# 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

This guide is provided to assist students and parents in selecting courses for the next school year. Students should remember that they are scheduling for the entire year and not just the first semester. Once selected, courses cannot be changed except to meet graduation requirements or to delete a course that a student has already successfully completed. Students who do not turn in completed schedules will forfeit the opportunity to select courses or make changes to their schedules. Their schedule will be made for them by their counselor. While students are allowed to request their elective, they are not allowed to select their teachers.

# **Core Classes**

English I
Grade 9
1 Year Required
Regular
Honors
Gifted

Students read, analyze, interpret, and respond to a variety of literature. Students also receive instruction in the following areas: grammar, paragraph development, organization of multi-paragraph themes, group discussions, listening, note taking, outlining, critical reading, study skills, and research.

Algebra I Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Year Required Regular Honors

This course includes understanding the use of the language of algebra, performing operations with real numbers, solving linear equations and inequalities, problem solving with equations, graphing linear equations, solving linear inequalities, solving systems of equations, computations with polynomials, factoring polynomials, performing operations with algebraic fractions, solving expressions containing radicals, solving quadratic equations, and understanding the integration of algebra with other mathematics

Physical Science Grade 9 1 Year Required Regular Honors

#### Required for Honors: Enrollment in or completion of Algebra I (Honors)

This course is designed as a preparatory course for high school chemistry and physics with emphasis in laboratory work and abstract thinking skills. The use of laboratory techniques is stressed along with the application and understanding of the basic fundamentals of chemistry and physics.

World Geography
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1 Year Required
Regular
Honors
Gifted

#### Required for Honors: Enrollment in or completion of English I (Honors)

This is a study of the physical world and cultural geography. Emphasis will include the development of geography skills with a focus on the study of world regions and the interdependence of these regions.

# Fine Arts Survey Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

#### 1 year required for graduation

The overall objective of this course is to provide awareness of the interaction between the arts and culture over time and to encourage reflection upon the judgments concerning the qualities of works of art as expressions of the common human experience.

# 1 year of PE 1 A and PE 1 B plus 1 year of PE II A or B with a Semester of Health required OR JROTC I and JROTC II required for graduation. NOTE: PE & JROTC cannot be combined.

Physical Education I Grades 9, 10, 11 1 Year Required

This course is designed to provide a broad range of activities that will contribute to the development of a fully functional individual who is capable of living a healthy, productive life. Students are given an opportunity to not only become involved in a broad range of movement forms, but to also gain intermediate and advanced level competencies on selected sports activities. The curriculum consists of the following activity units: football, volleyball, track and field, badminton, basketball, softball, golf, and physical/motor fitness.

#### Military Science (JROTC)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

(This course may be substituted for PE I and/or PE II and Health)

Prerequisites: The student must meet the following requirements in order to participate in the program:

- A. 14 years of age or older
- B. Citizen of the U.S. or approval of his/her government
- C. Physically able to participate fully in Physical Education
- D. Project a presentable appearance

### Military Science I (JROTC I)

The first year Army JROTC Program will be devoted to nine principal blocks of instruction of at least 108 hours of both classroom and field instruction. The program of instruction begins with introduction to leadership development. These courses focus on leadership theory, drill and ceremonies, hygiene and first aid, map reading, oral communication, and marksmanship.

The second year of training is devoted to intermediate instruction on the same subjects as the first year with additional classes on the U.S. Army people, places, and times. This second year will end with PAGES instruction on service opportunities.

The third year is applied leadership development. Applied course gives a comprehensive review of instruction on the role of the U.S. Army and optional subjects selected by the senior army instructor.

The fourth year classes will receive advanced leadership development, including the psychology of leadership with seminars in leadership and management. The fourth-year student will receive training on small unit leader problems, advanced communication, and staff functions.

# **ELECTIVES** (9th graders will be allowed to choose one elective)

Speech I Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Year Elective

This course will provide the fundamentals of oral communication. It will instill within the student an understanding and appreciation of the various facets of public speaking and give the student practice in gaining valuable speaking skills. The student will examine the communication through a variety of classroom activities. The student will learn the importance of verbal and nonverbal communication in expressing one's ideas. The course will offer practical experience in the following types of speeches: 1) informative, 2) descriptive, 3) entertainment, 4) demonstration, 5) impromptu (such as introductions, presentation and acceptance of awards), 6) interview, 7) advertisement, 8) panel discussion. During the second semester, the student will be introduced to parliamentary procedure, oral interpretation, debate, and drama.

Agriscience I
1 Year Elective
Grades 9, 10

This is a survey course involving soil, animal and plant science. FFA leadership activities such as parliamentary law, public speaking, small engines, metal working, agricultural economics, and occupational information are also stressed. A student enrolled in this course must also become a member of The Future Farmers of America (FFA) where he/she may participate in livestock projects, garden plots, and greenhouse activities.

Art I Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Year Elective

Art I is a survey course open to all students. The student is introduced to the elements of design (line, color, value, shape, form, texture, space) and to the principles of design (balance, harmony, contrast, emphasis, unity, rhythm, proportion, variety). He/she will also review elements of sound composition and exploratory approaches as applied to drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, pottery, and crafts. The course is designed to provide opportunities for creative thinking and self-expression with some demonstration of skills. Art appreciation/history will be presented through processes and examples and will be viewed as a reflection of the times. Individual artists and their products will also be presented.

**JROTC** 

Grade 9

1 Year Elective

This course may be used as a 9th grade elective in addition to PE credits.

Beginning Choir Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 1 Year Elective

Beginning Choir is designed for any incoming freshman or current Northshore female who has previously not enrolled in a choral ensemble at Northshore High. In this ensemble, the student will learn basic vocal technique, the study of solfege, and music theory. The student will develop an understanding of the choral repertoire and will perform at every choral concert program. If the student wishes to sing in both the Women's and Mixed Choir, the student must audition at the end of the academic year. This ensemble does require some after school rehearsals.

# The following electives require prior approval:

#### **Band**

#### Wind Ensemble

#### 1 Year Elective

Band students enrolled in woodwind, brass, percussion, and cadet classes will be challenged to achieve mastery and musical expertise in the following elements of music:

- 1. Harmonic and melodic discrimination
- 2. Rhythm
- 3. Instrumental nomenclature and maintenance
- 4. Musical fundamentals

Appropriate musical literature will be performed in both concert band and marching band performances. Special emphasis will be placed on good tone quality and technical dexterity.

Music (Talented)
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1 Year Elective

#### **Special Selection Process**

The talented music program is a part of the special education program which is only available to persons who have been selected and screened by designated personnel. Information on the admissions process is available from any music teacher or the special education office. This course consists of accelerated training in the areas of music theory, history, composition and performance.

Art (Talented)
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1 Year Elective
Special Selection Process

The talented art program and classes are a part of the special education program which is only available to persons who have been selected and screened by designated personnel. The process for admission is quite simple, and information about the selection referral is available through the special education office. The courses consist of accelerated and independent training in a variety of media techniques and issues of art theory and history.

Theatre (Talented)
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1 Year Elective
Special Selection Process

Talented theatre is a part of the Special Education program which is only available to students who have been evaluated through auditions. The course consists of accelerated and in-depth training in a variety of theatrical areas including performance, design, directing, and history.

# 9th Graders can take a foreign language if they are in Honors/Gifted English.

French I
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1 Year Elective

There is no prerequisite for French I; however, an overall "C" average (or better) in English is recommended. In the first semester, this introductory course will cover: the alphabet numbers 1 - 1,000, basic sentence structure, basic conversations, conjugation of regular and some irregular verbs in present and simple future tenses. During the second semester, students will be introduced to the past tense. Speaking and listening skills are stressed throughout this course, but reading, writing, and translating are also important. Cultural awareness and projects and activities relating to French cultures are also included.

Spanish I
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1 Year Elective

The recommendation for this course is an overall "C" average (or better) in English. In the first semester, this course will cover the alphabet, pronunciation, conjugation of regular and irregular verbs in the present tense, vocabulary, and basic sentence patterns. The second semester includes the study of regular and irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, vocabulary, grammatical structure, and idioms. Audio-oral skills and cultural awareness are emphasized throughout the year. Memorization of vocabulary and verb conjugation is required.

German I
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1 Year Elective

There is no prerequisite for German I; however, an overall "C" average (or better) in English is recommended. In the first semester, this introductory course will cover the alphabet, numbers 1-1,000, pronunciation, conversation, vocabulary, and basic sentence

Patterns, and conjugation of regular and irregular verbs in the present tense. During the second semester, students will be introduced to the imperfect and simple past tenses, the accusative, dative, and genitive declensions, and higher level conversation and vocabulary. Speaking and listening skills are stressed throughout this course, but reading, writing, and translating are also important. Cultural awareness and activities relating to the culture of Germany, Austria and Switzerland are also included. Memorization of vocabulary and verb conjugation is required.

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