VALLEY R-VI

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS\*

LANGUAGE ARTS

English I

This class will focus on the skills necessary to become enthusiastic readers, critical thinkers, and effective communicators. Students will strengthen their oral and written communication skills, along with learning how to understand and analyze written works from a variety of cultures and times. This course will also focus on the students' writing abilities by using both creative and real-world writing tasks.

English II

This class will focus on the skills necessary to become enthusiastic readers, critical thinkers, and effective communicators. Students will strengthen their oral and written communication skills, along with learning how to understand and analyze written works from a variety of cultures and times. This course will also focus on the students' writing abilities by using both creative and real-world writing tasks.

English III

This course will examine the progress of American Literature from this early American literary tradition all the way up to the present day. Our examination will be text-driven and will cover all the significant genres of literature. We will study novels, plays, poetry, short stories, film, and a variety of other forms of literary scholarship and criticism. While there will be time devoted to pre-1900 literature, the crux of the course will be 20th century literature.

English III +

This course is designed for high school juniors and seniors who made a B or better in English II. English III focuses on American literature.

This course will examine the progress of American Literature from this early American literary tradition all the way up to the present day. Our examination will be text-driven and will cover all the significant genres of literature. We will study novels, plays, poetry, short stories, film, and a variety of other forms of literary scholarship and criticism. While there will be time devoted to pre-1900 literature, the crux of the course will be 20th century literature.

English IV

This course is designed to prepare students for the English courses they will take in college. It is structured like first year college writing and literature survey courses. The first semester is devoted to composition writing, and the second is devoted to literary analysis and interpretation.

Creative Writing

This course is designed to establish and polish skills in all genres and writing. Students will be required to produce essays, poetry, fiction, letters, etc. Students will be expected to improve their writing skills over the course of the semester. All works will be scored according to freshness of thought, vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and creativity. Additionally, students will keep a journal and are expected to write a *minimum* of four full pages a week.

British Literature

This course is survey of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon Period and Middle Ages to the present. The course will give students a comprehensive understanding and appreciation for British literature and the history of the English language. Students will also gain an understanding of British literature as it relates to historical events.

Novels

This course is a survey to novels and is designed to engage students in literature. Students will study literary techniques and themes in a variety of novels. This course is reading-intensive, meaning that students will be required to read a great deal in the time allotted. A *minimum* of ten books will be covered in this course this year.

ACT Prep

This course will focus on the skills necessary to achieve the best possible score on the Reading and English sections of the ACT Test.  We will examine the ACT Test in depth, and review not only the content necessary for success, but also test-taking strategies specific to the ACT Test.

 Mass Media

This course will focus on the skills necessary to produce a quality yearbook. These skills include working with the yearbook software, working as a team, and effectively communicating with the school and the community. The class size is limited.

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra

The focus of the course will be to build the foundation necessary for success in algebra. Students will study the following topics during the year: properties of mathematics, the language of algebra, solving one and two step equations, operations of rational numbers and integers, solving and graphing inequalities, proportion, percent, statistics and graphs, probability, applying algebra to geometry, measurement, and the introduction to polynomials.

Algebra Topics

Algebra Topics is designed for the student who has successfully completed 8th grade math or Pre-Algebra. Students will have the opportunity to master basic math skills. Those skills will allow the students to be introduced to more advanced algebra concepts. Students will discover fundamental Algebra concepts with concrete applications. This course includes: solving algebraic problems in symbolic and word problem format, understanding and graphing functions, basic geometry and knowledge of inequalities.]

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is designed for the student who has successfully completed Pre-Algebra. Students will have the opportunity to master advance math concepts of the Algebra 1 level. This course will prepare students for Algebra 2 and Geometry. This course includes: solving algebraic problems in symbolic and word problem format, understanding functions, solving and graphing linear equations, knowledge of inequalities, and introduction into polynomials and non-linear functions.

Algebra 2

Algebra 2 is designed for the student who has successfully completed Algebra 1. Students will have the opportunity to master advance math concepts of the Algebra 2 level. This course will help prepare students for Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus. Students who have already mastered basic algebra skills will have the opportunity to discover and learn more advanced math concepts at the Algebra 2 level. This course includes: equations and inequalities, linear relations and functions, systems of equations/inequalities, matrices, quadratic functions, polynomial equations/inequalities, and advanced functions and relations. This course may be taken concurrently with Geometry.

Geometry

Geometry is for the student who has successfully completed Algebra 1. Students will have the opportunity to discover Euclidean geometric skills and concepts. This course will help prepare students for Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus. The course includes: formal proofs, inductive and deductive reasoning skills, advanced problem solving, and coordinate, plane, and solid geometry. This course may be taken concurrently with Algebra 2.

Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus-Trig/Pre-Calc

This course is designed for the college bound student who has successfully completed Algebra 2 and Geometry. Students will have the opportunity to study triangles and the six basic trigonometric functions, as well as an in depth look at functions, relations and graphs, and an introduction into discrete mathematics and calculus. This course will prepare students for Calculus.

Calculus

Calculus is designed for the college bound student who needs a strong mathematical background. It is the study of limits, derivatives, conics, and integrals. Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus is a prerequisite for the course.

SCIENCE

Physical Science

This course is designed to touch on the physical science fundamentals within the two branches of Physics & Chemistry. Topics covered during the first semester; motion, acceleration, force, Newton’s Laws, work, power, energy, and temperature conversions. The course will have a strong emphasis in problem solving in the form of measurement concepts and dimensional analysis. The second semester is designed to touch on the chemistry fundamentals. Concepts that will be covered: the periodic table, atomic structure, chemical bonding, formula writing, mole ratios, and balancing equations. A group project will be used to clarify and reinforce concepts as well as helping the students become comfortable in a team research activity. Calculators are required for this course.

Biology

During the course, students will become familiar with the basic organization, processes, structures and interactions of living organisms. Emphasis is placed on the scientific method of learning. Students will have lecture, discussion, research and laboratory experiences to gain an understanding of the living world. Grades will be earned through completion of paper and pencil assignments, presentations and hands on activities.

Chemistry

Chemistry is a weighted class designed for those students planning on pursuing their career plans in college level science, health or engineering fields. The structure of matter and its interactions are the focus of the course. Further emphasis will be placed on learning through the scientific method. Grades will be earned through completion of paper and pencil assignments, presentations and hands on activities.

Botany/Zoology

Botany/Zoology further develops the organization of living things introduced in Biology. Differing structures and identification of organisms will be the focus of the course. Grades will be earned through completion of paper and pencil assignments, presentations and hands on activities.

Anatomy/Physiology

Anatomy is a weighted class developed for those students planning further education in the science or health fields. Due to the nature of the topic, vocabulary and identification of structures will be the emphasis of the course. Grades will be earned through completion of paper and pencil assignments, presentations and hands on activities.

SOCIAL STUDIES

American Government

American Government focuses on the structure and purpose of the United States and Missouri governments by comparing and contrasting our democracy to other types of governments through examinations of constitutional documents, and examining important Supreme Court decisions. Students will determine civic responsibilities of an individual. Students will apply constitutional democracy concepts and principles to contemporary issues and our national and state history including the American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and civil rights struggles which directly influenced our government. Students will understand how political leaders are selected. Students will understand economic concepts in a market economy. Upon completion of this course, students will be required to pass an American constitution test and a Missouri constitution test. The recommended grade level is 9th.

Geography

Geography is the study of how to use, evaluate, and construct geographic research sources of Missouri, the United States, and the western hemisphere to interpret, solve, and locate earth’s physical and human systems. Students will discuss the causes and consequences of demographic changes, migration patterns, population distribution, and trade practices of the United States and the world. Students will locate continents, oceans, topographical features, world nations, major cities of Missouri, and states of the United States. Students will explain how and why people may perceive places as unique and varied or related and why places change. Students will explain how physical processes shaped the earth’s surface and created various diverse biological and productive ecosystems and understand the use and distribution of resources in the western hemisphere. The recommended grade level is 9th.

World History

The discipline of world history will be an in-depth study of the chronological events of the world. Knowledge of world history addresses significant events, people, ideas, trends, and conflicts with concern for causes, consequences, and relationships across time and place.

American History

This course is a basic chronological study of American history beginning at the events leading up to the Civil War through contemporary America, emphasizing communication, research, analysis and writing skills.

Economics

The economics course will introduce the student to the principles of both macro and micro economics. The class will emphasize the study of the people with unlimited wants and needs who live in a world of limited resources. The course will conclude with an investigation of the United States and its role in international trade.

Sociology

This course investigates the effects of our relationships in a world of diversity, including the family unit, marriage, minority groups, and ethnic/social interactions in our society.

Psychology

Psychology is the study of individual human behavior with emphasis on biology and behavior, mental and emotional stress, motivation, personal adjustment, human development, social psychology and psychological research.

Personal Finance

Understanding AND managing personal finances are key to one’s future financial success. This one-semester course is based on the Missouri Personal Finance Competencies and presents essential knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about real world financial issues. Students will learn how choices influence occupational options and future earning potential. Students will also learn to apply decision-making skills to evaluate career choices and set personal goals. The course content is designed to help the learner make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and to make effective use of income to achieve personal financial success.

FINE ARTS – ART

FOUNDATIONS OF DRAWING I AND II:

**Description:** The Drawing class consists of two semesters. The first semester is called Drawing I because students are just learning the basics of drawing. It is also a **foundation** of design semester because the topics covered include the elements and principles of design - what they are and how to use them in artworks; art criticism/aesthetics, and art history. Drawing II is the second semester and is primarily focused on developing and improving drawing skills. Many new media and techniques will be introduced to students.

This is a required entry level course.

Recommended for 9th grade.

PREREQUISITES: None

MULTICULTURAL ART TRADITIONS:

**Description:** Multicultural Art Traditions is a course designed to introduce students to the diverse art traditions - the crafts - of indigenous people from countries around the world. The semester classes will introduce students to the cultures of some of the people from six of the seven continents. Students will examine handmade items made for function and/or decoration. Students will become familiar with processes and tools as well as historical/contemporary perspectives of the individual crafts and cultures. They will produce works of art based on, or inspired by, the crafts of the indigenous people. Recommended for 10th grade.

PREREQUISITES: Foundations of Drawing I and II, or Art I must be successfully completed before a student may enroll in Multicultural Traditions, but those students may enroll for either the first or second semester or for the whole year.

SCULPTURE:

**Description:** Sculpture I and II are semester courses offered to students who have successfully completed Drawing I and II, (Art I). The program has been developed to introduce students to several sculpture techniques. Students will be exposed to Art History, Criticism and Analysis, Aesthetics, and Art Production/Performance through resources such as books, slides, sculptures and computer programs. Semesters separate relief sculptures and freestanding (sculpture-in-the-round) that employ several techniques and media. Students will produce sculptures using the additive and subtractive techniques, assemblage, modeling, casting, and carving. Historical and contemporary perspectives on the individual techniques will be presented for study. Art Criticism will be used by students to analyze and evaluate exemplary works as well as their own pieces.

Recommended for 11th or 12th grade.

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Foundations of Drawing I and II or Art I is required before a student may enroll in Sculpture.

CLAY:

**Description:** Clay is a one or two semester course designed to give students an introduction to hand-built and wheel-thrown pottery. Students will become familiar with several techniques for hand building and the use of clay tools. Pottery will be thrown on electric potter’s wheels and banding wheels. Various methods of texturing and glazing the finished pieces will be utilized. Historical perspectives on the individual techniques will be presented for study. In addition, students will learn to critique their own pieces as well as exemplary works of pottery from historical and contemporary artists. Some simple contour-line drawings and a learning log/portfolio will be required.

Recommended for 11th or 12th grade.

PREREQUISITES: Foundations of Drawing I and II, or Art I must be successfully completed before a student may enroll in Clay Crafts.

FINE ART – MUSIC

## CONCERT BAND

Concert band is designed to emphasize development of instrumental techniques and expand instrumental knowledge and skills. It is a course in which students are asked to perform a repertory of grade 2 ½ to 3 ½ instrumental band musical literature taken from all periods of music history, expanding knowledge of selected composers and musical styles. The suggested grade level is 9-12, with a minimum of one year of experience and preferably two years.

## PERFORMANCE CHOIR

This course is an advanced participation course in which students are asked to sing a repertory of choral literature taken from all periods of music history. The goals of the course are to develop vocal range and skills and to create an awareness of musical values. The suggested grade level is 9-12 through audition and/or permission of the course instructor.

MIXED CHORUS

This course is an advanced participation course in which students are asked to sing a repertory of choral literature taken from all periods of music history. The goals of the course are to develop vocal range and skills and to create an awareness of musical values. The suggested grade level is 9-12 through audition and/or permission of the course instructor

## INTERMEDIATE BAND

This course emphasizes classroom instrumental participation, including woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Students will study and apply correct instrumental techniques, music theory, and ensemble playing at a more advanced level, including band literature at the **1**1/2 – **2**1/2 level. The suggested grade level is 8th grade with completion of the beginning band course.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I

9-12

This Course is an introduction to the Spanish language. Students will learn the language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing instruction. The course also provides an understanding of the cultures of Spanish-speaking people, particularly those of Spain, Mexico and Puerto Rico, and Hispanic influences in the United States.

Spanish II

10-12

This course continues the introduction of grammatical structures and themed vocabulary in an attempt to give the student a basic understanding of and ability to use the language. The course also continues to provide an understanding of the cultures of Spanish-speaking people.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Weighted: +2

Spanish III

11-12

This course furthers the students’ ability to understand and use the language through the review of fundamentals of the language and expansion of knowledge of structures and vocabulary.

The course also expands students’ understanding of the cultures of the Spanish-speaking people.

Prerequisite: Spanish I and Spanish II

Weighted: +3

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education

This course is designed to develop a physically educated person who has mastered the necessary movement skills to participate confidently in many different forms of physical activity, values physical fitness, and understands that both are intimately related to health and well-being.

Health

This course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health.  Study will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; growth, development, and sexual health. Central themes are the acceptance of personal responsibility for lifelong health, respect for and promotion of the health of others, an understanding of the process of growth and development, and informed use of health-related information, products, and services.

Life Sports

This course is designed to develop a physically educated person who has mastered the necessary movement skills to participate confidently in many different forms of physical activity, values physical fitness, and understands that both are intimately related to health and well-being.

Advanced Physical Education

This course is designed for students interested in the major sports offered in the Valley High School extracurricular schedule. The instructor will work with the student to help them improve their sport.

PRACTICAL ARTS

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

ADVANCED CHILD CARE I 1st SEMESTER

12TH GRADE

This course is a dual-listed course which is titled “Safety, Nutrition, and Health in Early Education” on the MAC course listing.

Prerequisites: Must have successfully completed or currently be enrolled in Child Development. Students earn 3 credit hours with Mineral Area College in the Early Childhood Program after completion. Students must meet requirements of MAC to be enrolled in dual-listed courses. Two hours per day.

This course introduces students to preparation for working with children in Early Childhood Environments in the areas of safety, nutrition and health. Focus of study includes safety, nutrition and health of children in early childhood education settings, including centers, early elementary schools, family child care homes and in-home care. Students in this course are preparing to be teachers, paraprofessionals, nannies, family home child care providers, or workers in other jobs that directly relate to young children. It includes examining state requirements for ECE licensing and developing policies for accreditation. Discussion of current issues and implications for teachers are an integral part of the course. Portfolio development of Policies, Lesson Plan ideas and Observation in real-life settings are major elements of the course.

ADVANCED CHILD CARE II 2ND SEMESTER

12th GRADE

This course is a second dual-listed course with MAC titled “Introduction to Education”. It carries the same prerequisites as Advanced Child Care I and allows students to earn another 3 credit hours toward a degree in teaching young children. Students who are interested in teaching as a career will benefit from this study. Understanding child development and the process involved in teaching aids students in gaining academic knowledge necessary to pursue this career path. Observation in real-life early childhood class rooms is included in the course work.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT 1st SEMESTER

9th and 10th GRADES

In this course students gain an understanding of the physical, intellectual and social-emotional development of children from birth to teen-age years. Skills gained help prepare students to be equipped to work with young children in many capacities.

PARENTING AND FAMILY RELATIONS 2ND SEMESTER

9TH AND 10TH GRADE

Students will gain knowledge of human relationships in all aspects of family life and includes the role of parenting. Activities are designed to help students navigate through a sometimes complex and complicated part of life in all its stages.

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS I 1ST SEMESTER

11TH AND 12TH GRADES

This course is designed to give students information about food and nutrition that is used in ever day life. Focus is on practical, dietary and consumer information which will be useful to students as they prepare to live independently. Activities include classroom work, research, creative projects and food labs. (Introductory cooking for personal and family meal management

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS II 2ND SEMESTER

11TH AND 12TH GRADES

This course is a continuation of activities to help students be prepared to make good nutritional and meal management choices as they prepare to live independently. Studies are extended to include examples of regional and international cuisine. Preparation for extending skills toward possible work or career experiences is integrated into the lab work.

HOUSING AND DESIGN 1ST SEMESTER

A study of design elements in architecture and interior design, planning and building communities and how each of these concepts helps to meet needs of people in a changing society are included in this course. Projects and lab work as well as units on sewing for the home are integral parts of the course.

TEXTILES AND APPAREL 2ND SEMESTER

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to fashion design and merchandizing. Activities include research, portfolio development and sewing labs. Students will learn to follow and sew simple clothing patterns. Advanced students may design their own fashion projects.

PRACTICAL ARTS

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

General Shop:

General Shop is an exploratory course in Industrial Arts, which is designed to provide broad career experiences for high school students. There are opportunities to investigate and explore individual interests, aptitudes, and abilities. Instructional units in wood and drafting will include activities related to common hand and power tools, skills, construction material and safety procedures.

Woodworking I / II:

This course is designed to provide the high school student with an opportunity to increase their knowledge of designing, planning, and implementing woodworking principles. Good design, pride in workmanship, and safety will be used in making individual projects.

Advanced Woodworking:

This course is designed to provide the high school student with an opportunity to explore the more advances areas of woodworking, which involves a more complicated design and tool use. The class usually consists of constructing a larger project with more intricate construction for better strength and for better looks.

PRACTICAL ARTS

CAREER AND TECHNICAL COURSES

Keyboarding

Keyboarding provides the student an opportunity to master the touch-method key stroking skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic information on a keyboard and a ten-key pad. Emphasis is placed on developing proper speed and accuracy techniques. Students format documents such as letters, memorandums, reports, and tables for personal, educational, and business uses. Prerequisites: none. Grade Level: 9

Business and Personal Law

This course is a one-year course which deals with theoretical approaches to the study of law from its origin in Common Law through many of its applications an changes due to custom, statute and constitutional change, and interpretation,. Topics include those that are highly visible such as terrorism, child abuse, drug abuse, white collar crime and computer crime. Business law topics include contracts, agency and employment while personal law includes marriage, divorce, rental agreements and personal credit. Crimes and torts involving youth, such as traffic violations, drunk driving, search and seizure vandalism, and shoplifting are included in the course of study. A textbook as well as supplemental reference, including current television dramas and guest speakers, update and make more relevant the material presented. The suggested grade level for students enrolled in Business and Personal Law is grade 11 or 12. Prerequisites: None.

Business Technology

This course provides students with the opportunity to gain the basic skills necessary for employment in an office or business related environment. Students learn techniques and receive training on equipment/software used in many businesses today, with special emphasis on Microsoft Office 2007. Students learn to use the computer for work processing, database, spreadsheet, desktop publishing, and other applications. Strong emphasis will be placed on correct grammar and word use in original documents. Current technological trends in the business area will be stressed. Prerequisites: Must have successfully completed keyboarding course prior to enrollment. Level: 11-12

Accounting

This course presents the fundamental principles of accounting and is designed to emphasize the theory of accounting. The accounting cycle is represented as it pertains to proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations. Extensive accounting vocabulary and theory challenges students to develop skills they will us in life as well as a career in the business or accounting field. An accounting simulation evaluates students’ mathematical accuracy, work ethic, and understanding of the accounting cycle. Prerequisites: Algebra I with grade of C or higher LEVEL: 11-12

Careers and Entrepreneurship

Careers and Entrepreneurship is a course designed to give students the knowledge and capability to research careers in their field of interest and then include the requirements to become an entrepreneur. The small business owner is the backbone of our economy and this course will provide the tools necessary for students to be able to create their own business.

\*NOTE- Not all classes are being offered at this time