

2021-
2022

Freshman Course Descriptions



Plainfield Central High School
Plainfield School District 202
2021-2022

Required Course Descriptions

ENGLISH COURSES:

English I

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Cost of required novels

Description: Students will read a variety of texts to analyze key ideas, details, and structures with the goal of summarizing information, creating inferences, and evaluating author's purpose. Additionally, students will express themselves across all writing formats, using standardized writing procedures and language, to develop a central idea, maintain a coherent focus, and elaborate the points made with relevant research and/or examples. Finally, students will engage in formal and informal verbal discourse to exchange ideas effectively.

English I Honors

Full Year Course

Credit 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Cost of required novels

Description: Students will analyze various texts in order to identify and examine author's purpose, locate details and examine characters' relationships in complicated literature. Students will use textual evidence to create meaning and understand the effect of a text's style and craft. Students will also read texts to generate inferences, and draw conclusions about people and ideas through reading, writing, and speaking. An advanced level of reading, extensive writing, and active class participation are required. This course carries a weighted grade and may require summer reading. Please refer to your school's web site for more information.

Reading 1

Full Year Course

Credit 1.0

Prerequisite: Placement only

Description: This course is intended to improve reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary skills, critical thinking skills and reading rate in practical and academic reading. Students enrolled in this course are also enrolled in an English course. This course may be taken for elective credit only. ***This course does not count toward English credit for graduation.***

MATHEMATICS COURSES

Algebra 1 **Full Year** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is the introductory course in the math sequence. Topics include equations, inequalities and systems of equations and inequalities; graphing polynomial functions, exponential functions, and quadratic functions; and applying the properties of descriptive statistics to problem solving. **Graphing calculator required (TI-84, TI-84+ preferred)**

Algebra 1 Block **Full Year** **Credit: 1.0 (elective only)**

Prerequisite: Placement only

Fees: None

Description: Students enrolled in Algebra 1 Block (elective credit) will be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 (math credit). The purpose of this course is to strengthen basic math skills that are needed to be successful in Algebra 1 and future math classes. Emphasis is placed on integer skills and basic equation solving. **Graphing calculator required (TI-84, TI-84+ preferred)**

Algebra 1 Honors **Full Year** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Description: This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a strong foundation in 8th grade math. All topics in Algebra 1 are covered in greater depth with enrichments and extensions. Some of the topics included in this course are: linear functions, solving equations, writing and graphing linear, quadratic and exponential functions, systems of equations, rational functions and quadratic functions. This course carries a weighted grade. **Graphing calculator required (TI-84, TI-84+ preferred).**

Geometry **Full Year** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Description: This course focuses on congruence, proof, and constructions and the application of those concepts to similarity, circle, trigonometry, polygons, and solids. Connections of Algebra and Geometry will be built through the use of coordinates. **Graphing calculator required (TI-84, TI-84+ preferred)**

Geometry Honors **Full Year** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors

Description: This course is designed for the students who have demonstrated a strong foundation in Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors. All topics in Geometry are covered in greater depth with enrichments and extensions. Additional topics include demonstration, explanation, and proof of geometric relationships and justification of connections of Algebra and Geometry through coordinates. This course carries a weighted grade. **Graphing calculator required (TI-84, TI-84+ preferred).**

SCIENCE COURSES

Biology

Full Year

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This laboratory course is designed for students with a variety of skills and ability levels. It examines the following topics in depth: chemistry of life, the biosphere, populations, cell structure and function, DNA and inheritance, evolution, and classification. A significant emphasis is placed on scientific methodology. Recurring themes include ecology, genetics, and evolution.

Biology Honors

Full Year

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed for students who have excellent reading, comprehension, and study skills. The pace of the course is rapid, and the class covers material in greater depth than Biology. This is a lab-oriented class. Major topics include: biochemistry, cellular biology, molecular and Mendelian genetics, biodiversity, and ecology. This course carries a weighted grade.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES:

Wellness

Full Year

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This class will emphasize lifelong fitness, fitness concepts, overall wellness, and fitness goal setting. Students will discover and participate in a variety of fitness and lifetime sports activities. Each student will be empowered to design and implement fitness activities within the realm of health-related fitness. Students will also learn and engage in cooperative learning, problem solving, movement skills and team activities. ***Student must have a school approved uniform and school approved lock.***

★PASSION★PRIDE★TRADITION★

Elective Course Descriptions

CAREER AND TECH ED COURSES

Introduction to Computer Technology

Semester 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to teach students the touch-typing method of the alpha/numeric keyboard on the personal computer, with an emphasis on proper keying techniques and proofreading/editing skills. Students will develop speed and accuracy while producing and editing properly formatted documents utilizing the appropriate software applications. Students also gain knowledge of Microsoft Word. Basic word processing is introduced. Students key academic reports, personal letters, tables, and a capstone project in Microsoft Word. The development of employability skills is included in the course. This course is required before entry into other business computer classes.

Game Design

Semester 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is designed to provide students with the working knowledge and technical skills required to plan, design, and implement a complete three-dimensional video game. This course will cover techniques of game design from planning, storyboarding, building a 3D world, and creating object to perform specific tasks. Our game design engine provides a gentle introduction to structured and object-oriented programming. Students will develop programming skills in control structures, conditional statements, variables, and data structures. Students will also be introduced to object-oriented topics such as classes, attributes, methods, and functions. Any games created are the sole ownership of District 202. The result of the class will be the students constructing an educational game using a game engine. Students/Guardian will be required to sign a disclaimer form as part of the class.

Computer Applications Grade

Semester 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Introduction to Computer Technology

Description: This course is designed to provide students with hands-on experience with personal computers. The student gains knowledge of computer technology through use of Microsoft Office. Students learn Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to apply learning in personal and/or business applications. These programs are beneficial in students' daily lives and in a variety of careers

Sports and Entertainment Marketing and Advertising Semester: 1 or 2 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course focuses on marketing and advertising products to the consumer. Content is based on real world examples in sports, entertainment and advertising. Topics covered include marketing research, product planning, purchasing, distribution, pricing, promotion, and advertising in relation to sports and entertainment

Orientation to Business & Personal Finance Semester: 1 or 2 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None (JJC Finance 100 Personal Finance 3.0 cr. hrs. Dual Credit: Available only to 11-12.)

Description: In today's increasingly complex society, everyone needs an understanding of the business world. This is true not only of the person who intends to enter the business world in order to make a living, but of each person who will buy and use the goods and services that businesses have to offer. Nine weeks of this course consists of a program in consumer education, which will include the following topics: the individual consumer in the marketplace, money management, consumer credit, human services-housing, food, transportation, clothing, health services, drugs and cosmetics, recreation, furnishings and appliances, insurance, savings and investments, taxes and the consumer in our economy. Other topics include banking services, the stock market, basic marketing principles and career investigation. Course offering dependent upon teacher availability and JJC approval. This course can be used to meet the consumer education requirement for graduation.

Child Development Semester: 1 or 2 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Students are required to purchase workbook

Description: This course covers the growth and development of children beginning in the prenatal stages through age three. The course analyzes all aspects of children's development including: physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and moral development. Course content also includes the study of family and parenting skills, effects of teen pregnancy, labor and delivery, developmental challenges, and birth defects.

Culinary Arts 1 Term: 1 or 2 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Students are required to purchase workbook.

Description: This course includes introductory classroom and laboratory experiences needed to develop knowledge and understanding of the foundations of food principles and applied nutrition. The course content centers around the following areas: promoting food service and preparation management using a decision-making process; meeting basic needs by applying nutritional concepts; meeting health and safety needs in planning, preparing and serving food; maximizing resources when planning; promoting hospitality in food practices; and analyzing nutritional needs. This course offers the development of employability skills, transitional skills, and vocational skills.

Culinary Arts 2**Term: 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite:** Culinary Arts 1**Fees:** Students may be required to purchase workbook.

Description: In this intermediate level culinary course, more attention is paid to food selection and preparation of specific culinary focuses. Laboratory activities are devoted to preparation of foods with specific characteristics. The course includes the following major units: careers in food service and human nutrition; cultural and geographical influence on food customs, current nutritional issues, egg preparation, dairy products, meat preparation, cake decorating, pastry, garnishing, candy, and cultural cuisine. The development of employability skills, transitional skills, and vocational skills are included in this course.

Fashion 1**Semester: 1 or 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite:** None**Fees:** Students are required to purchase fabric, and other items for projects.

Description: This course teaches an overview of clothing construction skills, textiles, and the fashion industry. Throughout the semester, the student will alternate between sewing lab projects and learning applicable content related to clothing, textiles, and fashion. Topics include cultural influences of fashion, evolution of fashion history, fashion styles, prominent fashion designers, as well as, global fashion capitals and careers.

Fashion 2**Semester 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite:** Fashion 1**Fees:** Students are required to purchase fabric and other items for projects.

Description: This course expands upon the knowledge learned in Clothing, Textiles & Fashion I as students learn more about the fashion industry and construct garments of higher skill and difficulty. The course content focuses more on clothing design including a focus on the use of color as well as different textiles, fibers, and fabric finishes. Students will learn how to care for clothing, make alterations, and repurpose existing clothing. Throughout the semester students will create a fashion portfolio to serve as a representation of their work while also demonstrating advanced sewing techniques and methods in their garment projects.

Parenting**Semester 1 or 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite:** None**Fees:** Students are required to purchase workbook.

Description: This course provides an overview of child development principles while incorporating findings from recent research regarding the development of the brain, parenting styles, and discipline theories. The aim of this course is to better prepare students for the rewards and responsibilities of parenting and working with children. Topics covered throughout the semester include responsible parenting, personal readiness, health and safety of children, effective parenting skills, and facing family challenges.

TECH ED COURSES

Introduction to CAD

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of the AutoCAD computer aided drafting and design software. Students will learn how to construct, edit, dimension, scale, and print various types of technical drawings. These include geometric, orthographic, multi-view, sectional view, and three-dimensional and isometric drawings. This class is required for enrollment in Architectural CAD 1 and 3D CAD/Solid Modeling. This is a good background course for any student interested in a career design, architecture, and/or engineering.

Architectural CAD 1

Term: 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Introduction to CAD

Description: Students will become familiar with fundamental architectural design principles and styles. Students will learn how residential structures are taken from a concept to a physical reality. Using AutoCAD and Architectural Desktop software, students produce floor plans, elevations, and wall sections. New construction versus remodeling is covered. Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) is used for all drafting. This class is required for Architectural CAD 2. This is a good background course for design, architecture, and engineering college majors.

3D CAD/Solid Modeling

Term: 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Introduction to CAD

Description: Students will learn advanced AutoCAD software and techniques to produce three-dimensional solids. Emphasis will be on creating and rendering 3-D shapes by using primitives and extruding. Modifying and editing commands will be introduced as well as dimensioning and printing. This is a good background course for any student interested in a career in design and/or engineering.

ART COURSES:

Art Foundations

Term: 1 & 2

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Students are required to purchase additional supplies.

Description: This course is an academic approach to the media, methods, and techniques needed to produce objective two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork. The goal of this course is to provide each student with a foundation through exposure to a variety of media while covering the elements and principles of design. The class focuses on 2D and 3D media including black and white drawing, colored media, painting, sculpture and digital technology.

Ceramics 1**Term: 1 or 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite: None****Fees: Students are required to purchase additional supplies.**

Description: The goal of this course is to introduce students to the medium of clay. Students become familiar with many hand-building techniques to produce artwork throughout the semester, based on preliminary drawings. Some techniques covered include pinch, coil, slab, and sculpture. Each project takes approximately three weeks from pencil and paper design to glazing.

Ceramics 2**Term: 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite: Ceramics 1****Fees: Students are required to purchase additional supplies.**

Description: The goal of this course is to continue the techniques and skills of working with clay, with a more individual and intense approach to art work. The technique of wheel throwing is introduced during this semester, which broadens and enhances the student's knowledge of ceramic production.

Digital Photography and Imaging 1**Full Year Course****Credit: 1.0****Prerequisite: None****Fees: Students are required to purchase additional supplies.**

Description: The goal of this course is to provide an introduction to the computer as a media tool in conjunction with basic Photographic skills. Students will become familiar with photographic composition and learn basic software tools and techniques using current industry standard software and peripheral devices, culminating in digital images.

Sculpture 1**Term: 1 or 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite: None****Fees: Students are required to purchase additional supplies.**

Description: The goal of this course is to introduce students to three-dimensional artwork. Students are exposed to traditional techniques and concepts of sculpture using additive and subtractive processes in a variety of media. Students also explore the sculptor's impact on and connection to societies and cultures of the past and present.

Sculpture 2**Term: 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite: Sculpture 1****Fees: Students are required to purchase additional supplies.**

Description: The goal of this course is to study the techniques and methods for the creation of three-dimensional artwork more intensively. Students continue to use additive and subtractive processes within a variety of media. Students also experience a more comprehensive examination of the impact and connection of sculpture to societies and cultures of the past and present.

MUSIC COURSES:

Concert Band

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Audition

Fees: Co-Curricular Fee

Description: The Concert Band focuses on the development and reinforcement of fundamental playing skills. Freshmen and new students are automatically placed in this ensemble and must audition to enter the Symphonic Band. Auditions determine chair and band placement. The high school Concert Band performs repertoire that provides formative experiences in developing its musicianship. Students are evaluated by their in-class and out-of-class preparation. During August, September, and October, class content requires participation in marching band, both parade and field. After marching season, students will concentrate on concert preparation. Students enrolled are required to attend out-of-school functions, such as concerts, parades, field trips, and extra rehearsals/sectionals.

Mixed Choir

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Co-Curricular Fee

Description: Mixed Choir is open to all students. No previous choral experience is necessary. The ensemble performs traditional choral literature at concerts throughout the year. The curriculum is based on basic concepts of vocal fundamentals and music theory. Students learn solfege, notational skills, and the basics of sight-reading. Attendance is required at seasonal evening concerts and after-school rehearsals.

Music Survey

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course is an overview of music from various cultures throughout history with an emphasis on popular music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Special emphasis is given to major forms and composers, as well as the instruments and characteristics of the stylistic periods of music history. The course also includes considerable time listening to musical performances. Students may be required to attend concerts, musical programs, and other night events.

Music Theory

Term: 1 or 2

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students learn the basics of reading and writing music. This course is suitable for students with any background and gives all students a better understanding of music. The course also helps prepare musicians who are interested in college music major.

Symphonic Band Grade

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Audition

Fees: Co-Curricular Fee

Description: If the band program enrollment dictates two bands, the Symphonic Band will be the top-performing group of the high school bands. The student enters the group through an audition. The Symphonic Band performs music in a variety of styles. The "Comprehensive Musicianship" approach is

used to acquaint the student with numerous aspects of music, including historical periods and harmonic and melodic characteristics. Performance is the focal point of the class. Students are evaluated by their in-class and out-of-class preparation. During August, September, and October, class content requires participation in marching band, both parade and field. After marching season, students will concentrate on concert preparation. Students enrolled are required to attend out-of-school functions, such as concerts, parades, field trips, and extra rehearsals/sectionals.

Wind Ensemble

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Audition

Fees: Co-Curricular Fee

Description: If the band program enrollment dictates three bands, the Wind Ensemble will be the top-performing group of the high school bands. Students enter the group through an audition. The Wind Ensemble performs music in a variety of styles. The “Comprehensive Musicianship” approach is used to acquaint the student with numerous aspects of music, including historical periods and harmonic and melodic characteristics. Performance is the focal point of the class. Students are evaluated by their in-class and out-of-class preparation. During August, September, and October, class content requires participation in marching band, both parade and field. After marching season, students will concentrate on concert preparation. Students enrolled are required to attend out-of-school functions, such as concerts, parades, field trips, and extra rehearsals/sectionals.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

American Sign Language 1 (ASL)

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This class introduces students to the Deaf culture, vocabulary words for this new language, and correct grammatical and syntactical rules. Students present about parts of Deaf culture in the United States, autobiographies, and sentences to show their expressive skills. They are also tested on their knowledge of the Deaf culture and their ability to understand signing when presented to them by the teacher.

French 1

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Students are required to purchase workbook.

Description: Students are engaged in the French language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. An emphasis is placed on acquiring basic vocabulary, verb tenses, and grammatical structures to develop communication skills. Students also learn about France and other French-speaking cultures.

German 1

Full Year Course

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Students are required to purchase workbook.

Description: Vocabulary and everyday German expressions are emphasized in order to promote conversational expression. Extensive work is done in German grammar to build a strong foundation and strengthen the student’s knowledge base. The culture, history, and geography of the German-speaking people are also studied to provide a well-rounded first year.

Spanish 1 **Full Year Course** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: None

Fees: Students are required to purchase workbook.

Description: In this course, emphasis is placed on building a foundation of basic vocabulary and grammar in order to develop the student's abilities to read, write, speak, and listen in the Spanish language. The culture and customs of the Spanish speaking people are also introduced.

Spanish 2 **Full Year Course** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

Fees: Students are required to purchase workbook.

Description: After a brief review of Spanish 1, this course emphasizes the ability to understand and use the Spanish language. The study of Spanish grammar and vocabulary continues to enhance the student's skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and involves more difficult Spanish concepts. The customs and cultures of Spanish speaking countries remain a central element in the second-level program.

Spanish 2 Honors **Full Year Course** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

Fees: Students are required to purchase workbook.

Description: This course features an enhanced Spanish 2 curriculum designed to increase Spanish proficiency through extended lessons in grammar, vocabulary and supplementary materials. This class moves at a faster pace than Spanish 2. Students in this course are expected to advance to Spanish 3 Honors and ultimately to Advanced Placement Spanish Language. This course carries a weighted grade.

Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1 **Full Year Course** **Credit: 1.0**

Prerequisite: Placement test or teacher recommendation.

Description: Primary focus of this course is to address literacy skills in the heritage language. Grammar, spelling, writing, and reading represent the primary learning targets. The secondary focus is to survey the forthcoming culture, geography, history, and literature that will be addressed in much more depth in levels 2 and 3. The overview will serve to familiarize students with these topics prior to encountering them in more detail and with more rigor at the upper levels.

MATHEMATICS COURSES:

Computer Programming I **Semester 1** **Credit: 0.5**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors

Description: Computer logic is an important skill in today's world whether you are interested in business, economics, science, or computer science. You will learn how to solve various business applications and logical problems through programming. Topics include: computer basics, networking basics, logical structure and design. Basic programming conventions will be taught to include: variables and expressions, functions/methods and control structures. Stress is placed on writing structured programs that are user-friendly. This course may be taken for elective credit only. ***This course does not count toward Math credit for graduation.***

Computer Programming II**Semester 2****Credit: 0.5****Prerequisite:** Computer Programming 1

Description: This course is for those who want to expand their knowledge of programming. Topics include: strings, lists, arrays, files, classes, methods, and class interaction through inheritance and composition. Stress is placed on problem solving and writing structured programs. ***This course may be taken for elective credit only. This course does not count toward Math credit for graduation.***

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES:**AP Human Geography****Full Year Course****Credit: 1.0****Prerequisite: None**

Description: This course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. Students also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. There will be a strong emphasis on writing throughout the course, and students will consistently express their geographical understanding through writing. Students perform college level work and are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam. This course carries a weighted grade. This course may be taken for elective credit only. This course may require summer reading. Please refer to your school's web site for more information.

World Cultures & Geography**Full Year Course****Credit: 1.0****Prerequisite: None**

Description: This course is an introduction to our physical environment and the locational characteristics of human activities. It studies the inter-relationships of climate, landforms, vegetation, soils, and natural resources, and their significance to man. Students primarily study the United States and other North American countries during the first semester, and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, the Pacific Ocean area, and the Polar Regions during the second semester. Extensive map study is utilized.

World History Grade**Full Year Course****Credit: 1.0****Prerequisite: None**

Description: This course examines the development of Western culture from Middle Ages to the aftermath of World War I. Students will assess the nature of changes in global frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. Students are expected to think critically in order to participate in classroom discussions and produce analytical essays utilizing primary and secondary source documents.