

Douglas County West Community High School



2025-2026 Course Catalog

All courses and descriptions
approved by the
DC West Board of Education

Table of Contents

Language Arts	4
Mathematics	11
Science	17
Social Science	21
World Languages	25
Computer Technology	27
Business	29
Industrial Technology	31
Visual and Performing Arts	
Art	33
Vocal and Instrumental Music	35
Physical Education	37
Family and Consumer Sciences	41
Interdisciplinary Studies	42
Special Education	43
English As A Second Language (ESL)	44
English Language Learner (ELL)	
Experience Based Career Education (EBCE)	47

Language Arts

English 9

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9

Prerequisites: English 8

Course Description: English 9 is a comprehensive course covering vocabulary, grammar, literature, the six traits, and composition. Material is covered through daily assignments, lecture, group discussion, writing, and projects. Evaluation is based on students' performance in class as well as on daily work, homework, quizzes, tests, compositions, and projects.

Honors English 9

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9

Prerequisites: English 8, meeting DC West established criteria for honors classes

Course Description: Honors English 9 is a comprehensive course for accelerated, highly motivated, independent learners. The curriculum includes a survey of literary genres, vocabulary, composition, literary analysis, and oral presentations. Students will practice and apply the six traits of writing and will prepare a writing portfolio. Grades are based on daily work, homework, quizzes, tests, compositions, projects, and portfolios.

English 10

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10

Prerequisites: English 9

Course Description: English 10 is a comprehensive course based on American literature with work in reading skills, grammar, vocabulary, and composition. Students will study the six traits of writing as well as the backgrounds of various authors and literary movements including Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Realism, and Naturalism. Evaluation is based on homework, notes, tests, quizzes, compositions, class discussion, and projects.

Honors English 10

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10

Prerequisites: English 9, meeting DC West established criteria for honors classes

Course Description: Honors English 10 is a comprehensive course for accelerated, highly motivated independent learners. The curriculum is based in American Literature with work in reading skills, grammar, vocabulary and composition. Students will study the six traits of writing as well as the backgrounds of various authors and literary movements including Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Realism, and Naturalism. Students will prepare a portfolio of their writing each quarter. Evaluation is based on homework, notes, tests, quizzes, compositions, class discussion, projects and outside reading.

English 11

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11

Prerequisites: English 9, 10

Course Description: English 11 is a comprehensive course based on World literature, composition, grammar and vocabulary. First semester includes a major research paper. This research paper consists of one-third of the students' final semester grade. Second semester consists of grammar, ACT prep, and Comp I. In order to pass this course, students must pass each component of the junior research paper. Evaluation is based on daily work, homework, quizzes, tests, compositions, projects, and the Nebraska State Assessments.

Honors English 11

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11

Prerequisites: English 9, 10, meeting DC West established criteria for honors classes

Course Description: Honors English 11 is a comprehensive course for accelerated, highly motivated, independent learners. The course content will focus on different aspects and elements of World Literature, composition, grammar, and vocabulary. First semester covers world literature, vocabulary, and research. Second semester with a focus on exploring the roles of stories in our lives and forging a personal connection to the literature in our lives. Second semester includes grammar, ACT prep, and Comp I. In order to pass this course, students must pass each component of the junior research paper. Evaluation is based on daily work, homework, quizzes, tests, compositions, projects, portfolio, and the Nebraska State Assessments.

Metro English (Composition I and II)

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: English 9 and 10, permission from the department

Comp. I (ENGL 1010): Students cultivate critical thinking, analytical reading, and systematic writing practices that are foundational to college-level academic writing. Students are expected to expand their own knowledge, openly engaging with new and challenging ideas through reflection, analysis, and critique. Students practice expressing these complex ideas in multiple genres, focusing on expository and persuasive writing. Using writing as a process that includes planning, drafting, instructor and peer feedback, revision, and reflection, students compose 3 major thesis-driven essays and produce 15-18 pages of polished prose. Students will become self-aware, independent, confident writers who take ownership of their own writing process.

Comp II (ENGL 1020): Students build on Composition I skills by becoming better critical readers, researchers, and writers. Students design, draft, revise, and edit arguments for specific audiences and purposes. Using research, analysis, and integration of primary and secondary sources, students compose 18-25 pages of polished prose, including one paper of 10-12 pages, with an emphasis on thesis-driven argumentative writing.

Introduction to Literature

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Students explore the genres, elements, and themes of literature by critically reading, discussing, and responding in writing to a culturally diverse selection of works. Fiction, poetry, and drama are emphasized. Students learn to appreciate literature as essential to understanding self and society.

Metro U.S Multicultural Literature

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: English 9 and 10, permission from the department

ENGL 2530: Students explore the genres, mediums, elements, and themes of U.S. ethnic literature through critical reading, discussion, and written responses. Students read a selection of works by authors who reflect diverse ethnic/cultural backgrounds. Students internalize new perspectives and learn to appreciate literature as essential to understanding self and society.

Metro Creative Writing I

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Course Description: Creative Writing is designed as a semester workshop course for students in grades 10-12. Class activities include journaling, peer editing, maintaining portfolios, sharing writing experiences, and participation in publication of the creative writing book: *Inspired*. Writing experiences include the following: techniques of creating dominant impression, using sensory imagery, utilizing techniques of fiction and nonfiction in essay writing. Evaluation is based upon adherence to the six trait writing concept, class participation in discussion, in-class writing, completion of homework, and meeting writing deadlines.

Digital Journalism

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Permission from the instructor & a grade of a 70% or higher at semester to continue into semester two

Course Description: Publications/Yearbook is a two-semester instructional and laboratory course wherein the students plan, design, and develop the school yearbook. Good writing and editing skills are essential. During the first quarter, students will study yearbook terminology, review basic writing techniques and skills, develop essays, captions, etc., and study and facilitate basic designs of a yearbook spread. Evaluation for this section is based on the following: class participation, quizzes and tests, completed layouts, social media construction. During the remainder of the course members select a theme, design layouts, do interviews, and write stories, captions, headlines that record the school's history for the year. In addition, students are required to sell advertisements and distribute the books once they are published. Students are expected to demonstrate self-discipline and to be highly motivated. The ability to work as part of a team is an important characteristic for successful completion of the course. Students are evaluated on class participation (which includes participating in discussions and decision making, staying on task), quality of layouts and copy, and meeting of all deadlines. This class may be repeated.

Sports Media

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: permission from instructor

Course Description: This class is designed to teach all aspects of media interaction with sports. We will explore sports media as a career, utilizing journalism skills like interviewing, reporting, blogging, working with coaches and athletic directors, staging and covering press conferences, statistics, etc. The goal of this course is to showcase all of the great accomplishments by our sports teams at DC West.

Contemporary Literature and Film

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 12

Prerequisites: permission from instructor

Course Description: This course examines the relationships between literary and cinematic forms. Through careful reading/viewing, discussion, and written analysis of novels, short stories, plays, and their cinematic adaptations, students will come to a greater understanding of the characteristics of each medium and their evolution. Students who complete this course should be able to:

- Analyze and describe the differences between cinematic, literary, and dramatic uses of plot, characterization, point of view, and setting.
- Explain and demonstrate an understanding of various interpretive strategies, theories, and problems in adapting fiction or drama for film.
- Recognize and interpret thematic differences between a film and the literary work it is based on and between various film versions of the same work.
- Demonstrate interpretive analysis of film and literature through coherent writing.

Dystopian Literature

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 12

Prerequisites: permission from instructor

Course Description: This course will introduce students to an array of literature and film that focuses on dystopian societies and the themes inherent in such works, including the struggle for survival, the pressure to conform, the dream of hope, and the role of nature. The course will include assigned texts as well as student selected texts. Students who complete this course should be able to:

- Analyze and describe the differences between Utopian and Dystopian Societies
- Explain and demonstrate an understanding of various interpretive strategies, theories, and problems in adapting fiction or drama for film.
- Analyze trends and themes in current events and how they translate to Dystopian Literature
- Demonstrate interpretive analysis of literature through coherent writing

Sports in Literature

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 12

Prerequisites: permission from instructor

Course Description: This course will allow the students who need a high interest, timely sports-related literature as motivation to enjoy reading and researching. The students will analyze and dissect novels and a plethora of informational texts while discussing, researching, and presenting information. Sports Literature will consist of an examination of the connection between sport and society from several perspectives through interaction with literature presented by authors from various genres. This course will prepare students for the challenging reading and writing they will encounter in college and beyond. Through the use of sports literature and other media forms, the primary objective is to develop a greater sensitivity to the world of sports and understand the relationship of sports and society.

Mythology, Folklore, and Legends

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: In this course, students will look at the captivating stories and legends from different cultures around the world. Students will explore the characters, adventures, and themes that make mythology and folklore so important. We will discover ancient gods, mythical creatures, and timeless tales that have shaped our way of life for centuries. Identify characteristics of myths, folklores, fairy tales, etc., understand the concept of the “Hero’s Journey”, describe the different types of myths, identify the purpose of myths and compare the different types of folklore: legends, folktales, and fairy tales.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-10

Prerequisites: Math 8 or General Math

Course Description: This is the final course in arithmetic and an introductory course to algebra. It is designed to automate the use of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers. Simplifying algebraic expressions and solving equations is introduced. There is an emphasis on problem solving using charts and graphs, averages, percents, equations, ratios and proportions.

Algebra I

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra

Course Description: This is a one year course that develops the skills learned in Pre-Algebra. Topics covered include solving equations, order of operations, exponents, signed numbers and radicals. Factoring of polynomials is first introduced here as well as graphing linear equations using the slope-intercept method.

Algebra I Support (elective credit)

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Enrolled in Algebra I, based on teacher recommendations and standardized test results

Course Description: This course is designed to increase the time for Algebra I instruction. Students will receive additional classroom instruction and support to supplement the Algebra I curriculum. Instruction will include a combination of pre-instruction and reinforcement of topics to support the Algebra curriculum.

Algebra II

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Course Description: This is a one year course that develops the skills learned in Algebra I while applying those skills in a variety of problem solving situations. Topics introduced in this course include solving systems of equations and inequalities with 2 or more variables, vectors, quadratic equations, variations, functions, conjunctions and disjunctions.

Algebra II Support (elective credit)

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Enrolled in Algebra II, based on teacher recommendations, and standardized test results

Course Description: This course is designed to increase the time for Algebra II instruction. Instruction will include a combination of pre-instruction and reinforcement of topics to support the Algebra II curriculum.

Honors Algebra II

Duration: Full year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Course Description: This is a one year course that develops the skills learned in Pre-Algebra. Topics introduced in this course include solving systems of equations and inequalities with 2 or more variables, vectors, quadratic equations, variations, functions, conjunctions and disjunctions. This course is designed to move at a rapid pace with more discovery and depth than Algebra II.

College Algebra

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: completion of Algebra II

Course Description: This course extends algebra skills and provides the background necessary for further mathematics courses. Topics included are: functions and their inverses; polynomial, radical exponential, and rational expressions: polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic equations; graphing functions using transformations (absolute value, polynomial, radical, exponential, and logarithmic); and an introduction to statistics.

Geometry

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Course Description: This is a course in Euclidean Geometry. Topics include real world problems involving perimeter, area, volume, and fundamental properties of geometry as they relate to lines, polygons, and circles. The first three trig functions are introduced and used along with Pythagorean Theorem in solving problems. Deductive and inductive reasoning skills are taught in writing 2-column and paragraph proofs.

Geometry Support (elective credit)

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Enrolled in Geometry, based on teacher recommendation and standardized test results

Course Description: This course is designed to increase the time for Geometry instruction. Instruction will include a combination of pre-instruction and reinforcement of topics to support the Geometry curriculum.

Honors Geometry

Duration: One Year

Intended Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Course Description: This is a course in Euclidean Geometry and the study of topics are parallel to those in Geometry. Topics include real world problems involving perimeter, area, volume, and fundamental properties of geometry as they relate to lines, polygons, and circles. The first three trig functions are introduced and used along with Pythagorean Theorem in solving problems. Deductive and inductive reasoning skills are taught in writing 2-column and paragraph proofs. This course is designed to move at a rapid pace with more discovery and depth than Geometry.

Intermediate Algebra

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: This course extends student algebra skills from previous courses and provides new learning to prepare students for future mathematics courses. Topics included are: functions and their applications; polynomial, radical, exponential, and rational expressions and equations and their applications; systems of linear equations and their applications; operations on complex numbers; graphing linear, piecewise, and quadratic functions; and solving and graphing inequalities.

Metro Intermediate Algebra (Math 1312)

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: This course extends student algebra skills from previous courses and provides new learning to prepare students for future mathematics courses. Topics included are: functions and their applications; polynomial, radical, exponential, and rational expressions and equations and their applications; systems of linear equations and their applications; operations on complex numbers; graphing linear, piecewise, and quadratic functions; and solving and graphing inequalities.

College Algebra

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: The course covers advanced algebra topics which include rational expressions; solving quadratic, rational, radical and polynomial equations; relations and functions; quadratic and polynomial functions; systems of equations and inequalities; exponential and logarithmic functions; and conic section.

Metro College Algebra

Metro Course Number: MATH 1425 College Algebra

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: This course will be offered as a dual-college credit course through Metropolitan Community College. The course covers advanced algebra topics which include rational expressions; solving quadratic, rational, radical and polynomial equations; relations and functions; quadratic and polynomial functions; systems of equations and inequalities; exponential and logarithmic functions; and matrices.

Metro Trigonometry

Metro Course Number: MATH 1430 Trigonometry

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: This course will be offered as a dual-college credit course through Metropolitan Community College. The course covers trigonometric ratios, triangles, vectors, circular functions, trigonometric identities, inverse trigonometric functions, trigonometric equations and complex numbers.

Trigonometry

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: The course covers trigonometric ratios, triangles, vectors, circular functions, trigonometric identities, inverse trigonometric functions, trigonometric equations and complex numbers.

Pre-Calculus

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisite: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: The course covers advanced algebra topics which include rational expressions; solving quadratic, rational, radical, polynomial equations; relations and functions; quadratic and polynomial functions; systems of equations and inequalities; exponential and logarithmic functions; and probability.

Metro Pre-Calculus

Metro Course Number: MATH 1425 Pre-Calculus Algebra

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisite: Geometry & Algebra II

Course Description: The course covers advanced algebra topics which include rational expressions; solving quadratic, rational, radical, polynomial equations; relations and functions; quadratic and polynomial functions; systems of equations and inequalities; exponential and logarithmic functions; and probability.

Calculus

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus Algebra or Metro Pre-Calculus Algebra and Trigonometry or Metro Trigonometry

Course Description: This course covers the mathematical tools used to analyze the continuous rate of change between variables. It reviews some principles of pre-calculus and investigates limits, differentiation, and integration. The course includes applications of both differentiation and integration.

Metro Calculus

Metro Course Number: MATH 2410 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus Algebra or Metro Pre-Calculus Algebra and Trigonometry or Metro Trigonometry

Course Description: This course will be offered as a dual-college credit course through Metropolitan Community College. This course covers the mathematical tools used to analyze the continuous rate of change between variables. It reviews some principles of pre-calculus and investigates limits, differentiation, and integration. The course includes applications of both differentiation and integration.

Statistics

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Algebra II or permission of the instructor

Course Description: This course requires students to develop a critical and functional understanding of data.

Topics include frequency distributions, measures of central tendency and dispersion, probability and probability distribution, sampling concepts, estimating means, variance, standard deviations, proportions and percentages, hypothesis testing, and correlation and linear regression. Software and calculators are used as appropriate throughout the course.

Metro Statistics

Metro Course Number: MATH 1410 Statistics

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Algebra II or permission of the instructor

Course Description: This course requires students to develop a critical and functional understanding of data. Topics include frequency distributions, measures of central tendency and dispersion, probability and probability distribution, sampling concepts, estimating means, variance, standard deviations, proportions and percentages, hypothesis testing, and correlation and linear regression. Software and calculators are used as appropriate throughout the course.

Medical Math

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Algebra II; Instructor Permission

Course Description: This course prepares students with the basic mathematical skills required for nursing programs. Topics include: fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, conversions between measurement systems, dimensional analysis, formulating dosages and flow rates, interpreting drug orders, and nutritional analyses.

UNO Medical Math

UNO Course Number: Math 1140 Quantitative Reasoning for Healthcare Professionals

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Algebra II; Instructor Permission

Course Description: This course prepares students with the basic mathematical skills required for nursing programs. Topics include: fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios, conversions between measurement systems, dimensional analysis, formulating dosages and flow rates, interpreting drug orders, and nutritional analyses.

CTE Math

Duration: One Year

Intended Grade Level: 12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: All students start in Math 0910 and work through an online modular program. Students will choose their second class after completing Math 0910.

Course	Course Description	Purpose of the Course
MATH 0910 College Algebra	Students solve problems that include fractions, decimals, ratio, proportion, percent, and operations with integers, basic algebraic concepts, and geometry concepts. Students develop basic study skills for mathematics problem-solving and estimation.	This course strengthens basic math skills. Students will have the opportunity to move directly into Math 0960 or Math 1220 or Math 1240. This will be based on the student's ACT math score, or their Accuplacer Math Placement score, or by passing the Math 0910 Up-placement Exam on the first day of class. Check with your teacher/school counselor.
MATH 0960 Beginning Algebra	Students will review and learn basic algebra skills. Students will simplify expressions using all operations, absolute values, and exponent and positive and negative real numbers. Students will solve linear equations and inequalities and their applications. Students will also simplify and solve operations with polynomials which will include factoring, simplifying, and all operations of most types of polynomials. In addition, students will solve and simplifying equations of linear and inequalities. They will create graphs of linear equations, linear inequalities, and systems of linear equations.	This course strengthens basic algebra skills for the academic track and is designed for students who will attend or transfer to a four-year college. The course will prepare the student to complete the minimum general education math class required for many bachelor degree programs. Completion of Math 0960 will qualify a student to enroll into a college level math classes such as MCC's Math 1305 (Quantitative Literacy) , Math 1312, and Math 1410 (Statistics).
MATH 1220 Business Mathematics (4.5 Credit Hours)	Students learn the math skills required to solve problems related to business occupations. Topics include percentages, checking accounts and services, payroll, payroll taxes, cash and trade discounts, property and sales taxes, simple and compound interest, installment purchases, loan payment plans, and annuities.	This course will serve as the math requirements for many Metropolitan Community College programs. Check with your teacher/school counselor to determine if this course is required for your chosen MCC program.
MATH 1240 Technical Mathematics (4.5 Credit Hours)	Students learn the math skills required in career/technical fields. Students review arithmetic operations. Students apply ratios and proportions, measurement concepts, algebraic operations, geometrical relationships and right triangle trigonometry to problem solving of technical applications.	This course will serve as the math requirements for many Metropolitan Community College programs within the technical areas. Check with your teacher/school counselor to determine if this course is required for your chosen MCC program.
MATH 1312 Intermediate Algebra (4.5 Credit Hours)	This course extends student algebra skills from previous courses and provides new learning to prepare students for future mathematics courses. Topics included are: functions and their applications; polynomial, radical, exponential, and rational expressions and equations and their applications; systems of linear equations and their applications; operations on complex numbers; graphing linear, piecewise, and quadratic functions; and solving and graphing inequalities.	This course is not offered at all sites. Please check with your teacher/school counselor. Math 1312 will serve as the required course for many of the MCC programs as well as transfer to some four-year programs. This course serves as pre-requisite for Nursing at MCC and Methodist. It serves as a pre-req to required gen ed courses at UNO such as Pre-calculus, statistics, and quantitative literacy. It can serve as an elective credit at UNL/UNK and prepare students for College Algebra. Check with your school counselor for more details on transfer.

Science

Physical Science

Textbook: McGraw Hill: Inspire Physical Science

Intended Grade Level: 9 (Required for Graduation)

Duration: Full year, 2 semesters

McGraw Hill Inspire Physical Science brings phenomena to the forefront of learning to engage and inspire students to investigate key science concepts through their three-dimensional learning experience. This program offers hands-on investigations, rigorous science content, and engaging real-world applications in the areas of:

Unit 1: Motion & Forces

Module 1: Nature of Science;

Module 2: Motion; and

Module 3: Forces & Newton's Laws

Unit 2: Energy

Module 4: Work & Energy;

Module 5: Thermal Energy;

Module 6: Electricity;

Module 7: Magnetism & Its Uses; and

Module 8: Energy Sources & the Environment

Unit 3: Waves

Module 9: Introduction to Waves;

Module 10: Sound;

Module 11: Electromagnetic Waves;

Module 12: Light; and

Module 13: Mirrors & Lenses

Unit 4: Matter

Module 14: Solids, Liquids, & Gases;

Module 15: Classification of Matter;

Module 16: Properties of Atoms & the Periodic Table; and

Module 17: Elements & Their Properties

Unit 5: Reactions

Module 18: Chemical Bonds;

Module 19: Chemical Reactions; and

Module 20: Radioactivity & Nuclear Reactions

Unit 6: Applications of Chemistry

Module 21: Solutions;

Module 22: Acids, Bases, & Salts;

Module 23: Organic Compounds; and

Module 24: New Materials Through Chemistry

Honors Physical Science

Duration: Full year, 2 semesters

Intended Grade Level: 9; course is ½ weighted

Prerequisite: Must have completed Algebra in JH or higher(Geometry)

Course Description: McGraw Hill Inspire Physical Science brings phenomena to the forefront of learning to engage and inspire students to investigate key science concepts through their three-dimensional learning experience. In addition to topics covered in Physical Science, Honors Physical science will cover more complex math and scientific principles such as: Projectile Motion, 2D Kinematics, Thermodynamics, work/energy/power relationships, Coulomb's Law, Electrical Resistance, EM Spectrum, chemical nomenclature, and chemical functional groups(organic)

This program offers hands-on investigations, rigorous science content, and engaging real-world applications in the areas of Motion & Forces, Energy, Waves, Matter, Reactions, and Applications of Chemistry.

Biology I

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10

Prerequisites: 9th grade science course completed.

Course Description: This course will focus on science facts, concepts, principles, theories and models that are important for all students to know, understand, and use. By the end of the course, the student will develop an understanding in and be assessed on the following concepts: the cell; the molecular basis of heredity; the theory of biological evolution; the interdependence of organisms; an understanding of matter, energy, and organization in living systems; the behavior of organisms, the structure of the atom; chemical reactions; conservation of energy and increase in disorder; the periodic table of elements; and acids and bases.

Instruction includes lecture, labs and activities, homework, quizzes, unit tests and comprehensive semester finals.

Chemistry

Duration: One Year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Grade 9 & 10 Science Courses, Algebra I

Course Description: Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure, properties, and changes in matter. In Chemistry, students develop a strong understanding of atomic structure, chemical properties, periodicity, and reactions while enhancing critical thinking and lab skills through hands-on experiences. Chemistry is math-intensive and requires the use of algebra to solve problems. This college preparatory class is beneficial for all students going to college, not just students planning to major in science.

Honors Chemistry

Duration: One Year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Grade 9 & 10 Science Courses and Algebra I with a "B" or better (or recommendation from Math/Science Teacher).

Course Description: Chemistry is the study of the composition, structure, properties, and changes in matter. In Chemistry, students develop a strong understanding of atomic structure, chemical properties, periodicity, and reactions while enhancing critical thinking and lab skills through hands-on experiences. Chemistry is math-intensive and requires the use of algebra to solve problems. Students are expected to have strong independent study habits. Honors Chemistry is a more rigorous course for students with aptitude and interest in the physical or medical sciences.

Physics

Duration: one year

Intended level: 11-12 or instructor permission

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Geometry, taken/enrolled in Algebra 2

Course Description: An introductory course in the concepts of physics. This class will build on the principles that students learn in Physical Science. This class will cover all major disciplines in Physics from a big picture point of view. While some math will be necessary in understanding some concepts, this class does not emphasize the mathematical treatment of physics. Simple investigations of physics will be used in addition to class demonstrations, and students will work with how lab data supports the concepts of physics.

Anatomy/Physiology

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11 – 12, with instructor permission

Prerequisites: Grade 9 & 10 science courses completed and recommend completion of Chemistry.

Course Description: Anatomy & Physiology is a year course designed for the student who is interested in a medical or health career. Emphasis for this class includes the structure and function of the ten major systems of the human body. Class includes labs that require the dissection of specimens. Instruction includes lecture, labs, homework, and tests.

Environmental Science

Duration: Full year

Intended Grade Level: 11 & 12

Prerequisite: Biology & Physical Science; instructor permission

Course Description: Environmental Science focuses on making students knowledgeable of the major environmental problems facing humans today. Major emphasis is placed on water and air pollution, sewage, natural resource management, landscape ecology, population dynamics and energy consumption problems. Through this understanding, this course provides information about how to use Earth's resources responsibly in order to leave a healthy environment for future generations. Methods of instruction are lecture, labs, tests and research papers.

Earth Science

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Pre-Requisites: Algebra 1 Physical Science

Course Description: A more advanced look at Earth Science with an emphasis on STEM and Project Learning. Based on NGSS Science Standards. Topics include: Earth's Processes, Atmosphere and Meteorology(weather), Oceanography, Geologic Time, Astronomy and Space. Geared toward students pursuing careers in science, math, engineering, and natural sciences. Students should expect to be responsible for: Lab work, short and long-term projects, and presentations in addition to regular classroom activities. Field work depends on weather and transportation.

Social Science

World Geography

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is designed to give students an understanding of the world around them. The course will emphasize map work, climate study, and landforms, as well as study the historical, political, and cultural aspects of different countries of the world. This class will give the students a world perspective to view events of the day.

World History

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: World History will take students on a comprehensive survey of World History beginning with the Age of Exploration in the late 15th Century to the Fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. Students will investigate the global impact of European exploration and colonization, the rise and fall of empires around the world, industrialization, and global world conflicts. Emphasis will be placed on historical causes and effects, analyzing primary and secondary, and developing critical thinking skills.

American History

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is designed to give students a background in the development of the United States since the early 1900s, the history surrounding Pre-WWII and continues to the present day. A major emphasis is placed on the political, economic, and historical events of each decade. Emphasis is also placed on understanding and applying these historical events to the student's life today.

American Government

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 12th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: American Government is a one semester, required course, for seniors. This course studies the American government and political system. Major topics covered include the Constitution and its underlying philosophy; the structure and function of the national government; the American political process; the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch; as well as Nebraska's state and local governmental structure.

Economics

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Economics is a one semester, required course. This course studies the functions of economics and economic systems with an emphasis on supply and demand, the role of government and financial institutions, production, labor, and fundamental economic problems.

Psychology

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course outlines the major theories of psychology, human development and the basis of human behavior. Students will explore topic including psychological methods, human development, heredity and environment, biological influences on behavior, understanding personality, principles of learning, remembering and forgetting, sensation and perception, motivation and emotions, and coping with stress.

Sociology I

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course outlines the major theories of sociology and explores the impact of culture. Cultural and group behavior are studied through a focus on topics such as socialization, social organizations, social inequalities (social classes, discrimination), deviance and conformity, social control, race and ethnic relations, gender roles, and social institutions.

Sociology II

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: Sociology I with a grade of C or better

Course Description: Sociology II builds upon foundational sociological concepts explored in Sociology 1. This course will examine the multifaceted nature of social inequality, social institutions, social change, and social stratification. Topics covered will include:

- Racial and ethnic relations
- Gender, age, and health
- Education and religion
- Sports and mass media
- Collective behavior and social change

Metro American National Government

Metro Course Number: POLS 2050 American National Government

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor

Course Description: This course is an introduction to American national government, including a study of the structural function of the political system and the elements of constitutionalism, republicanism, and federalism. It includes the party system and an analysis of the U.S. Constitution. The course is a descriptive, institutional approach with considerable attention to the policy-making process.

Metro US History

Metro Course Number: HIST 1010 US History to 1877 and HIST 1020 US History from 1865 to Present

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor

Course Description: This course is offered as a dual-college credit course through Metropolitan Community College. The first semester is a survey of American history from Archaic peoples through Colonial America and ending at the American Civil War and Reconstruction. The second semester begins with America's western

frontier, and then continues through the Gilded Age, the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Jazz Age, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, and present day.

World Civilizations I

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is a dual credit course through Metropolitan Community College. This course surveys the history of selected civilizations from the origins of the first human civilizations to the Renaissance. It focuses on the political, economic, social, cultural, and technological contributions of these civilizations, individually and collectively, to the modern world.

World Civilizations II

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10th - 12th grade

Prerequisites: World Civilization I

Course Description: This is a dual credit course through Metropolitan Community College. This course surveys the history of selected civilizations from the Renaissance to the modern day. It focuses on the political, economic, social, cultural, and technological contributions of these civilizations, individually and collectively, to the modern world.

Current Affairs

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Current Affairs is a course designed to give students an understanding of the events that surround them locally, nationally and around the world. The course emphasizes discussion of the daily news through the Omaha World Herald and national news through Newsweek. Students also research several issues that affect an individual throughout the nation and world; homelessness, child-domestic abuse, cloning, euthanasia, death penalty, women's rights, etc.

The Cold War

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: American History or Metro American History

Course Description: This course explores the global struggle for power and influence between the United States and the Soviet Union from the end of World War II to the early 1990s. Students will examine the ideological, political, economic, and military dimensions of the Cold War. Key events that students will learn are the Berlin Airlift, Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Space Race, the Nuclear Arms race, SALT and Detente, Chernobyl and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources to gain insight into the causes, consequences, and legacy of this period in World History.

Omaha History

Duration: Semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: An in-depth look at Omaha from its founding up to today, looking at how it reflects national history while at the same time looking at the unique forces that help Omaha develop into the unique city that is. It will look at the key people, events, and groups of people that built the city. Through field study students can look for echoes of the past and analyze changes the Omaha area is experiencing today and trends toward the future.

World Languages

Spanish I

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: An introduction to basic Spanish language acquisition through the four modes of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Emphasis is placed on basic vocabulary, present tense verbs (regular and irregular), the present progressive verb form, noun-adjective agreement, time, days of the week, months, numbers, simple conversational skills, and exposure to the many cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The Spanish text and workbook, "Auténtico 1", is used along with teacher-provided supplemental materials. Grades will be awarded based on daily participation and homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and occasional extra credit.

Spanish II

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Course Description: A continuation of Spanish I, building confidence in understanding and using the four modes of communication. Emphasis is placed on a widening vocabulary, the preterite tense verbs (regular and irregular), indirect and direct object pronouns, comparatives and superlatives, demonstrative adjectives, informal commands, and additional study of the cultures and customs of the Spanish-speaking world. The Spanish text and workbook, “Auténtico 1”, is used along with teacher-provided supplemental materials. Grades will be awarded based on daily participation and homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and occasional extra credit.

Spanish III

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Spanish II

Course Description: A further, more in-depth and advanced study of the Spanish language and cultures to build real-world language skills via the four modes of communication. Emphasis is placed on expanding vocabulary, imperfect and preterite verb tenses, reflexive verbs, demonstrative adjectives, reciprocal actions, and special verb phrases. The Spanish text, “Auténtico 2”, is used along with teacher-provided supplemental materials. A short novel will also be read. Grades will be awarded based on daily participation and homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and occasional extra credit.

Metro Spanish IV

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Spanish III

Course Description: A continuation of Spanish III at the collegiate level. Emphasis is placed on complex language forms and verb tenses, continuation of vocabulary enlargement, and comprehension of a novel and a Spanish-language TV series. A dedicated effort toward fluency and understanding of other people and cultures is required. The Spanish text and workbook(s), “Auténtico 2” (and possibly “3”), are used along with teacher-provided supplemental materials. Grades will be awarded based on daily participation and homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and occasional extra credit.

French I

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Students taking French I will be introduced to the beauty of the French language and the culture of the French-speaking world. The emphasis of this class will be on attaining a solid foundation of vocabulary and grammar with practice in all four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Evaluation is based on daily class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, and oral presentations.

French II

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: French I

Course Description: French II is a continuation of the French I course. After a review of the highlights covered in the French I course, students will continue with their acquisition of French vocabulary and grammar. Evaluation is based on daily class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, oral presentations, and projects.

French III

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: French II

Course Description: French III is a continuation of the French II course. This course will enhance the ability of the students to use the French language in conversation, reading, and writing. Students will also have the opportunity to add to their knowledge of the various cultures of French-speaking countries. Evaluation is based on daily class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, oral presentations, projects, and outside reading.

French IV

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 12

Prerequisites: successful completion of French III

Course Description: French IV is a continuation of the French III course. This course will enhance the ability of the students to use the French language in conversation, reading, and writing. Students will also have the opportunity to add to their knowledge of the various cultures of French-speaking countries. Evaluation is based on daily class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, oral presentations, projects, and outside reading.

UNO French IV

UNO Course Number:

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 12

Prerequisites: successful completion of French III

Course Description:

Computer Technology

Information Technology Applications I

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-10

Course Description: Students will demonstrate basic skills in the areas of document formatting, word processing, spreadsheet applications, electronic presentation software, Internet use, security issues, and electronic communication. Students will manage computer operations and file storage, identify ethical issues pertaining to information systems, and learn about information technology careers. The class will consist of lectures, when necessary, and lab time to complete assignments. Grading is based on daily assignments, quizzes, tests, and timed writings. This class is only intended for those students who are not confident in their computer skills.

Computer Science

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-11

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Designed to be the first computer science course for students who have never programmed before. CS Discoveries is a starting point for Computer Science. Students will explore the impact of computing in society and build skills in digital citizenship and cybersecurity. Beyond learning the fundamentals of programming, students build computational-thinking skills by applying computer science to collaboration tools, modeling and simulation, and data analysis.

Honors Computer Science Principles or UNO Honors Computer Science

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9th-12th

Prerequisite: C or better in Algebra I

Course Description: The year long, dual credit Computer Science Principles course through UNO introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science while emphasizing creativity, collaboration, problem-solving, and real-world applications. The course will allow students to develop computational thinking and programming skills, create computational artifacts, and explore the broader impacts of computing on society. This honors-level course challenges students to dive deeper into concepts and apply their knowledge through engaging projects.

STEM I

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

STEM 1 is a hands-on class where each semester is broken down into smaller project sessions. We will do things such as 3D CAD modeling as it relates to 3D printing, laser cutting, etc. We will also learn some of the basics of robotics, welding, mechanical and computer engineering, etc. This class will challenge the norms and bring a new view to what the student's usual classroom setting is like. For every session spent explaining and plotting, there will be 5-6 hands on sessions where the kids will be experimenting, playing, and learning through trial and error.

STEM II

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Pre-Requisites: STEM I

Course Description: This second-semester course builds on the foundational concepts introduced in STEM 1, taking a deeper dive into topics like circuits, engineering, and design thinking. Students will explore basic physics principles and apply their knowledge through creative, hands-on projects such as building a mini golf course using real-world golf concepts, experimenting with the science behind slime, and creating stop-motion animations. This course encourages collaboration, problem-solving, and innovation through engaging, project-based learning.

Web Design

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Students will demonstrate knowledge of web design and languages, including HyperText Markup Language (HTML) and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) to create a content rich and visually pleasing website that captures and keeps visitors' interests. Focus will be given to effective page layout, image creation and manipulation, interactivity, content creation, and project management.

Intro to Cybersecurity or UNO Intro to Cybersecurity

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This two-semester dual-credit Cybersecurity course through UNO introduces students to the foundational concepts of cybersecurity, focusing on securing network and computer systems, identifying and mitigating threats such as malware, phishing, and network attacks, and exploring ethical and legal considerations. Students will engage in hands-on labs using the CYBER.ORG Range to practice system configuration and defense strategies. The curriculum also covers cryptography, secure device setup, and the societal impact of cybersecurity, examining global events shaped by information technology and the role cybersecurity plays across social, political, economic, and cultural systems. Throughout the course, students will explore career opportunities and develop the practical skills necessary to thrive in this rapidly evolving field.

Video Game Design or Metro Video Game Design

Duration: One Semester

Intended Grade Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: C or better in Algebra and Computing Foundations or equivalent

Course Description: In this 2D Game Programming dual credit course through MCC, students will explore the art and science of game design. Through hands-on projects and engaging lessons, they will develop skills in creating 2D games. Students will learn programming fundamentals, creative problem-solving, and how to communicate their ideas through games. Students will create a 2D web based game. Students will use HTML, CSS and JavaScript to create a game. The student will be able to design, create, and publish their 2D game at the end of this course.

Business

Personal Finance

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is designed to give the student financial information necessary for life after high school. Topics include consumer economics, buying technology, careers, taxes, budgeting, banking and checking, saving, investing, credit, transportation, housing, and insurance. Grading is based upon daily assignments, tests, quizzes and various special projects.

Metro Personal Finance

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is designed to give the student financial information necessary for life after high school. Topics include consumer economics, buying technology, careers, taxes, budgeting, banking and checking, saving, investing, credit, transportation, housing, and insurance. Grading is based upon daily assignments, tests, quizzes and various special projects.

Introduction to Business

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is intended for the student with a general interest in how the business world operates. The course is an introduction to many aspects of business such as economic systems and activity, international business, social responsibility, management and leadership, human resources, career planning, technology, financial management, and production. Grading is based upon daily assignments, tests, quizzes, and various special projects.

Accounting

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Students will study the accounting cycle for a service business organized as a sole proprietorship and a merchandising business organized as a partnership and corporation. Activities include journalizing and posting transactions, preparing worksheets, completing financial statements and end-of-fiscal period tasks, completing payroll and recording taxes, evaluating stock transactions and utilizing automated accounting software. Grading is based upon application problems, tests, quizzes and various special projects.

Metro Entrepreneurship

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Personal Finance

Course Descriptions: Students evaluate the business skills and commitment necessary to successfully operate an entrepreneurial venture and review the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship. Students understand

the role of entrepreneurial business in the United States and the impact on the national global economy. Students prepare a realistic foundational business plan appropriate to the launch of a small business.

Metro Marketing

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Personal Finance

Course Descriptions: Students learn core concepts and common practices specific to marketing including distributive fields, their functions and interrelationships. Topics include concept and strategies of the marketing mix; the application of marketing concepts in both consumer and business to business environments; and controversial marketing topics, including ethical challenges of advertising.

Industrial Technology

Woods Construction I

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This is a beginning class in machine woodworking with emphasis on construction and safety. The class requires the use of power tools/machines. The first project (Wooden Castle) is designed to teach safety on each and every machine used in the shop. After lectures and demonstrations on each machine are given, the student must pass a safety test before operating each machine. Grading is based on weekly assignments, tests, lab performance, and finished projects. Students are required to pay for supplies used on their own projects

Woods Construction II

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Woods I

Course Description: This is an advanced woodworking course in machine woodworking, emphasizing style, design, finish and construction techniques utilizing larger wood and wood-related material projects. Some extra student expense is involved for project cost. A safety test will be done on all machines. Grading is based on weekly assignments, tests, lab performances, and finished projects. Students are required to pay for supplies used on their own projects.

Woods Construction III

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Woods II

Course Description: This is an advanced woodworking tha builds on Woods II course in machine woodworking, emphasizing style, design, finish and construction techniques utilizing larger wood and wood-related material projects. Some extra student expense is involved for project cost. A safety test will be done on all machines. Grading is based on weekly assignments, tests, lab performances, and finished projects. Students are required to pay for supplies used on their own projects.

Construction Management & Applied Carpentry

Duration: one year, two class periods

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Beginning Woodworking, Construction Technology

Course Description: This is a class designed to give the student an opportunity to appreciate and experience the processes of residential construction and real life scenarios and situations in construction management. All skills in residential home building, including: rough carpentry, finish carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, roofing, drywall, cabinetry, painting and staining will be applied. Also, after completion of this course, the student will have a better understanding and appreciation of accounting, business management, math, time management and communication in relation to construction management. Grading is based on class participation, performance, accountability and attitude, as if the student were employed.

CTE Metro Construction Management (Introduction to Carpentry)

Duration: one semester, two periods

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Basic wood construction class

Course Description: This course covers the safe use of hand and power tools. Focus is on proper set up of tools, manufacture of jigs and templates are practiced. The student takes part in a laboratory project involving all stationary and hand power tools, as well as carpentry hand tools.

CTE Metro Construction Management (Floor, Wall, Stair and Ceiling Framing)

Duration: one semester, two periods

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: CTE Metro Construction Management (Introduction to Carpentry)

Course Description: This course deals with floor framing, wall parts, wall construction and installation of ceiling joist. A full scale house is constructed by the students in the indoor laboratory.

Intro To Architecture

Duration: 1st semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Mechanical Drafting II

Course Description: This advanced mechanical drawing course is a continuation of Mechanical Drafting II. This is an individual problems course, designed for the individual who has a keen interest in drafting or who is planning a career in the area of drafting or engineering. Auto Sketch and Auto CAD 2006 will be used a majority of the time. Grading will be done on completed drawings.

Welding

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This class introduces the basics of welding and its safety. The course is designed for the student who wishes to develop welding skills in flat position arc, oxyacetylene welding, wire feed, brazing and gas cutting. Metals safety test will be given in studied areas. Some extra student expense is involved for project cost. Grading is based on weekly assignments, tests, lab performances, and finished projects. Class is limited to 10-12 students.

Visual and Performing Arts

Art:

Art I - Theory and Fundamentals of Art

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisite: none

Course Description: This course is a prerequisite for all other high school art classes. It is an overview of the arts and includes a broad variety of media and materials used to study the elements and principles of design, color theory, drawing, painting, illustration, and printmaking. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Art II -Two-Dimensional Design & Illustration

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisite: Art I

Course Description: The fundamental skills and various techniques from Art 1 form the basis for Art 2. This course is an in depth study of composition and format that explores the principles of design and knowledge of the art elements. Design projects will involve the development of strong images through various medias in conjunction with typography to communicate ideas and expression. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Basic Drawing

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisite: Art I

Course Description: An intermediate drawing and design course dealing with fundamental drawing techniques in pencil, color pencil, charcoal, pastels, pen and ink, ink wash, and mixed media. Students will use drawing tools and various medias to apply knowledge of design with line, value, texture, form, space, and perspective. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Basic Painting

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisite: Art I

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the study and concepts of painting through the use of various medias including acrylics, tempera, oils, pastels, and watercolor. Students will examine techniques, tools, composition, color theory, formal properties and spatial properties of painting. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Drawing

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisite: Art I, Basic Drawing

Course Description: The fundamental skills and drawing techniques from Basic Drawing form the basis for Drawing. This course deals with advanced drawing techniques in pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, pastels, pen and ink, ink wash, and mixed media. Students will organize and compose extended drawings by manipulating various art elements. The development of images and expression is an integral aspect of this course. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Painting

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisite: Art I, Basic Painting

Course Description: The fundamental skills and techniques from Basic Painting form the basis for Painting. This course allows students to explore painting through individual study in multiple medias with emphasis on art movements and creative approaches used by artists. Construction of stretcher strips, masonite forms, stretching canvas, and framing for display will be utilized in this course. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Sculpture & Ceramics

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisite: Art I

Course Description: This course is designed to provide a broad understanding of sculpture and ceramics. The student will experience both additive and subtractive sculpture, freestanding, and kinetic. As students research artists and sculpture, they will learn to work with a variety of materials and techniques in a 3-dimensional space. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Advanced Art / Independent Study

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisite: two semesters of art including Art I

Course Description: This course is set up for the serious art student who is willing to work independently by utilizing self-discipline, time management, and problem solving. The student will develop original ideas working with a wide variety of media and techniques. The student will critique own work as well as receive evaluations from the instructor. Matting and framing of projects will be executed for display or exhibit. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, craftsmanship, and class work.

Computer Graphics

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the fundamental skills and terminology for creating and editing digital photographs, basic electronic paint and draw-type computer graphics. The student will use and

learn the fundamentals of Adobe's Photoshop Elements to explore basic painting, drawing, and typography concepts. Students will be graded on discussion and participation, projects, homework, and class work.

Vocal & Instrumental Music:

Choir

Duration: year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: A vocal music course that will provide students with a variety of choral styles with an emphasis on singing proficiency, vocal tone production, basic music theory, and performance. Opportunity for solos or small ensembles will be made available as wanted and needed. Grading will be based on classroom participation, cooperation, attitude, homework, tests, quizzes, and performance attendance (required). Choir is a year-long commitment. Any course changes will require teacher and parent/guardian approval.

Honors Choir

Duration: year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Selected by audition only

Course Description: A vocal music course that will provide a select group of 12-20 students with a more intense musical experience with an emphasis on advanced levels of choral literature, advanced skills of singing and reading music. This group will have performance opportunities outside of the school day in addition to the regular concert schedule. Grading will be based on classroom participation, cooperation, attitude, homework, test, quizzes and performance attendance (required). Honors Choir is a year-long commitment. Any course changes will require teacher and parent/guardian approval.

Band

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12.

Prerequisites: permission from the instructor

Course Description: A year-long instrumental music course for moderate to advanced skilled players.

Performance requirements include pep band, marching, concerts, and music contests. Opportunities for solos and small ensembles are available. Grading is based on participation, cooperation, attitude, assignments, and performance attendance (required). Band is a year-long commitment. Any course changes will require teacher and parent/guardian approval.

Music Appreciation/Theory

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course is for students wanting to further their musical knowledge. Students considering a career in music are strongly encouraged to enroll. The class is designed to inspire, motivate, and educate students in multiple facets of music. Several topics will be covered, including, but not limited to: music theory, music history, composers (past and present), advocacy (the importance of music), composition (writing music), ear training, basic keyboarding (piano), and the role of music in society.

Introduction to Guitar

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Beginning guitar is a one semester course designed to give a student the fundamental skills that would allow him/her to play simple melodies and basic chords for simple songs. Basic skills include identifying guitar parts, string names, tuning, hand and finger positions, strumming, picking, and chords. Grades will be based on weekly evaluation of assignments, quizzes and tests.

Introduction to Piano

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Introduction to Piano is a one-semester course designed to develop basic piano playing skills. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboards. When playing, the students will work individually and in small groups to master the techniques of playing. Time will also be spent in group instruction on musical notation and theory.

Bucket Drumming

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Learn to play percussion through the fun and engaging art of bucket drumming. Find your rhythm, and increase your motor skills and hand/eye coordination. Bucket drumming can be a social activity to promote ensemble skills or a solo exercise for students who aspire to be drummers. It can be used as a vessel for preparing, practicing, and presenting percussive techniques. This class is intended for students who are interested in learning percussion and creating music with other people.

Physical Education/Health

Health

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This class is designed to give the student knowledge of useful life skills and decision making abilities. The class emphasis is on CPR, basic first aid, and other basic response skills to life threatening problems. Human sexuality, childbirth, sexually contracted diseases and abusive relationships are also covered. Two research papers are required. Method of instruction includes lectures, films, and guest speakers.

Physical Education

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-10

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: Physical development of flexibility, strength, and endurance through running, jumping, circuit training, and weight training. This class is used to gain knowledge in areas relating to physical fitness for a better understanding of the importance and benefits of exercise. Students will participate in activities/games that enhance muscular endurance and strength and will learn the fundamentals of various team sports.

Intro to Strength and Conditioning

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-10

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: During this class the students are able to participate in a weight lifting program, aerobic program, or a plyometric program. This course would be very beneficial for anyone that is looking to improve his/her overall strength and conditioning.

Intermediate Strength & Conditioning

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Completion of one of the following:

1. Attend 80% or more of the DC West Summer Strength and Conditioning program
2. A grade of 80% or higher in Introduction to Strength and Conditioning

Course Description: This course is designed for the intermediate weight training student. It builds on Introduction to Strength and Conditioning by applying basic strength principles and concepts of proper lifting techniques, spotting methods, weight room safety, and workout routines to the intermediate weight training student. The principles of training (progression, overload, specificity, regularity and individuality) are incorporated into this course.

Advanced Strength & Conditioning with Nutrition

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: Completion of Intermediate Strength and Conditioning with a grade of 80% or higher and a recommendation from the instructor based on their overall performance.

Course Description: This course is designed for the advanced weight training student. It includes advanced lifting techniques and conditioning programs that will be individualized to the student and their goals. Topics of practice include: triphasic training, Olympic weight lifting, speed development, plyometrics and energy system development. This course will also provide students with nutritional concepts and scientific inquiry to explore the impact of nutrition on individuals and society as a whole. Students will explore the role of nutrients in food as they relate to human performance and disease. Additionally, they will gain knowledge and skills to evaluate food choices, dietary guidelines, and current diet trends and the implications for both long and short-term health.

UNO Advanced Strength & Conditioning with Nutrition

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: coach/instructor's discretion

Course Description: This course is designed for the advanced weight training student. It includes advanced lifting techniques and conditioning programs that will be individualized to the student and their goals. Topics of practice include: triphasic training, Olympic weight lifting, speed development, plyometrics and energy system development. This course will also provide students with nutritional concepts and scientific inquiry to explore the impact of nutrition on individuals and society as a whole. Students will explore the role of nutrients in food as they relate to human performance and disease. Additionally, they will gain knowledge and skills to evaluate food choices, dietary guidelines, and current diet trends and the implications for both long and short-term health.

Notes: This class will be worth four credit hours of college credit through the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Students must complete this class in both the fall and spring semesters in order to receive credit.

Lifetime/Recreation Activities

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 11-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This is a Physical Education class geared towards learning the benefits of recreation and lifetime activities. This class will include activities such as volleyball, fishing, bowling, biking, ice skating, basketball, golf, and other activities relating to recreation and lifetime use. The students will still learn all of the benefits that physical education has to offer in the future.

Aerobics/Yoga

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Descriptions: Students will be exposed to a variety of exercise techniques aimed at increasing flexibility, endurance, and athletic ability. Aerobic and yoga routines, as well as, team games will be utilized in instructing students to achieve their goals.

UNMC High School Alliance

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 12 (upon selection of the UNMC Community)

Prerequisites: Health -Students admitted to the UNMC Alliance will take classes on the UNMC campus every day from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Because school districts have different calendars, the UNMC Alliance follows the Omaha Public Schools calendar. If school is not in session but the UNMC Alliance does have class, students are still required to attend. This is a weighted class for students that are selected.

Course Offerings:

- Biomedical Research
- Exploration of Human Anatomy
- Human Genetics – Medical and Societal Implications
- Infectious Disease – Microbes: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly
- The Study of Patient Care
- Pathology – Connecting Cells to the Clinic: Fundamentals of Disease
- Introduction to Pharmacy
- Community Health - Outside the Individual: Investigating the Public's Health
- Intro to Behavioral Health: Concepts and Careers from Family Therapy to Forensic Psychiatry
- The Biology and Prevention of Cancer

Family and Consumer Sciences

Culinary Skills

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Course Description- Students will be introduced to the basics of food planning and meal preparation. The emphasis of this class will be on building familiarity with basic kitchen skills, while also exploring the vast world of culinary possibilities! My goal for everyone is to become more comfortable with the task of feeding oneself and others. Evaluation is based on daily class participation, homework, quizzes, projects, and kitchen labs.

Culinary Skills II

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Culinary I

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with an advanced curriculum which is focused on the foodservice industry and provides training in workplace and culinary skills, interpersonal and communication skills, as well as an exposure to the areas of restaurant management and career exploration.

Interior Design

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course explores housing selection and interior design through hands-on projects. Students will design interior renderings, floorplans, furniture arrangements, window treatments, and storage considering the elements and principles of design.

Interior Design II

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 10-12

Prerequisites: Interior Design

Course Description: Students will build upon foundational knowledge from Interior Design 1, focusing on advanced design applications, business basics, and sustainability principles. Students will also develop skills in areas including: space planning, material selection, exterior finishing, green space planning and industry trends.

Fashion Design

Duration: 1 semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: In this class, students explore the definition and application of elements and principles of design in fashion and/or textiles. Design trends, inspiration sources, technical tools (hand and computer), fiber/fabric types and much more are explored through examples, exercises, critiques and creative projects. Basic sewing construction is learned in this class. Students are exposed to career opportunities and skills necessary for the design career fields of fashion and/or textiles.

Fashion Design II

Duration: 1 semester

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Fashion Design I

Course Description: Students will build upon foundational skills from Fashion Design 1 by exploring more advanced design techniques and garment construction. Students will develop skills in computer-aided design (CAD), trend research, and fabric sourcing, with the goal of creating a portfolio of refined designs.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Senior Seminar

Duration: one semester

Intended Level: 12

Prerequisite: College-bound students

Course Description: Careers Class is a senior oriented class that focuses on Career Pathways, College Choice and Job preparation. The Career Pathway segment starts with personality and psychological evaluation tests that direct the students to career opportunities that match their personalities. Representatives from the professional world, colleges and vocational schools are invited to speak to the students about job requirements and future opportunities. The College Choice segment is a year-long decision process in which the students research the best college for their interest in a particular field of study. The students then take campus visits and meet with future students and professors in the field that they choose. College applications, scholarships, and financial aid applications are reviewed and completed during class time. The Job Preparation segment starts with the shadowing of a professional in a chosen area. All students will complete one job shadow per semester. This will allow them to explore a different field of the job market. The students will also complete a Real Life Simulation Project. The project will allow them to set up and complete a budget sheet that allows them to learn the value of budgeting money and spending needs.

Special Education

(Special Education courses are only offered to students on an Individualized Education Plan)

Vocational Skills

Duration: one year

Course Description: Secondary students in this course participate in assigned special education and related services pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP) and are working toward a Nebraska high school diploma. The instructor is solely responsible for delivering academic content and assigning grades. A special course designed to provide experiences for students with disabilities in the area of work-related experience and job skills. This course code is to be used for all work experience classes adjusted and designed for students with disabilities.

Independent Living

Duration: one year

Course Description: All elementary and/or secondary students in this course participate in assigned special education and related services pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP) and are working toward a Nebraska high school diploma. The instructor is solely responsible for delivering academic content and assigning grades. A special course designed to provide the opportunity to acquire effective independent living, self advocacy, and survival skills with a focus on interconnection of family, career, and community for students with disabilities. This course code is to be used for all independent living classes adjusted and designed for students with disabilities and is appropriate regardless of grade level.

Language Arts Connections

Duration: one year

Course Description: All elementary and/or secondary students in this course participate in assigned special education and related services pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP) and are working toward a Nebraska high school diploma. The instructor is solely responsible for delivering academic content and assigning grades. A special course designed to provide students with disabilities subject matter and experiences in the area of language arts, including the full range of language experiences (i.e. reading, writing, speaking and listening skills) for students with disabilities. This course code is to be used for all language arts classes adjusted and designed specifically for students with disabilities and is appropriate regardless of grade level.

Math Connections

Duration: one year

Course Description: All elementary and/or secondary students in this course participate in assigned special education and related services pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP) and are working toward a Nebraska high school diploma. The instructor is solely responsible for delivering academic content and assigning grades. A special course designed to provide the skills and understanding associated with number processes and developing mathematical skills for students with disabilities. Students have the opportunity to apply the math concepts to personal finance, business, and money management situations. This course is to be used for all math classes adjusted and designed for students with disabilities and is appropriate regardless of grade level.

Science Connections

Duration: one year

Course Description: All elementary and/or secondary students in this course participate in assigned special education and related services pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP) and are working toward a Nebraska high school diploma. The instructor is solely responsible for delivering academic content and assigning grades. A special course designed to provide subject matter and experiences in the areas of biology, physical and earth sciences for students with disabilities. This course code is to be used for all science classes adjusted and designed for students with disabilities and is appropriate regardless of grade level.

Social Studies Connections

Duration: one year

Course Description: All elementary and/or secondary students in this course participate in assigned special education and related services pursuant to an individualized education program (IEP) and are working toward a Nebraska high school diploma. The instructor is solely responsible for delivering academic content and assigning grades. A special course designed to provide subject matter dealing with the elements and structures of human society which may include economics, geography, history, citizenship, government and other social studies related disciplines for students with disabilities. This course code is to be used for all social studies classes adjusted and designed for students with disabilities and is appropriate regardless of grade level.

English Language Learners (ELL)

ELL Beginning English

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed for the ELL student who is just entering a US school for the first time. Focus is on everyday conversational English and extensive vocabulary connected with pictures. Key topics cover home, family, workplace, community, healthcare and academic studies. Sub-topics include everyday language, people, housing, food, clothing, health, community, transportation, areas of study, plants and animals, work and recreation, and sports. Spelling and beginning skills in writing in English are introduced. English grammar is also covered.

ELL Intermediate English

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: ELL Beginning English

Course Description: This course is an extension of ELL Beginning English and will follow the same curriculum as the regular English class, with modifications as needed. Grammar, writing, literature, vocabulary, poetry, and information related to job skills will be covered in this course.

ELL Reading I

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course will focus on teaching the non-reading ELL student to read with an extensive phonics and sight word curriculum.

ELL Reading II

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: ELL Reading I

Course Description: This course is an extension of ELL Reading I. First semester, stories are introduced through a picture/caption curriculum and the focus is on vocabulary and comprehension. Second semester, students read stories with fewer or not pictures and continue to expand vocabulary and comprehension.

ELL Math

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed for the beginning ELL student who has little or no math background. It will focus on the math skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers and decimals. Time, money, and survival math skills will also be covered in this course.

ELL General Math I

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed for the beginning ELL student who has a limited math background. Topics include computations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, integers, percents and real life problems involving those sets of numbers.

ELL General Math II

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed for ELL student who has a fairly solid background in math. Topics will include those in General Math I, but will also include Consumer Math skills (straight-time pay, over-time pay, commission, net pay, gross pay and a banking unit). Students will also be introduced to ratios, proportions, equations, ordered pairs and graphing.

ELL Science

Duration: on semester

Intended level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course focuses on content science vocabulary and background knowledge needed to participate in regular core Science classes. Special emphasis will be placed in the content areas of: Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry and Environmental Science.

ELL Social Studies

Duration: on semester

Intended level: 9-12

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: This course focuses on content Social Studies vocabulary and background knowledge needed to participate in regular core Social Studies classes. Special emphasis will be placed in the content areas of: Geography, US History, World History, Economics and Political Science.

ELL Beginning Study Skills

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed for the ELL student and will use object picture cards and storyboards to teach vocabulary and language.

ELL Intermediate Study Skills

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Beginning Study Skills

Course Description: This course is an extension of ELL Beginning Study Skills and will focus on survival vocabulary and Science/Social Studies prep.

ELL Advanced Study Skills

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: Intermediate Study Skills

Course Description: This course is an extension of ELL Intermediate Study Skills and will focus on providing assistance for the student on regular content curriculum studies.

Work Experience

Work Experience

Duration: one year

Intended Level: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course will include activities to prepare the student for the world of work. When students gain and maintain the necessary vocational skills to earn the opportunity for additional work experience, the student may be assigned to a job site outside of the school, with the goal of future employment. Activities and instruction will be based upon the present level of educational performance and individual student goals. The student must provide documentation (pay stubs) of 80 hours of work to earn 1 credit.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Douglas County West Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Melissa Poloncic, Superintendent, 401 S Pine Street, Valley, NE 68064 (402) 359-2583 ([HYPERLINK "https://outlook.esu3.org/owa/UrlBlockedError.aspx" \t "_blank" mpoloncic@dcwest.org](mailto:mpoloncic@dcwest.org)). Employees and Others: Allison Nields, Title IX Director, 401 S Pine Street, Valley, NE 68064 (402) 359-2583 ([HYPERLINK "https://outlook.esu3.org/owa/UrlBlockedError.aspx" \t "_blank" anelids@dcwest.org](mailto:anelids@dcwest.org)). Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12th Street, Room 353, Kansas City, MO 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), Fax (816) 426-3686, (800) 537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or [HYPERLINK "https://outlook.esu3.org/owa/UrlBlockedError.aspx" \t "_blank" ocr.kansascity@ed.gov](https://outlook.esu3.org/owa/UrlBlockedError.aspx) < [HYPERLINK "mailto:ocr.kansascity@ed.gov" \t "_blank" mailto:ocr.kansascity@ed.gov](mailto:ocr.kansascity@ed.gov) > .