Students will enter their new venture ideas in the Vermont Pitch Challenge offered through the University of Vermont.

**This is not a CAP course.*

Culminating Activity: Final Project – Business Plan

Course Name: Principles of Marketing
Course Number: 974
Credits: .5

Prerequisite: Intro to Business

Target Audience: Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors interested in learning more about the advertising of a business as well as their products and services.

Description: Students will learn marketing basics, target markets, business ethics, trends, diversity, research process, channels of distribution, and create a marketing plan.

**CAP course (3 credits) with pre-requisite of Introduction to Business.*

Culminating Activity: Final Project – Marketing Plan

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Business Law
Course Number: 971
Credits: .5

Prerequisite: Intro to Business

Target Audience: Sophomores, Junior, and Seniors interested in owning a business or a field in law.

Description: Students will learn the fundamental legal principles and their applications to business and everyday life. This includes law and society, contracts, agency, sales, legal transactions, and secured transactions.

**CAP course (3 credits) with pre-requisite of Introduction to Business.*

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Course Name: Career & Financial Management
Course Number: 973
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Juniors and Seniors interested in how to manage their money and make informed consumer decisions.

Description: Students will learn about best practices for managing their personal finances through career exploration, budgeting, personal banking, investing, managing credit wisely, completing tax forms, developing long-term financial plans to meet their goals, and making responsible choices about income and expenses.

**CAP course (3 credits) with no pre-requisites.*

Culminating Activity: Final Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Financial Accounting
Course Number: 972
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Juniors and Seniors interested in a career in finance, accounting, or business.

Pre-requisite: Intro to Business

Description: Students will learn about financial accounting and reporting for business entities, accounting information related to operating, investing, and financing activities, accounting financial statements, and basic bookkeeping practices using widely used software.

**CAP course (3 credits) can be taken for local credit.*

Culminating Activity: Mid-Term and Final Exam

Course Name: School Store
Course Number: 978
Credits: .5

Target Audience: Grades 10-12

Description: Students will learn the basic activities involved in running a school store. These will include keeping inventory, daily bookkeeping, 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: English 12
Course Number: 104
Credits: 1

**This Course is offered alternating years.
Not offered 2025-2026**

Target Audience: All students in grade 12 who have passed English 11.

Description: This is a full year ELA course to accommodate 12th grade students in four areas: real world writing, reading comprehension and writing in nonfiction, information literacy skills, and media and news literacy.

Culminating Activity: Common Core ELA Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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

Target Audience: Advanced students in grades 10 who have passed English 9 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.

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

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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: AP English Literature & Composition
Course Number: 131
Credits: 1

Target Audience: Advanced students in grade 11 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.

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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

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 Name: Take a Look at Teaching

Course Number:

Credits: .5

Target Audience: Any students in grade 12

Description: This course is designed to introduce students to teaching as a career field, while they learn essential analysis, writing, and public speaking skills required of an English 12-level course. Students will acquire pedagogical vocabulary, research classroom instructional strategies (justifying them with the UDL-guidelines), design and teach lesson plans, analyze demographics of students in the United States (including learning profiles, special education, and the like), actively engage in the school community, and understand the pathways to teacher certification in New York State.

Culminating Activity: Final 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 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 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 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 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: Essentials for Algebra

Course Number: 416, 417

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year.

Target Audience: This course is designed for students who are following the current CI3T Math placement.

Description: This course typically has a class size of ten students and follows the Essentials for Algebra curriculum provided by the district. It focuses on pre-algebra skills to prepare students for taking Algebra in the current year. The course is teacher-led with direct instruction, ensuring students receive personalized guidance. Monthly meetings will be held to monitor student progress and success in the program.

Culminating Activity: N/A

Course Name: Algebra CI3T

Course Number: 419

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year.

Target Audience: The student must have had fewer than 30 absences in the previous school year and be currently following the appropriate pathway from Stafford Middle School. This course is intended for students who have been enrolled in any CI3T Math course from 6th to 8th grade.

Description: This two-year Algebra course follows the New York State Next Generation Standards and emphasizes key mathematical principles, including focus, coherence, fluency, deep understanding, and real-world application. Students will explore a variety of functions, such as linear, absolute value, quadratic, and exponential, as well as work with polynomials, radicals, statistical data, and rational expressions. The course also focuses on building strong algebraic skills, including simplifying, factoring, and solving equations, ensuring students develop a comprehensive understanding of algebra to apply in both academic and practical contexts. This course concludes with targeted preparation to help students succeed on the New York State Regents exam in Algebra I, ensuring they are fully equipped for the assessment.

Culminating Activity: N/A

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Algebra
Course Number: 440
Credits: 1

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year.

Target Audience: The student must have had fewer than 30 absences in the previous school year and be currently following the appropriate pathway from Stafford Middle School. Students must have a score of 2 or higher on the Math 8 Assessment or math teacher recommendation.

Description: This one-year Algebra course follows the New York State Next Generation Standards and emphasizes key mathematical principles, including focus, coherence, fluency, deep understanding, and real-world application. Students will explore a variety of functions, such as linear, absolute value, quadratic, and exponential, as well as work with polynomials, radicals, statistical data, and rational expressions. The course also focuses on building strong algebraic skills, including simplifying, factoring, and solving equations, ensuring students develop a comprehensive understanding of algebra to apply in both academic and practical contexts. This course concludes with targeted preparation to help students succeed on the New York State Regents exam in Algebra I, ensuring they are fully equipped for the assessment.

Culminating Activity: Regents Exam

Course Name: Algebra Lab
Course Number: 440L
Credits: .5

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year.

Target Audience: The student must have had fewer than 30 absences in the previous school year and be currently following the appropriate pathway from Stafford Middle School. Students must have a score of 2 or higher on the Math 8 Assessment or Math teacher recommendation

Description: This course coincides with Algebra 440 as a lab component. This .5-year Algebra course meets daily, with every other day consisting of two periods, allowing students to earn .5 math credits. The course follows the New York State Next Generation Standards and focuses on key mathematical principles such as focus, coherence, fluency, deep understanding, and real-world application. Students will explore various functions, including linear, absolute value, quadratic, and exponential, and work with polynomials, radicals, statistical data, and rational expressions. Emphasis is placed on building algebraic skills, such as simplifying, factoring, and solving equations. The course concludes with targeted Regents exam preparation, ensuring students are fully prepared for success.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Culminating Activity: Regents Algebra I Exam.

Course Name: Geometry Applications A and B
Course Number: 490, 491
Credits: .5

Pre-requisites: Students must have successfully passed Algebra I or equivalent.

Description: Geometry Applications is a course designed to explore the content of Geometry. Topics covered include geometric terms and vocabulary, congruence, similarity, trigonometry, three dimensional shapes, coordinate geometry and more.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam

Course Name: Geometry
Course Number: 463
Credits: 1

Pre-requisites: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year. Students must have successfully passed Algebra 440 and course average of above an 80 and passed the Algebra regents with over a 65.

Target Audience: Students who have successfully passed Algebra I, 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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year.

Target Audience: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year. Students must have successfully passed Regents Geometry with an average of above an 80 and passed the Geometry Regents with above 65.

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.

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

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year. Students must have successfully passed Algebra 2 course and the regents exam.

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

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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. ***

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year. Students must have successfully passed Pre-Calculus.

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.

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

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year.

Bridge: Passed regents geometry, or passed Non-regents Geometry with above a 80.

Non-Bridge: Passed regents geometry, or passed Non-regents Geometry with below a 80.

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

Description: This course is designed for high school juniors and seniors to ensure that students have the skills necessary to be successful in a college level math course. Course topics include number sense, operations with rational numbers, linear expressions, equations and inequalities; systems of equations; polynomial, rational and radical expressions and equations; and graphing on the coordinate plane. Applications to various fields of study will be explored. The course will also include the following student success skills: note-taking strategies, time management, successful student behaviors, and career exploration. Near the end of the course, students will complete a comprehensive, departmental final exam to assess their preparedness to move on to a college-level math course.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year. Only for students who have passed Algebra 2, or CPM1 (Bridge).

Target Audience: Juniors and Seniors with at least 2 math credits. This course can be used as a CCC bridge course. This course is meant for students choosing the Alternate College Math department pathway.

Description: This course is designed for high school juniors and seniors to ensure that students have the skills necessary to be successful in a college level math course. Course topics include number sense, operations with rational numbers, linear expressions, equations and inequalities; systems of equations; polynomial, rational and radical expressions and equations; and graphing on the coordinate plane. Applications to various fields of study will be explored. The course will also include the following student success skills: note-taking strategies, time management, successful student behaviors, and career exploration. Near the end of the course, students will complete a comprehensive, departmental final exam to assess their preparedness to move on to a college-level math course.

Bridge Course: In order to qualify to take CPM2 for College credit (CAP), students must have an average of 80 or higher in the course and pass the final.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

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 analyzing real world data, lotto, birthday's, the stock market and more! Have fun with math and learn along the way!

**This course is offered every other school year.*

Culminating Activity: Final Exam.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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

Prerequisite: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year. Must be enrolled in Algebra 2 or higher. Alternatively, must have completed Algebra 2.

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

**This course is offered every other school year. * (Years offered 2024-2025, 2026-2027)*

Culminating Activity: Final Exam and/or AP Exam

Course Name: Financial Applications A and B
Course Number: 492
Credits: .5

Pre-requisites: Fewer than 30 absences in the school year.

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

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

**This course is offered every other school year.*

Culminating Activity: Final Project

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.

**This course is offered every other school year.*

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: Data Science
Course Number: 486
Credits: .5

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

Description: Explorations in Data Science will introduce students to the main ideas in data science through free tools such as Microsoft forms, Python, Data Commons and Tableau. Students will learn to be data explorers in project-based units, through which they will develop their understanding of data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, probability, modeling with data, making and evaluating data-based arguments, the power of data in society, and more! At the end of the course students will have a portfolio of their data science work to showcase their newly developed abilities.

**This course is offered every other school year.*

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Course Name: PHS Math
Course Number: 494
Credits: Varies

Pre-requisites: More than 30 absences in the school year.

Target Audience: Any student at PHS that has over 30 absences and needs credit in either Algebra or Geometry.

Description: This course provides an individualized learning plan designed specifically for students who require additional support in math. It serves as a recovery option, focusing on either Algebra or Geometry content. Students can earn credits by completing the required content, with the possibility of earning either $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ or 1 full credit based on their progress and mastery of content. Students enrolled in this course are expected to attend daily and actively engage in their learning. Consistent participation and effort are essential as students work through the curriculum, ensuring they grasp key concepts and make meaningful progress in their mathematical education. Delta Math includes built-in assessments that will be administered periodically to evaluate each student's understanding of the content.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam/Final Project TBD

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.

Pre-requisite: Previous experience in band or playing a musical instrument is encouraged.

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.

Pre-requisite: None

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 an orchestral stringed instrument.

Pre-requisite: Previous experience playing in an orchestra or playing an orchestral 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.

Pre-requisite: Previous experience in an ensemble or playing a musical instrument

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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

Pre-requisite: Fundamental knowledge of reading music from participation in a music ensemble or private instruction.

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.

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.

Pre-requisite: None

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 techniques and music reading in addition to basic improvisation, and lead sheet reading.

Culminating Activity: Final Exam, Project, or Evaluation.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

Pre-requisite: None

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 experience and skills to encourage students to engage in healthy behavior 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 because 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: Human Biology
Course Number: 515
Credits: .5

Target Audience: 10th, 11th and 12th graders.

Course Description: This course will provide an introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology. Students will participate in virtual and traditional dissections, Model Body Systems, Engage students in real-world case studies, and Study Career options in the medical field.

Culminating Activity: Final Project or Exam

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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.

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

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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

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, Mirco-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.

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

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 who has successfully completed any physics course at PHS.

Description: The goal of this course is simple: To tap into 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 with 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
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. Must have a 90 average in Global 9 and their Global teacher's recommendation.

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

Prerequisites: 85 or higher on the Global Regents and a letter of recommendation from their current Social Studies Teacher. A letter of recommendation must be given to their counselor when student signs up for the course.

Target Audience: Students in grade 11. Students will need a score of at least 85 on the Global Studies regents and have their Global 10 teacher's recommendation.

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

Prerequisites: 85 or higher on the US History Regents and a letter of recommendation from their current Social Studies Teacher. A letter of recommendation must be given to their counselor when student signs up for the course.

Target Audience: Students in grade 12. Students will need a score of at least 85 on the US History and Government regents and have their US History teacher's recommendation.

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

Course Name: Mass Media and Society
Course Number: 222
Credits: .5

Target Audience: 11th and 12th graders.

Course Description: This course provides an in-depth exploration of major American and world events through the lens of film and music. Students will be given the opportunity to further discuss cultural events and explore the evolution of society over the past 100 years. This course will provide introductions to film elements, camera work, narrative, editing, as well as creative opportunities.

Culminating Activity: Final Project

Plattsburgh High School Course Descriptions

Course Name: CAP Western Civilization

Course Number: 209

Credits: 1

Prerequisites: A cumulative average of 85 or higher and a letter of recommendation from their current Social Studies Teacher. A letter of recommendation must be given to the counselor when the student signs up for the course.

Target Audience: 10th grade.

Course Description: This course surveys the history and geography of the world since 1750 with an emphasis on the impact of political and industrial revolutions, the rise of Western dominance and imperialism, twentieth century conflicts, the rise of anti-colonialism and modern nations, and global connections and interactions.

Culminating Activity: Regents Exam

Course Name: BRAVES (Sweethearts & Heroes)

Course Number: 906

Credits: 1

Target Audience: Grades 10-12

Description: BRAVES is a self-directed student leadership and empowering mentorship system focused on 1) student empowerment, 2) empathy activation, and 3) the Human Skill core competencies. BRAVES is uniquely designed to take young student leaders who can make an impact in their school and build a culture and community of HOPE and action using peer modeling, mentorship, and influence. Established through experimental learning and spaced repetitive practices, BRAVES systematically uses the art of play, modern brain science, and our unique Human Skills applications to build a culture that fosters human connection through behavior modeling. BRAVES establishes an age-mixed climate of positive peer influence that leads to a culture of inclusion and resilience established by their students, for the students. Through the five core principles of leadership, empathy activation, play science, Brain Rules for Learning, and the Feynman Technique, BRAVES grows a community rich in affective, compassionate empathy, creating a culture that empowers bystanders to change the state of individuals who are psychologically, emotionally, and socially on fire.

Culminating Activity: Final Project
