

# Somers High School

## Course Selection Guide

### 2023-2024

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#### **Administration**

Superintendent of Schools  
Curriculum Director  
Director of Pupil Services  
Pupil Services Coordinator  
Director of Business Services  
Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Manager of Athletic Program

Dr. Sam Galloway  
Mrs. Dina Senecal  
Mrs. Caroline Hargraves  
Mrs. Alicia White  
Mrs. Stephanie Levin  
Mr. Gary Cotzin  
Mr. Michael Szafir (Interim)  
Mr. Scott Czerwinski

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## **Accreditation and Memberships**

Somers High School is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The school maintains a chapter of the National Honor Society, which is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Somers High School is a member of the Connecticut Association of Secondary Schools, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, the North Central Connecticut Conference, and the New England Association of College Admission Counselors.

# Faculty Listing

## Administration

Mr. Gary Cotzin BA, MS, CAGS, CTE-EL  
Mr. Michael Szaflir MS, CAGS

## Art

Mrs. Sarah Burda BA, MALS  
Mr. Kyle Kipfer BFA  
Ms. Gina Rock BFA

## Business

Mr. Daniel Clement BSBA, MBA  
Mr. Madison Hartman BS, MEd

## Technology Services Director

Mr. Rob Wilson BA, MBA

## Counseling & Career Services

Mrs. Kate Bahler BA, MS  
Mrs. Jenny Devlin BA, MA  
Ms. Meg Duffy BS, MBA, CDF, CWE  
Mrs. Lisa Grenier BA, MA

## English

Ms. Denise Collins BA, MA  
Mr. Pasquale DeMatteo BS, MS, MAT  
Ms. Mindy Lajeunesse BA, MAT  
Mr. Erik Serrell-Dube BA, MA  
Ms. Alicia Simoes BA, MS  
Mr. Andrew Slater BA

## Food Service

Ms. Lynn Tracy BS, MA

## Library/Media

Ms. Tenley Stoltz BS, MS, MLS

## LPN/Academic Coach

Mrs. Paula Johnson LPN

## Mathematics

Ms. Laura Allen BS  
Mrs. Carla Castro BS, MA  
Ms. Diane Czyzniak BA, MEd  
Mrs. Jenna Fortini BA, MA  
Mr. Gregory Jackson BS, MBA  
Ms. Sarah McNamee BSBA, MS  
Mr. Stanley Targonski BA, BS, MEd

## Music

Mrs. Marika Kraus BM, MM  
Mrs. Jessica Wolf MMed

## Nurse

Mrs. Monica Willemain RN

## Physical Education

Mr. Andrew Barnes  
Mr. Eric Henne BS, MS  
Mrs. Amanda Welch BS, MS

## Science

Ms. Alicia Bonin BA, MS  
Mrs. Susan Cormier BS, MEd  
Mrs. Michelle Kelleher BS, BA, MEd  
Ms. Karen Legg BS, MS  
Mrs. Erin Maynard BA, MA  
Mrs. Mary Neyssen BS, MS

## Social Studies

Mrs. Kristen Angelica BA, MAT, CAGS  
Mr. Andrew Drummey BA, MAT  
Mr. Marc Dzicek BA, MA  
Mr. Phillip Goduti BA, MA  
Mr. Matthew Macaluso MEd, CFI, CFI-I

## Social Workers/Psychologists

Mrs. Shannon Radlo MSW, LCSW  
Ms. Brooke Smith MSW, LMSW  
Dr. Michael Wald EdD

## Special Education

Mrs. Salina Burgess BS, MEd, Mcj  
Mrs. Kate Croteau BA, MEd  
Ms. Anne Marie Daigle MS, CCC-SLP  
Mrs. Stacie Deveau BA, MEd  
Ms. Laura DiScipio BS, MEd  
Mrs. Laurie Somma BS, MS  
Mrs. Sharon Yarrows BA, MA, CDF

## Technology Education

Mr. Nicholas Kosloski BS, MS  
Mr. Michael Niziolek BS, MS  
Ms. Rebecca Wright BA

## Tutors

Mrs. Deborah Robidoux BS, MA

## World Languages

Mrs. Ines Dunn BA, MA  
Mr. Chris Mangini BA, BS, MA  
Miss Jen Meyers BA  
Ms. Linda Preston BA

# Chapter 1 - General Information

## Introduction

The Course Selection Guide is a comprehensive review of academic offerings and related information for all our students. Our purpose is to provide students and their parents with a review of academic offerings at Somers High School. All parts of this book are important. The Table of Contents will give you a quick reference to specific areas of interest and where they are located. Should you or your parents have any questions, we hope you will discuss them with a member of the Counseling and Career Center, specific academic departments and/or the administration.

**Vision: The Somers Public Schools strives to be an exceptional and innovative educational community.**

**Mission: The mission of the Somers Public Schools is to prepare each student to contribute and succeed in an ever-changing global society.**

In pursuit of this Vision and Mission, we believe in:

- The pursuit of excellence
- Life-long learning
- An environment conducive to success
- Student, family, and community partnerships
- Responsible citizenship
- Honoring equity, individuality, and diversity
- Education the whole child

### **Our shared core values and beliefs “The Spartan Code”**

At Somers High School, we believe that:

#### **Respect Matters**

We appreciate the unique qualities of others, seek to understand different perspectives, and display consideration for all.

#### **Responsibility Matters**

We understand and accept the impact and consequences of personal actions and decisions. We take ownership of our learning.

#### **Integrity Matters**

We meet high ethical and academic standards; we practice honesty and sincerity in relationships and actions. We do the right thing in and out of the classroom.

#### **Kindness Matters**

We demonstrate compassion, concern, and empathy by actively helping others.

# Somers High School 21st Century Learning Expectations

## Reading

*Demonstrate the ability to think critically by reading and challenging the material and effectively communicating its meaning and usage.*

## Communication

*Demonstrate the skills necessary to effectively communicate through writing and/or speaking.*

## Problem Solving

*Demonstrate critical thinking in problem solving and reasoning in order to analyze, solve problems, and clearly communicate the solution.*

## Technology

*Demonstrate appropriate use of technology to support communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.*

## Creative Expression

*Create, perform, and respond to the arts with understanding and recognize the role of the arts in expressing and communicating the human experience.*

## Course Selection Counseling

Students and parents should participate in the course selection process together through the online portal. For core courses that require a recommendation and/or prerequisite, teachers will input the recommended course(s) into the online portal prior to student course requests. The online portal will be open for a limited time and students **MUST** input their selections during that time. Students are encouraged to talk with their school counselor and teachers before inputting their course selection into the online system. Careful course selection and computer input are critical to the scheduling process so that students are registered for the correct courses for graduation and post-secondary goals. **Please note, by BOE policy, a course may not run if fewer than 10 students register for the course.**

Typically, the timeline is as follows:

1. Teachers input core course recommendations based on prerequisites and course requirements.
2. Scheduling materials are distributed to students in grades 8-11. The Course Selection Guide is available on the Somers High School website for more detailed course descriptions.
3. Parents and students discuss the appropriate course selections. Counselors and teachers are available to address questions.
4. Students, along with their parents, input their course selections into the online portal.
5. Administration develops the master schedule based on requests and staffing. Not all courses in the Course Selection Guide are offered annually.
6. Students are scheduled with priority given to the core courses followed by electives and alternates.
7. Final schedules are given out on the first day of school. Students can make an appointment with their school counselor to address scheduling concerns based on the Schedule Adjustment Policy.

## **Schedule Adjustment Policy**

For the first 3 days of the new school year, schedule adjustments will only be made for courses in which students were inappropriately placed. The fourth through the sixth school day is the open add/drop period. Written parental permission is required for all academic graduation requirements and World Language prior to any schedule change. At the start of the second semester, no course changes will be made for the first 3 days of classes. The fourth through the sixth day of the second semester will be the open add/drop period. Changes made within these add/drop periods will carry no penalty on official academic records. Changes made after the add/drop period will carry a designation of WD, WDP, or WDF on official academic records depending on the circumstances of the withdrawal. A WDF will be considered a failing grade in calculation of GPA, admission to the National Honor Society, academic eligibility, and in determining “good student” status for car insurance discounts.

It is recognized that occasionally because of illness or injury, a student may have to withdraw from a course after the sixth school day. In this situation, the term medically withdrawn (MED) will be used.

## **College Career Pathways**

College Career Pathways (CCP) is a formal articulation agreement between Asnuntuck Community College and Somers High School. Students have the opportunity to earn credit from both high school and Asnuntuck Community College while attending Somers High School. (For further details see the Technology Education section).

Students who plan to enroll in CCP programs need to adhere to the following procedures:

1. Complete a College Career Pathways application and an ACC enrollment application.
2. Submit completed forms to College Career Pathways Coordinator, Mr. Niziolek before the deadline date.

## **Career Connections**

Career exploration programs, offered through the Counseling and Career Center (CCC), are designed to connect classroom learning and student interests with real-world experiences. Computerized career assessments, job shadowing, career field trips and guest speaker forums are offered to help students explore career possibilities and determine post-secondary paths and options. These opportunities are provided utilizing a community network composed of alumni, local businesses and companies, area hospitals and clinicians, trade and professional organizations, colleges and other organizations to help youth prepare for their futures. Help with employability and job search skills, and resume writing, is also provided. Students should make an appointment with Ms. Duffy, Career Specialist in the Counseling and Career Center (CCC), to discuss options and opportunities.

## **Partnership**

Qualified juniors and seniors from Somers High School can enroll in accredited courses at Asnuntuck Community College free of tuition and fees. Students must have a minimum of an 80 grade average or higher and complete an application form. Courses are on a space available basis. Completing the course gives the student a 0.5 credit at Somers High school and college credit as well. An informational meeting will occur in the CCC. Application and registration materials will be distributed to interested students and returned to the CCC according to A.C.C. deadlines.

# UCONN Early College Experience (ECE) Program

## What is UCONN Early College Experience?

UCONN Early College Experience (ECE) is a concurrent enrollment program that allows motivated high school students to take UCONN courses at their high school for both high school and college credit. Every course taken through UCONN ECE is equivalent to the same course at UCONN. The University certifies high school teachers to serve as ECE instructors and teach UCONN courses. The ECE courses are offered at a greatly reduced cost compared to the identical course offered on campus.

ECE students are considered non-degree students at UCONN and are graded on an A-F scale. The grade earned will appear on the official UCONN transcript. (Students have the option to withdraw in place of a failing letter grade approximately a month prior to the end of the course.) You may choose to attend UCONN or transfer your credits with an 87% success rate to the college of your choice. You must receive a final grade of C or above in an UCONN ECE course to receive course credit. Typically, a grade of C or higher will transfer between institutions of higher learning, and a C- or below will not.

### **2023-2024 courses offered at Somers High School:**

**AP UCONN ECE 1007 (11th) English: Language and Composition**

**AP UCONN ECE U.S. History**

**AP UCONN ECE Principles of Biology**

**AP UCONN ECE Chemistry**

A UCONN ECE registration form must be completed with parent consent and submitted on-line. For further information, consult with Ms. Duffy, UCONN ECE Site Coordinator or your ECE teacher.

## Section 504

Students must meet the criteria established under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students having any physical or mental impairment that **substantially limits one or more major life activities** (including learning) may qualify to receive services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The determination of what services are needed is made by a group of persons knowledgeable about the student. The system reviews the nature of the disability and the documentation provided by evaluations. This information is used to determine to what degree the disability affects the student's education, whether accommodations are needed, and if so, the nature of such services. The decision about 504 eligibility and services are documented in the student's file and reviewed annually for eligible students.

## Independent Study

An independent study course should be student initiated with a teacher's voluntary supervision and approval. Independent study should be for courses listed in the Course Selection Guide with an existing curriculum. A form must be completed by student and teacher and can be obtained from the school counselors. The information is to include a timeline, due dates, and assessments, as well as required signatures. Standards for grading should meet course expectations. Failure to meet established criteria will result in no credit and an F or WDF on the student's transcript.

## **Grading Policy**

Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated using a 100 point weighted scale. This weighted GPA is also used to determine class rank. For each course taken, the student's actual course numerical average will appear on the official transcript. The cumulative weighted grade average and class rank will also be recorded.

Academic and College Preparatory courses will carry a 1.0 weighted factor. Honors level courses will carry a 1.1 weighted factor. AP and AP/ECE level courses will carry a 1.2 weighted factor. The student numerical average on the 100 point scale will be multiplied by the designated weighted factor in determining weighted grade point average.



**Graduation Credit Distribution Requirement for the Class of 2024 and beyond**

**Humanities: 9 Credits Total**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
English	4	Must include English 9, 10, 11 & 12 (any level)
Social Studies	3	Must Include 1 credit from each: → World History → US History 1/Civics 1 <b>OR</b> Honors Civics/Pre-AP US History US History 2 <b>OR</b> AP UCONN/ECE US History
World Language	1	Spanish or French
Humanities Electives	1	Must Include: → .5 in Fine Arts/Music → .5 in Humanities Electives

**STEM: 9 Credits Total**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Math	4	
Science	3	Must Include 1 Credit from each: → Integrated Science → Biology → Science Electives
STEM Electives	2	Must Include: → .5 credit in Tech, Innovation Design and Engineering

**Other Credit Requirements: 7 Credits Total**

<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Physical Education & Wellness	1	Must Include: → .5 credit in Grade 9 and .5 credit in Grade 10
Health and Safety	1	→ .5 credit in Grade 11 and .5 credit in Grade 12
Mastery Based Capstone Project	1	Required Course for 12th Graders → .5 credit for the course and .5 credit for successful project completion, presentation and mentorship
Additional Electives	4.0	

**Total Carnegie Units: 25**

All students must take a Personal Finance Course  
 → Computer Applications: Personal Finance  
 Consumer Math

# Chapter 2 - Course Offerings and Special Programs

## ART

Viewing and producing art allows students to understand the cultural, historical and social importance of non-verbal language. Students will become more confident in expressing themselves through a wide range of art media. The high school art program is designed to provide a variety of courses, from introductory to advanced, in both traditional and digital media.

**A passing grade in a one-half year course in the fine arts, in art or music, is required for graduation.**

**101 Introduction to Art and Design**  
**110 Computer Animation**  
**111 Computer Art**  
**114 Printmaking**  
**116 Honors Portfolio**  
**134 Honors Art**  
**140 Ceramics I**

**141 Ceramics II**  
**142 Drawing and Painting I**  
**143 Drawing and Painting II**  
**144 Sculpture I**  
**145 Sculpture II**  
**148 Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art**

### 101 Introduction to Art and Design

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Introduction to Art and Design is a comprehensive course, which allows students to explore the basic materials and techniques used in drawing, painting, sculpture and crafts. This course is a prerequisite for more advanced drawing and painting courses, Ceramics I, Sculpture I, Computer Animation and Computer Art.

### 110 Computer Animation

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credits

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Introduction to Art and Design.

**Description:** Students will learn the basics of digital drawing and photo editing, as well as learn how to use a variety of programs to create short animations, advertisements, and greeting cards. Students will learn about composition and framing of animations, as well as storyboarding and sound editing to create professional animated effects with characters, text, environments and more.

### 111 Computer Art

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Introduction to Art and Design.

**Description:** Students will learn to use a variety of platforms to create digital art on the computer including Adobe Photoshop and other online tools. Students will work with found and original imagery to create digital paintings, collages, and graphic designs. Projects will incorporate the principles of design, art historical periods, and advertising so that content may be applied to a variety of fields of study.

## 114 Printmaking

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Introduction to Art and Design.

**Description:** This class will focus on the art of producing multiple art works from original imagery using a variety of techniques and materials. Both reductive (i.e., linoleum/wood block) and additive (i.e., collagraph) methods will be used in both color and black and white. Focus will be personal expression along with consistent technique and manipulation of materials.

## 116 Honors Portfolio

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Drawing and Painting II and recommendation from an art teacher.

**Description:** Serious art students will develop a collection of high-quality work using advanced drawing and painting techniques. This class can be taken both junior and senior year (for students needing a portfolio for applications to a college art program).

## 134 Honors Art

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Four classes of high school art, including Drawing and Painting I and II, and the recommendation of an Art teacher.

**Description:** Students in Honors will produce projects that demonstrate a high level of thinking, craftsmanship, personal expression and superior quality design. Honors art students will participate in the annual Honors Art Show. This exhibit is independently judged by a professional artist who selects the winner of the Honors Art Medal for Artistic Excellence.

## 140 Ceramics I

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Introduction to Art and Design.

**Description:** The focus of Ceramics I is to construct functional and sculptural objects using traditional contemporary clay techniques and materials. Students will use pinch, coil, slab and various molding and glazing methods to hand build and decorate their projects. Emphasis is placed on creativity, craftsmanship, and the understanding of clay work as an important piece of art history as well as our modern culture.

## 141 Ceramics II

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Ceramics I.

**Description:** Students in Ceramics II will continue to utilize their hand building skills to create more advanced functional and sculptural clay works. More emphasis will be placed on exploring designs and conceptual ideas and glazing/decorating techniques will be expanded upon. Students will receive an introduction to the potter's wheel and will work toward an independent project.

## 142 Drawing and Painting I

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Introduction to Art and Design.

**Description:** The focus of Drawing and Painting I is on development of drawing and painting techniques and skills. Students use a variety of media such as pencils, charcoal, pen and ink, acrylics and watercolors, etc., using both traditional and non-traditional subject matter.

## 143 Drawing and Painting II

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Drawing and Painting I.

**Description:** Students will continue their study of drawing and painting materials and techniques while they learn about modern and contemporary art inspired by the themes and styles used in the major movements in modern painting.

## 144 Sculpture I

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Introduction to Art and Design.

**Description:** The focus of Sculpture I is to create 3-D works of art using a variety of materials while utilizing the elements and principles of design. Students will study both traditional and contemporary artists and methods while working with materials that range from paper to clay, plaster to wire. This is a good introductory course for creative students who love to build things.

## 145 Sculpture II

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Sculpture I.

**Description:** Students in Sculpture II will continue their study of 3-D design concepts while working on more advanced projects. Traditional and contemporary techniques will be expanded upon as will the list of sculptures being studied. Craftsmanship and concept will be emphasized and the students will work toward a final independent project.

## 148 Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Four classes of high school art and a portfolio review and subsequent recommendation by the AP Art teacher.

**Description:** This course is for serious art students interested in a rigorous and focused study in art. Students will develop a quality portfolio that demonstrates mastery in concept, composition and execution of drawing, 2D design, or 3D design. Students will submit images and writing to document an inquiry-guided investigation within 15 pieces of work and submit 5 works with written responses demonstrating a skillful synthesis of materials, processes and ideas. Students will submit this portfolio (exam) to the College Board for possible college credit. Students will also participate in the Annual Honors/APP Art Show.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam (AP portfolio submission). The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a**

student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.

## Business

Business courses ensure students will never leave the classroom thinking, “when will I ever use this stuff?” Whether your future ventures entail career, college, or military pursuits; business courses are designed for **all** students and focus on skills you can utilize immediately and in your future.

Business courses contribute towards meeting STEM and humanities credit requirements as follows:		
<u><b>STEM Credit</b></u>	<u><b>Humanities Credit</b></u>	<u><b>Either STEM or Humanities</b></u>
<b>205 Computer Applications I: Personal Finance</b> <b>204 Computer Applications II: Integrated</b> <b>226 Accounting I</b> <b>227 Accounting II</b>	<b>231 Introduction to Business</b> <b>232 Business Law I</b> <b>233 Business Law II</b> <b>211 Marketing</b>	<b>210 Entrepreneurship</b>
<u><b>Personal Finance Graduation Requirement</b></u>		
<b>Computer Applications 1: Personal Finance</b> satisfies the .5 personal finance credit requirement		

### 205 Computer Applications I: Personal Finance

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** In this self-paced course, students utilize Microsoft Word documents, Excel spreadsheets and charts, and PowerPoint to enhance their ability to manage their personal finances. Topics include, but are not limited to: Investment strategies, student loan debt, career research and planning, career path profitability and industry outlook, gross and net income, effective budgeting and net worth, enhancing credit scores, interest rates and loans, mortgages and housing considerations, negotiating a vehicle purchase and loan terms, types of insurance and associated costs, saving accounts, compound interest, checking accounts, bank statement reconciliation, credit card debt, and recovering from financially difficult circumstances.

**\*Meets personal finance .5 course credit requirement.**

### 204 Computer Applications II: Integrated

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 credit

**Prerequisite:** C- or higher in Computer Applications I: Personal Finance.

**Description:** In this self-paced course, students continue to develop skills in Microsoft Office on advanced topics in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Emphasis is placed on students utilizing technology to create documents and spreadsheets that support businesses. Topics of particular focus are macro development and coding in Visual Basic for Applications, pivot table/advanced and general data analysis, goal seeking and what-if analysis, conditional formatting, data validation, Excel database features, digital forms, invoices and other template customization, advanced formulas, mail merging, business card development, print advertisements, among other.

## 226 Accounting I

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Topics covered in this course include accounting careers, transaction analysis, journalizing, posting, financial statement preparation, use of special journals, bank reconciliations, payroll preparation, uncollectible accounts receivable, and accounting for plant assets.

## 227 Accounting II

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Accounting I.

**Description:** This course expands upon the concepts presented in Accounting I. Additional topics covered include accounting for notes, inventories, depreciation, long-term liabilities, financial statement interpretation, cash flow analysis, accounting for partnerships and corporations, budgeting and control, financial reporting for not-for-profit organizations, departmental accounting, branch accounting, and cost accounting.

## 231 Introduction to Business

Grade 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Topics covered in this course include career research and planning (including effective resume/cover letter development and interviewing skills), labor-management relations (labor unions) and effective negotiation skills, forms of business ownership (entities), organizational structure, managing internal and external forces organizations face, economic systems, quality and operations management, ethics and social responsibility, marketing, and business strategy.

## 232 Business Law I

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Topics covered in this course include the origins of our legal system, the structure of our court system, employment contracts and scope of employment, business related crimes, torts (personal injury law), and contracts. Real-life case analysis and mock trials are an integral part of this course.

## 233 Business Law II

Grade 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Business Law I.

**Description:** Topics covered in this course include consumer protection, employment and discrimination, workers compensation, labor unions, employment contracts, real estate, intangible (intellectual) property (copyrights, etc.). Real-life case analysis and mock trials are an integral part of this course.

## 211 Marketing

Grade 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Topics covered in this course include the marketing mix, corporate social responsibility, promotional concepts and strategies, advertising, and product planning. A special emphasis will be placed on the development of an advertising campaign.

## 210 Entrepreneurship

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Entrepreneurship students synthesize content from their STEM-based and humanities-based business courses, for purposes of establishing an effective business plan. Emphasis is placed on market research and data analysis, mission / vision statement and goal development, business entity selection, product development, capital acquisition and startup costs, pricing and break-even analysis, long and short-term budgeting, financial analysis, asset depreciation, human resource management functions, customer relations and conflict resolution, legal considerations, business strategy and SWOT analysis, emotional intelligence and entrepreneurial mindset, information technology skills, effective communication and negotiations skills, and effective leadership.

## English

The English program is committed to developing the students' knowledge of language so that they may communicate effectively in order to pursue their goals and lead fuller and more rewarding lives. Through self-involvement and self-expression, students will gain knowledge of the background of the English language, improve their speaking and listening skills, develop a proficiency in written composition, and acquire the critical faculties necessary for an understanding and appreciation of literature.

**Students must pass English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12 (4 courses) to meet the graduation requirement.**

**321 Honors English 9**

**322 CP English 9**

**324 Honors English 10**

**325 CP English 10**

**337 AP/UConn ECE 1007**

**Language & Composition  
Grade 11**

**327 Honors English 11**

**328 CP English 11**

**329 English 11**

**326 AP Literature & Composition 12**

**336 Honors English 12**

**332 CP English 12**

**333 English 12**

**338 Honors Speech & Debate**

**341 Creative Writing**

**342 Fantasy**

**\*Previously Course #331**

### 321 Honors English 9

Grade 9

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Results of standardized tests, grade average of 90 or higher in English, and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course is a thematic and historical study of literature that emphasizes critical thinking, writing in several genres, group work and presentation/public speaking. Students will read in several genres, including: nonfiction, fiction and drama. Major works studied include *Into Thin Air*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Life of Pi*, and *Animal Farm* amongst others. Students will develop collaboration skills through group projects and also be expected to work autonomously. Writing will include narrative and persuasive genres with multiple drafts and workshops.

### 322 CP English 9

Grade 9

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course studies the various literary genres: the short story, the novel, drama, and poetry. In the first semester persuasive, descriptive, and narrative writing are emphasized. Students are

also given continued practice in analyzing literature and responding to it in writing. The literature portion of the first semester includes an in-depth study of various short stories. Major required readings throughout the year include *Animal Farm*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Ready Player One*. Compositions related to the literature studies are required. Speaking and listening skills, as well as many other Common Core skills are practiced.

### 324 Honors English 10

Grade 10

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Results of standardized tests, B+ or better in Honors English 9, or an A in CP English 9, examination of student writing scores, and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course integrates vocabulary study, language study, writing development, and literature study. The critical essay and thematic units are the foundations of this course. *The Scarlet Letter*, *Brave New World*, *Night*, *Lord of the Flies*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *The Merchant of Venice* are a few of the major literary works studied. At the end of the year, American authors such as Hughes, Hawthorne, Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson and Williams are studied.

### 325 CP English 10

Grade 10

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of grade 9 English and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course incorporates speech, language study, vocabulary study, writing development, and literature study. Students continue developing literature-analysis-essay skills throughout the thematically designed course. In addition to supplemental readings using Newsela and Common Lit, major works studied include but are not limited to *The Tempest*, *Native American Literature*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Lord of the Flies*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and *12 Angry Men*.

### 337 AP / UConn ECE 1007 Language & Composition

Grade 11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in Honors English 10, or an A or higher in CP English 10 and a teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course includes instruction in various writing genres and interdisciplinary readings embedded into multiple thematic units. Students will examine rhetorical choices, rhetorical situations, interpretation, argumentation, and other writing techniques. In addition to examining other writers' command of language, diction, and syntax, the students will produce their own writing to master these literary and rhetorical choices. Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to effectively develop and articulate a persuasive argument, generate narratives for different purposes and effectively revise various writings of different genres. Within these writings students also explore multimodal designs of composition and presentations. The course requires a high level of independent reading and writing via their Norton Readers and Norton Field Guide to Writing. The ECE English 1007 is entitled Academic Seminar in Writing and Multimodal Composition and compliments the writing instructions for the AP Language and Composition portion of this course.

Much of the work in this class is also used as preparation for the student's taking the Advanced Placement Exam in May, which means the students complete multiple AP exam-formatted practices from September-May. AP Classroom, as well as other secure documents, are heavily utilized to ensure student success on the AP exam. Students will have the option to co-enroll in ECE, but it is not a requirement to take the AP course.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that students take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates any College Board Exam Policy. All students taking an AP course must also take the course final exam or complete the final, subject specific, alternate assignment designated by the instructor. Students with an 87 average or higher may be exempt from the final exam with teacher approval.**



## 327 Honors English 11

Grade 11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in Honors English 10, an A in CP English 10 and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course emphasizes further development of critical thinking and analysis of literature from various time periods and genres. The goal of the course is to best prepare students for college reading, thinking and writing. Reading selections include: dystopian literature such as *1984*, *Harrison Bergeron*, various non-fiction readings and a viewing of *The Matrix*; Sci-Fi including Frank Herbert's classic *Dune*; Shakespeare's *Macbeth*; the 'monsters' in *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*; as well as other selections. Each unit will include various short writings, a focused academic essay and presentations or other projects.

## 328 CP English 11

Grade 11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of grade 10 English and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This class strengthens inferential reading skills and vocabulary usage while improving the mechanical and organizational aspects of student writing. Some of the pieces of literature read in this course include *Beowulf*, *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein*, *The Great Gatsby* and *The Crucible*. A research paper is a requirement of this course.

## 329 English 11

Grade 11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of grade 10 English and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course will provide students with a challenging curriculum. Topics covered will include summer reading, essay writing, a research project on career exploration, vocabulary development, and literary analysis. Literature studied will include such works as *Macbeth*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *The Crucible*, *The Wave*, *Night* and excerpts from *The Great Gatsby*.

## 326 (previously course 331) AP Literature & Composition 12

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Results of standardized tests, B+ or better in Honors English 11, or an A in CP English 11, and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course is predominantly a study of world literature and poetry comprising long and short readings from a college-level anthology, as well as the study of such works as *Things Fall Apart*, *Hamlet*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Antigone*, *Kite Runner*, *Invisible Man*, *The Awakening*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Fences*, *Chronicles of a Death Foretold*, *The Secret Sharer* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead and Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The class is conducted as a seminar with a great deal of student discussion, follow-up essay assignments and formal presentations. Much of the work in this class is used as preparation for the student's taking the Advanced Placement Exam in May, which means the students complete multiple AP exam-formatted practices from September-May. AP Classroom, as well as other secure documents, are heavily utilized to ensure student success on the AP exam. A research paper is also a requirement of this course and will begin after completion of the AP exam.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

### 336 Honors English 12

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B- or better in Honors English 11, or an A- or higher in CP English 11 and a teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course surveys world literature while continuing to develop and hone vocabulary, and literary analysis. In order to prepare for college and career, there will also be a focus on written and verbal communication. Major works studied include but are not limited to: *Oedipus*, *Antigone*, *Hamlet*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Kite Runner*, *Things Fall Apart*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *Fences*, and *Death of Salesman*.

### 332 CP English 12

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of grade 11 English and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course focuses on world literature using a college-level anthology as the text for the study of short stories, poetry, and drama. Major works studied include *Hamlet*, *Oedipus*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *Things Fall Apart*. Improvement of writing goals is a key objective of this course. In addition, students do a minimum of two oral presentations. A formal research paper is a requirement of this course.

### 333 English 12

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of grade 11 English and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course incorporates vocabulary study, writing critical essays, and literature study. There is a strong emphasis on the research process. Students will complete an 8-10 page research paper. Literature studied will include *Educated: A Memoir*, *Dopesick*, and *The Martian*. Other units include a Moral and Ethical Dilemmas Unit and short story selections.

### 338 Honors Speech and Debate

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of grades 9 and 10 English courses.

**Description:** Students will be active participants as they plan and execute a variety of oral presentations. In doing so, they will consider both the purpose of their presentation as well as the audience for whom it is intended. In conjunction, fundamental techniques of effective oral presentation will be covered (both verbal and non-verbal), and students will be evaluated both on the substance and on the techniques employed in each presentation. Both peer evaluations and self-evaluation of the speeches are utilized for improvement purposes.

### 341 Creative Writing

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion Honors English 9 and/or Grade 10 English.

**Description:** This course will run as a creative writing seminar and will provide a forum for students to share their fiction and poetry with classmates. Throughout the semester, students will study and practice a variety of writing techniques and submit new and revised material culminating in the creation of a creative writing portfolio.

### 342 Fantasy

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of grades 9 and 10 English courses.

**Description:** This course will provide students with the opportunity to read, analyze, and write fantasy literature. Featured selections will include J. R. Tolkien's, *The Lord of the Rings*. Students will also have the opportunity to choose their own selections for further study.

# Food Science and Hospitality

This occupational food service program provides an environment through which students can develop culinary skills within the foodservice arena. Hands-on activities encourage students to develop life-long employable skills with the food service industry. Organization, time management, food production and preparation are also explored.

**A passing grade in a one-half course in the practical arts is required for graduation. Selected course work completed in Food Service Management, business or technology education areas will meet this requirement.**

**989 Food Science and Hospitality I**

**994 Food Science and Hospitality II**

## 989 Food Science and Hospitality I

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Students should be aware that they must provide a uniform and other in-class supplies.

**Description:** The program is designed for students who are interested in the preparation of food and the exploration of the hospitality industry. Students investigate and apply the principles and methods used in quantity food production and short order cooking. Students may be required to participate in the evening restaurant portion of the course and other banquet-type functions.

## 994 Food Science and Hospitality II

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Permission of instructor and successful completion of Food Service & Management I with a "B-" average or better.

**Description:** This program is a continuation of Food Service and Management I. Students investigate restaurant management as it applies to purchasing, receiving, storage, inventory controls, and food cost. Upon completion, students are qualified for entry-level positions in the food service industry. Students may be required to participate in the evening restaurant portion of the course and other banquet-type functions.

# Health

The health education program is designed as a two-year program that will provide students with the information necessary to make important decisions concerning their young adult lives. Students will master vital health skills such as analyzing influences, accessing information, communication skills, decision making, goal setting, self-management, and advocacy. Throughout each skills unit, students will gain knowledge and understanding of essential health concepts. The topics include alcohol, nicotine and other drugs, healthy relationships, violence prevention, healthy eating and physical activity, sexual health/family life, optimal wellness and disease prevention, mental and emotional health, and safety and injury prevention (first aid/cpr/aed training).

**Students will graduate with 1 credit of Health by taking 1 Semester of Health and Wellness in 11th grade and 1 semester of Health and Wellness in 12th grade. The students must pass Health and Wellness to graduate from Somers High School.**

**517 Health and Wellness (11/12)**

## 517 Health and Wellness

Grade 11	1 Semester	.5 Credit
Grade 12	1 Semester	.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** The range of topics that the student will examine includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation, stress, depression, suicide, substance abuse, responsibilities of social and sexual relationships, family life, and current issues regarding individual health, fetal growth and development, sexually transmitted infections, AIDS, and relationships. Students will also develop vital health skills for making healthy choices.

## Mathematics

The mathematics curriculum is designed to give students the opportunity to study specific topics in the mathematics field. The prerequisite stated in each course description is a minimum requirement for admittance to that course.

Calculators - Students are required to own a TI-83+ or 84 graphing calculator for personal use at school and at home. If enrolled in Honors Algebra 2, Precalculus, Honors Precalculus, Probability and Statistics, Honors Calculus, AP Calculus, or AP Statistics. These calculators are also strongly recommended for all other courses. Students with concerns may talk to their teachers when school begins.

**A passing grade in four courses in mathematics is required for graduation.**

<b>479 Mathematics Skills</b>	<b>431 Consumer Math</b>
<b>422 Algebra A</b>	<b>414 Precalculus</b>
<b>423 Algebra B</b>	<b>416 Honors Precalculus</b>
<b>425 Algebra 1</b>	<b>412 Probability and Statistics</b>
<b>426 Geometry</b>	<b>415 Honors Calculus</b>
<b>427 Honors Geometry</b>	<b>456 AP Calculus</b>
<b>447 Explorations of Algebra 2 with Technology</b>	<b>475 AP Statistics</b>
<b>428 Algebra 2</b>	<b>480 AP Computer Science Principles (Offered as STEM Credit)</b>
<b>429 Honors Algebra 2</b>	

### 479 Mathematics Skills (Does not satisfy Math Graduation Requirements)

Grade 9-11 (Credit Varies)

**Prerequisite:** Teacher or counselor recommendation.

**Description:** This course will address the need for improved mathematics skills for students who have been identified by teachers to need additional support. Students will be placed in this course via teacher or counselor recommendation and remain until supports are complete. This will be a data-based intervention and support for students using grades, teacher observations, and standardized testing to determine need.

### 422 Algebra A

Grades 9-11 Full Year 1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Math teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course is the first year of a 2-year Algebra 1 sequence. This course begins with a review of Pre-Algebra topics that include: Operation with Integers, Fractions, and Graphing on the

Coordinate Plane. Algebra 1 units covered in this course include: Expressions, Equations, and Function; Linear Equations; Linear Functions; and Equations of Linear Functions.

## 423 Algebra B

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra A with a math teacher recommendation or with a math teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course is the second year of a 2-year Algebra 1 sequence. This course begins with a review of Algebra A topics that include: Linear Equations and Relationships. Algebra 1 units covered in this course include: Linear Inequalities; Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities; Exponents and Exponential Functions; and Quadratic Expressions and Equations.

## 425 Algebra 1

Grades 9-11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Math teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course will deal with topics which include: patterns; linear equations and inequalities; Functions; linear functions; scatter plots and trend lines; systems of linear equations; an introduction to exponential functions; and quadratic functions and equations. Applications of these topics will be covered throughout the course. Graphing calculators will be introduced as a tool for discovery and verification.

## 426 Geometry

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra 1 or math teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course will cover geometric concepts and processes with an emphasis on reasoning and problem-solving skills. Topics include: transformations in the coordinate plane; congruence, proof, and constructions; polygons; similarity, proof, and trigonometry; circles; extension to three-dimensions; and applications of probability.

## 427 Honors Geometry

Grades 9-10

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in Algebra 1 with math teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course provides a more intense presentation of the topics outlined in the Geometry course. An in-depth understanding of proof and logic is developed.

## 447 Explorations of Algebra 2 with Technology

Grade 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Algebra B with math teacher recommendation, or successful completion of Algebra 1 with math teacher recommendation, or math teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course builds upon concepts covered in Algebra 1. Topics include: expressions, equations, and inequalities; linear functions and ralphs; linear systems; quadratic functions; polynomial functions; exponential functions; and radical functions. This course will emphasize use of technology and real-world applications related to these topics.

## 428 Algebra 2

Grade 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry or math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course builds upon concepts covered in Algebra 1. Topics include: functions and inverse function; polynomial functions; rational expressions and functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; and inferential statistics. Applications of these topics will be covered throughout the course. Graphing calculators will be used as a tool for discovery and verification.

## 429 Honors Algebra 2

Grades 10-11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in Algebra 1 and a B or better in Honors Geometry with math teacher recommendation or A- or better in Geometry with math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course provides a more intense presentation of the topics outlined in the Algebra 2 course. Graphing calculators will be used for discovery, concept verification, and problem solving.

## 431 Consumer Math

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Math teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course is intended to prepare high school students for many of the real-life applications of mathematics. Topics include earnings, checking and savings accounts, credit, credit cards, life insurance, investments, income tax, car purchase and ownership, housing and budgets. Algebraic skills will be reviewed and reinforced throughout the course.

## 414 Precalculus

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course covers advanced mathematical topics, which include: systems of equations, power, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; trigonometric identities and equations. Applications of these topics will be covered throughout the course. Graphing calculators will be used extensively. **This course does not meet the prerequisite for AP Calculus.**

## 416 Honors Precalculus

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** A- or better in Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation, or a B or better in Honors Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course provides a more intense presentation of the topics outlined in the Precalculus course. Additional topics will include: polar coordinates and complex numbers; sequences and series; and limits and derivatives.

## 412 Probability and Statistics

Grade 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course is designed to cover topics commonly found in a college introductory statistics and probability course. The focus of this course includes collection and analysis of data, an in-depth study of probability, and hypothesis testing. Graphs, frequency tables and types of distributions, including the normal curve will be covered. Probability topics include concepts of probability, random variables, and binomial probability situations. Testing of hypotheses involves a study of various sampling distributions. This course does not prepare students for the AP exam. Graphing calculators will be extensively used for discovery, concept verification, and problem solving.

## 415 Honors Calculus

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** C- or better in Precalculus with math teacher recommendation or successful completion of Honors Precalculus with math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course includes limits, derivatives, integration, and applications in science and economics. Technological applications will be included throughout the course. This course does not prepare students for the AP exam. A graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course.

## 456 AP Calculus

Grade 12

Full Year

1.2 Credits

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in Honors Precalculus with math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course includes work with limits, derivatives, integrals and their applications in science and economics. Technological applications are included throughout the course. Also included in the course will be practice exam questions covering all topics included in the AP Calculus Exam that will be given by the College Board in May.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

## 475 AP Statistics

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1.2 Credits

**Prerequisites:** A- or better in Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation or a B in Honors Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation or an A- or better in Precalculus with math teacher recommendation. **(TI-83+/TI-84 required)**

**Description:** This course will introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes. 1. Exploring Data: Observing patterns and departures from patterns. 2. Planning a study: Deciding what and how to

measure. 3. Anticipating Patterns: Producing models using probability theory and simulation. 4. Statistical Inference and Confirming Models.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

## **480 AP Computer Science Principles (Offered as a STEM Credit)**

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1.2 Credit

**Prerequisites:** C+ or better in Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation or a C or better in Honors Algebra 2 with math teacher recommendation or successful completion of Precalculus or Honors Precalculus with math teacher recommendation. Students should be comfortable with functions and function notation.

**Description:** This course will cover computational design, program and algorithm development, code analysis, computing innovations, and responsible computing. Students will develop programs in Python language. Also included in the course will be practice exam questions covering all topics included in the Comp. Sci. Principles Exam that will be given by the College Board in May.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

## **Music**

The music program is designed to provide interested students with opportunities to develop their talents through active participation in both vocal and instrumental performing groups. Each performing group offers students an opportunity to study the compositional elements and structure of music while exploring the creative concepts and profoundness of music

**A passing grade in a one-year course in the fine arts, which may include courses in music or art, is required for graduation.**

**156 Band**

**157 Chorus**

**152 Fundamentals of Music/Theory**

**159 Music in Society**

**164 Honor Chorus**

**166 Honors Choir**

**169 Honors Band**



## 156 Band

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Prior instrumental instruction and teacher recommendation. Audition process required. Size of group based on instrumental needs and balance.

**Description:** Students study and perform music of different styles including Pop, Classical, Broadway, and Modern. Students will participate in a band ensemble and express themselves musically in a variety of different settings, including marching band. The intention of the course is to encourage the growth of every individual student in a team environment. The band meets on a daily basis and performs several concerts/parades throughout the year.

## 157 Chorus

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Students study and perform music of a wide variety of genres. Students will learn about healthy singing, musical form and style with varying degrees of voicing and difficulty. The intention of the course is to encourage the growth of every individual student in a team environment. The chorus meets on a daily basis and performs in several concerts throughout the year.

## 152 Fundamentals of Music/Theory

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course includes the study of basic notation, harmonic theory, ear training, transposition and composition. It will enhance a student's knowledge and appreciation for music through the study of how music is created. The course is required for students intending to pursue music as a career.

## 159 Music in Society

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** 'Music in Society' is a class that will present and study music as both the mirror of, and catalyst for social events throughout history. A wide variety of topics will be explored, chosen from suggestions made by class members. Examples of possible study questions might be:

- Did the protest music of the 60's and 70's accurately reflect the social climate of America in that era; and if so, whose America?
- What does the "music of a generation" really say about the lifestyles and ideas of that generation?
- Where did the idea of "musicians as stars and icons" come from?
- Who should have the right to duplicate and distribute music (copyright) and what are the issues that musicians now face in the light of technology which allows everyone in the world instantaneous access to anyone's musical contributions.

Materials used will be taken from current periodic literature, Internet sources and selections from texts, which address the issues selected for discussion. Students will research topics, write short opinion papers, debate/discuss issues, and listen to a wide variety of music in class and for homework. Projects will involve presenting and analyzing works of individual choosing. (NO music with parental advisory labels will be permitted).

## 164 Honors Chorus

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Prior Choral instructions and teacher recommendation. Audition/application process required. Must have successfully completed **151 Chorus** with a passing grade

**Description:** Students in Honors Chorus perform above and beyond the requirements of **151 Chorus**. In addition to the performance opportunities and academic assignments in **151 Chorus**, the students in the Honors Chorus independently develop areas of performance, academics, and extending learning activities to participate in based on their personal strengths and interests. This is a great course for students who are passionate about singing and learning about music.

## 166 Honors Choir

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Prior choral instructions and teacher recommendation. Audition/application process required.

**Description:** Students in Honors Choir perform above and beyond the requirements of **151 Chorus**. In addition to the performance opportunities and academic assignments in **151 Chorus**, the students in the Honors Choir have additional performance opportunities and independently develop areas of performance, academics, and extending learning activities to participate in based on their personal strengths and interests. This is a great course for students who are looking to be musically challenged and who are passionate about performing.

## 169 Honors Band

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Prior instrumental instruction and teacher recommendation. Audition/application process required. Must have successfully completed **150 Band**, with a passing grade.

**Description:** Students in Honors Band perform above and beyond the requirements of **150 Band**. In addition to the performance opportunities and academic assignments in **150 Band**, the students in the Honors Band independently develop areas of performance, academics and extended learning activities to participate in based on their personal strengths and interests. This is a great course for students who are looking to be musically challenged and are passionate about playing an instrument.

## Physical Education

In the physical education program, each student will develop fitness, coordination, basic motor movement skills, sport skills, knowledge of the rules and basic strategy of each sport/activity, and acceptable social behavior.

**Passing grades in two Physical Education courses are required for graduation, which includes Physical Education in Grades 9 and 10.**

**Physical Education II is offered in the 11th and 12th grades as an elective.**

**Students must select either 502 or 506 in grades 9 and 10.**

**502 Physical Education I - Team Games/Activities - required**

**503 Physical Education II - Elective**

**506 Physical Education I - Lifetime Games/Activities - required**

## 502 Physical Education I - Team Games/Activities

Grades 9-10

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Students **must** choose either 502 or 506 in grades 9-10.

Primary emphasis will be on fitness development through team games and activities. Students will participate in activities such as flag football, basketball, tennis, ultimate frisbee, disc golf, pickleball, volleyball, softball, soccer, hockey, and new games.

## 503 Physical Education II (Elective)

Grade 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of one credit in P.E.

**Description:** Students vote on units they participated in previously and then play tournaments. Among the units covered are basketball, volleyball, flag football, soccer, and hockey. (Course demands a high amount of student participation.)

## 506 Physical Education I - Lifetime Games/Activities

Grades 9-10

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Students **must** choose either 502 or 506 in grades 9-10.

Primary emphasis will be on fitness development through lifetime sports/activities. Students will participate in a variety of activities such as walking for fitness, yard games, yoga, bowling, tennis, pickleball, weight lifting, golf, and disc golf.

## Science

The goals of science instruction at Somers High School are to enable students to understand and apply the scientific method of inquiry, to acquire knowledge of scientific facts and concepts, to become scientifically literate and to derive knowledge from “hands on” activities.

**A passing grade in 3 credits of science is required for graduation, including Integrated Science in grade 9, and Biology in grade 10.**

**600 Integrated Science**  
**608 Anatomy and Physiology**  
**611 Botany**  
**612 Marine Science**  
**614 Science and Law**  
**616 Survey in Forensics**  
**623 Biology**  
**631 Honor Biology**  
**626 AP UCONN/ECE Biology**  
**627 Chemistry**

**628 Honors Chemistry**  
**644 AP UCONN/ECE Chemistry**  
**637 Honors Physics**  
**607 Microbiology: Exploring the Microscopic World**  
**632 Zoology: Exploring the Animal Kingdom**  
**639 AP Physics 1**  
**617 Astronomy, An Integrated Approach**

## 600 Integrated Science

Grade 9

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Throughout the year, students will come to develop an understanding of the basic principles of Chemistry and Physical Science. The course examines the beginnings of the Universe, looking to see how basic elements were created, before moving into the basics of chemical structures and properties. From there, students progress to developing an understanding of how these properties, along with energy, help to drive processes occurring on Earth and in Space.

## 608 Anatomy and Physiology

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B or better in Biology, teacher recommendation, and high self-motivation.

**Description:** This college level course is a fast paced ½ year course involving in depth lectures and laboratory studies in human anatomy and physiology. The following systems will be studied: digestive, circulatory, respiratory, skeletal, muscular, and the nervous system. Mammalian dissection is a part of the course, however accommodations can be made for the faint of heart.

## 611 Botany

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** 10th grade students may take this course concurrently with Biology. (Preference will be given to 11th and 12th grade students.)

**Description:** Botany is the study of plant biology. The purpose of the half-year course is to expose students to the ecological importance of plants in our environments. Topics will include human uses of plants, plant classification and anatomy and physiology of plants. Laboratories and in-class activities are performed to support general lecture material in order to gain a clearer understanding of the importance of plants in our lives.

## 612 Marine Science

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** 10th grade students may take this course concurrently with biology and teacher recommendation. (Preference will be given to 11th and 12th grade students.)

**Description:** Marine Science is a college level course that studies the biotic and abiotic environments of the ocean. The purpose of this half-year course is to expose students to the habitats of the ocean. Topics will include marine ecosystems, properties of water, waves and currents, and a survey of animal and plant life of the ocean as well as the interrelationship of the species within a marine community. This is a hands-on course with many problem solving activities. Marine Science is an interdisciplinary course with an emphasis on math and writing.

## 614 Science and Law

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** 10th grade students may take this course concurrently with Biology. (Preference will be given to 11th and 12th grade students.)

**Description:** Science and law is a one-semester college level course that will examine the legal implications of specific advances, current issues, historical cases in science, bioethics, health law, and case studies. Also will introduce advances in genetic engineering and cloning, present new laws specific

to the health field and to the area of environmental law. Attention will be given to the fast advancing science as it is shaping the current law. The course is an interdisciplinary course, which includes hands-on activities and independent research projects.

## 616 Survey in Forensics

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** 10th grade students may take this course concurrently with Biology. (Preference will be given to 11th and 12th grade students.)

**Description:** Forensics is an interdisciplinary course with an emphasis on evidence collection and law. This survey course explores several topics within the field of forensic science, including, but not limited to, blood spatter analysis, DNA, anthropology, fingerprinting, trace evidence and crime science processing.

## 623 Biology

Grades 10

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Integrated Science.

**Description:** This course will introduce the students to the basics of Biology. Students will learn to use problem-solving skills and to think critically. The course is in the process of being aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Topics will include structure and function of cells, ecology, DNA and genetics, evolution/biodiversity, as well as, environmental issues. Students will use knowledge gained in the classroom to make informed decisions regarding community issues and make real-world connections.

## 631 Honors Biology

Grade 10

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B+ or higher in Integrated Science freshman year and a science teacher recommendation.

**Description:** Honors Biology covers topics typically covered in a high school biology course and is designed to be more in depth and detailed to prepare students for taking the AP/ECE UConn Biology their junior or senior year and will provide an opportunity to students who wish to experience an honors level Biology course. In addition, activities that support independent practice and self motivation will be embedded into the course. There is a focus on independent learning, working at a faster pace and rigorous coursework. Students study the structures, functions, and processes of living organisms and their interactions with the environment. Major themes include cell structure, cell communication and specialization, energy and chemistry of life, genetics and evolution, diversity of life, plant systems, and ecology.

## 626 AP UCONN/ECE Biology

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1.2 Credits

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry, and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This is a college freshman biology course. Successful completion of the national Advanced Placement examination may result in advanced standing or credit in college biology, evolutionary and ecological biology. Only students who are prepared to assume responsibility for studying at a college level may elect this course. In this course the students have the opportunity to earn UCONN college credit during their AP Biology Course. These credits can be used in all CT State Universities and many out-of-state universities. During the AP Biology year, the students may enroll in **BIO 1108: Principles of Biology II** during the fall and **Bio 1107: Principles of Biology I** in the spring. These are the actual freshman biology courses that incoming UCONN students take. The students will be required to take the

final for each course, which is established and written by the Biology department at UCONN. The student will be required to receive a grade of C in order to get credit for the course.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

## **627 Chemistry**

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** 10th grade students may take this course concurrently with biology, but must have a teacher recommendation. 11th & 12th grades students must have C- or better in biology and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** Chemistry is designed to be a non-intimidating chemistry course designated for the college bound student who will not be pursuing a science related field. This course covers the traditional aspects of chemistry while demonstrating chemistry's role in society and applying it to real-world issues. This course is heavily lab based in order to help reinforce the concepts. An understanding of basic algebra is very useful for this course. The major units are based on the national standards and include the study of matter, atomic structure, bonding, chemical reactions, solutions, acids and bases, and thermochemistry.

## **628 Honors Chemistry**

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** 10th grade students may take this course concurrently with biology with a B or better in Integrated Science and Algebra 2 and a teacher recommendation. Grades 11 and 12 need a B or better in Biology and Algebra 1 and teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course is designed for students planning to continue their education in the sciences, engineering, or associated medical fields. The course will cover, in depth, topics of atomic structures, chemical bonding and reactions, solubility and solution concentration, acid-base theories and reactions; and topics in basic organic and nuclear chemistry. The student is expected to be able to set up and solve proportions, work with exponential notation, and handle common logarithms. Laboratory experience will be provided to develop skills and to complement course topics.

## **644 AP UConn /ECE Chemistry**

Grades 11-12

Full year

1.2 Credits

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in Honors Chemistry and Algebra 2 and a Chemistry teacher recommendation, or a C- or better in Honors Algebra 2 and a Chemistry teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This is a college freshman chemistry course. The course is designed for students planning on majoring in science related fields. Emphasis will be placed on sophisticated problem solving, theory, and laboratory work. The class final will be comprehensive and cover material learned throughout the year.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an**

**alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

**The ECE portion of the course will give the student 8 UConn credits upon passing the course. It is equivalent to a 1 year College Freshman chemistry course.**

## **637 Honors Physics**

Grade 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B- in Algebra 2 and/or teacher recommendation.

**Description:** Physics is concerned with the study of matter, energy, forces, and their interaction in the world and universe around us. Topics in this course include concepts of classical mechanics and electricity. A strong emphasis is placed on problem solving and laboratory work. Concepts will be connected to real world application whenever possible.

## **607 Microbiology: Exploring the Microscopic World**

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of biology.

**Description:** This college prep course covers principles of microbiology and is designed for students who want to expand their knowledge of the microscopic world who are interested in health professions. Topics include: the structure and function of bacteria, sterile techniques and the diseases caused by these microorganisms, as well as how to treat and control these pathogens. Many labs will be done that will expand and reinforce major topics which include: growing bacteria.

## **632 Zoology: Exploring the Animal Kingdom**

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** 10th grade students may take this course concurrently with Biology. (Preference will be given to 11th and 12th grade students.)

**Description:** In this half-year course, the students will examine the animal kingdom, from invertebrates to vertebrates, through the evolution of the species along the phylogenetic tree. Taxonomy and animal interactions with each other and their environment will be studied.

## **639 AP Physics 1**

Grade 11-12

Full Year

1.2 Credits

**Prerequisites:** Completion or current enrollment in pre-calculus, as well as an 85 or better in all science and math classes. Recommendation by a math and science teacher is also required. Taking honors physics is not required, but highly recommended.

**Description:** AP Physics 1 is a full-year course equivalent to a first-semester introductory college course in algebra based Physics. This course is designed for students planning on majoring in science or engineering related fields. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: kinematics; dynamics; circular motion and gravitation; energy; momentum; simple harmonic motion; torque and rotational motion. (AP Physics Course and Exam Description)

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.

## 617 Astronomy, An Integrated Approach

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Integrated Science and Biology is required along with a teacher recommendation.

**Description:** This course will introduce students to the study of astronomy including; the wonders of the night sky, the history of the universe, including its evolution and composition, the life cycle of stars and galaxies, the solar system, and the role of technology in the exploration of space. An integrated approach is used to provide students the opportunity to explore and understand the processes that drive our universe.

## Social Studies

Each student is a part of American society with certain rights and responsibilities. In order to exercise these rights and responsibilities, it is important that each student has an understanding of the functioning of society and to be equipped with the societal skills necessary to cope with life. To This end, students are encouraged to take a social studies course each semester of their high school careers.

A passing grade in specific social studies courses is required for graduation. The required courses include World History (offered in the grade 9 only) and two United States History courses (offered in grades 10 and 11)

702 World History

704 Current Affairs

705 World Between Wars

707 Ancient History

708 Medieval History

712 AP UConn/ECE US History

714 Government and Politics

713 AP World History: Modern

734 Honors Civics/Pre-AP United States History

716 Introduction to Psychology

717 Introduction to Philosophy

718 Introduction to Sociology

719 Principle of Law

720 US History 1 / Civics

721 US History 2

728 Trial Techniques

735 AP Psychology

736 Black and Latino Studies

## 702 World History

Grade 9

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** In this course students will study the themes of revolution, nationalism, and imperialism. Students go on to study World War I, the rise of dictators and World War II. They may also consider the new challenges the world faces in the twenty-first century. Students will practice analytical and critical thinking skills and utilize innovative technology in an effort to better understand the world at large.



## 704 Current Affairs

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** In this course students will study world and domestic affairs as they happen. Students will discuss the interaction between nations, events with nations, including the United States, and their significance, both immediate and long term.

## 705 World Between the Wars: Warfare in the 20th Century

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course examines the origins and development of the First World War, the rise of the dictators in the 1920's and 1930's, as well as the origins and development of the Second World War. Special attention will be given to the political, economic, and military aspects of this very volatile period of time. We will study the use of propaganda in times of conflict, as well as the role of new technologies in warfare.

## 707 Ancient History

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This study of humankind, its development, and the societies that it has created provides an understanding of world developments of the past and the present. The societies that will be studied existed from the early cave dwellers to the end of the Roman Empire and include Egypt, Greece, Rome, and China, with focus centering on the western civilizations.

## 708 Medieval History

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course traces the historical development of humanity, with an emphasis on Europe, from the fall of the Roman Empire to the development of a feudal society and the emergence of the revolutionary spirit of which our struggle for independence was a part. Emphasis is placed on the historical perspective.

## 712 AP UConn/ECE US History

Grade 11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B- or better in Honors Civics / Pre-AP US History (734)

**Description:** This course will be an intensive study of our nation's history. All students must take Honors Civics / Pre-AP US History (734) and earn at least an 80 or better to enroll in this course. This course continues the AP curriculum where the students will explore the historical development of the United States from 1800 to the present. During their study, they will examine the ideals, movements and events that shaped the United States as it developed into a world leader and maintained that role to the present. Considerable emphasis will be placed on the role of the United States in the world.

The AP United States History course also has a component where students can earn up to six credits at the University of Connecticut. If students choose, they can enroll in the Early College Experience (ECE)

program at UConn. Through that program they will earn up to six credits in two classes: HIST 1501 and HIST 1502. That transcript is transferable to other universities and colleges throughout the country.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

## **714 Government and Politics**

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Emphasizing responsibilities as well as rights, this course examines the functional aspects of citizenship, our roles as effective political beings, the nature and functions of our governments, federal, state, and local, the problems and privileges of citizenship and the fundamentals of the Constitution. Also this course focuses time on current affairs as this relates to civic/government.

## **713 AP World History: Modern**

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in all required Social Studies courses.

**Description:** Advanced Placement World History: Modern is a full year course that is designed to prepare students to succeed on the AP exam held annually in May. This challenging course is designed to be equivalent to an introductory college survey offering. The course will cover the time period from 1200 CE to the present day, focusing on the cultural, economic, political and social developments that have shaped the world. We will analyze primary/secondary sources and other historical evidence, as well as emphasizing the development of writing skills, especially historical arguments.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

## **734 Honors Civics/Pre-AP United States History**

Grade 10

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B or better in World History (702).

**Description:** The course is divided into two distinct parts: Civics and early United States History linked to the Advanced Placement (AP) United States history curriculum. During the first semester, students will study the foundational principles of the Constitution and the structure of our national, state, and local governments. They will also examine the citizen's role in government, including our rights and responsibilities. In the second semester, students will begin the AP United States curriculum from the pre-Columbus period up to 1800. This second semester will give students an in-depth study of topics such as early colonialism, the American Revolution, and the Early Republic period. This course is a prerequisite to the AP/ECE US History Course (712). Students must take this course and have an average of 80 or higher to advance to AP/ECE US History (712).

## 716 Introduction to Psychology

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course will introduce students to the basic structure of the science of psychology. Students will examine human development, from birth to maturity, and human behavior both normal and abnormal. Topics to be covered include: sensation, perception, learning, motivation and emotion, sleep and dreams, personality and adjustment, intelligence, and aptitude.

## 717 Introduction to Philosophy

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course seeks to help students develop a conceptual framework and vocabulary for discussing important intellectual and social issues. Philosophy can assist us in understanding that claims to absolute knowledge are not to be taken at face value, and it can guide us through perplexing issues raised by public policy debates.

Lastly, philosophy can assist in forming thinking when people are misled by specious arguments and faulty reasoning. Its application applies to all areas of our life therefore developing philosophical thinking is crucial to our own self-development as independent thinkers.

## 718 Introduction to Sociology

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This introductory course guides the study of human behavior in society through the understanding of five key concepts: social structure, social action, functional integration, power and culture. Students will use these terms to deconstruct and understand today's social issues. Some topics may include comparative cultures, social behavior/interaction, and socialization of gender, race, or ethnicity.

## 719 Principles of Law

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This survey of laws covers constitutional, criminal, and civil law. Basic legal concepts and the principles on which the American legal system is built will be treated in depth. The topics span from foundational theory of our legal system to contemporary constitutional law.

## 720 US History 1 / Civics

Grade 10

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of World History.

**Description:** This course is divided into two distinct parts: civics and 19th century United States history. During the first semester, students will study the foundational principles of the Constitution and the structure of our national, state and local governments. They will also examine the citizen's role in government, including our rights and responsibilities. During the second semester, students will continue to evaluate the role of government as it changed during the Progressive Era and was challenged by involvement in international affairs of the twentieth century. Emphasis will be given to the development of critical thinking skills through analysis of primary source, writing argumentative essays and preparing oral arguments.

## 721 United States History 2

Grade 11

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of U.S. History Civics 1.

**Description:** The course explores the historical development of the United States from 1920 to the present. The students will examine the movements and events, which have shaped the United States as it has developed into a world leader. This course will demonstrate how politics, economics, and war have shaped the United States after World War 1.

## 728 Trial Techniques

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course will be based on the enduring understanding that effective litigation and trial law requires a well-rounded background in a variety of legal disciplines as well as practical and theoretical understandings. This course will provide students with a well-rounded background in a variety of legal disciplines, with opportunities for interdisciplinary study and concentration in particular areas of interest. In addition to knowing the law, however, an effective litigator must develop skills in the areas of factual analysis, written and oral argument, and effective communication, as well as a sense of drama and artistry. Each foundational area of instruction will culminate in a mock trial based on the above subject matter.

## 735 AP Psychology

Grade 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** B+ or better in all required Social Studies courses.

**Description:** This course is designed to prepare students to succeed on the AP Psychology exam as well as in other academic areas. Psychology is a science that studies human behavior. This course offers an in-depth study of various disciplines within psychology such as social psychology, research methods and ethics, biological bases of behavior, sensation/perception, personality theories, child and adolescent development, altered states of consciousness and the influence of the brain on behavior and mental disorders. The ultimate goal of this course is to help students understand the core concepts of Psychology in a challenging manner that reflects college level expectations.

**Enrollment in AP courses requires that the student take the AP exam.**

**The AP level added weight will be granted to students who successfully complete the required course work and who take the related AP exam. No AP designated weight will be granted to a student who does not take the related AP exam or who violates a College Board Exam Policy (i.e.: use of cell phone, etc). All students taking an AP course must also take the course final or an alternate assignment (subject specific) unless they maintain an 87 average with teacher permission to exempt.**

## 736 Black and Latino Studies

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of U.S. History and Modern World History

**Description:** The course is an opportunity for students to explore accomplishments, struggles, intersections, perspectives, and collaborations of African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino people in the United States. Students will examine how historical movements, legislation, and wars affected the citizenship rights of these groups and how they, both separately and together, worked to build U.S. cultural and economic wealth and create more just societies in local, national, and international contexts.

# Special Education

To receive special education services, students must meet the criteria defined by Federal Law PL94-142, the Education For All Handicapped Children Act and PL108-446, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Students are identified under the following categories: intellectual disability, hearing impairment, speech or language impairment, visual impairment, emotional disorder, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, multiple disabilities, autism, traumatic brain injury, or developmental delay (ages 3-5). Those students receiving special education service at the high are determined eligible for services until receipt of a high school diploma or until the age of 22, as determined by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

**Through the Planning and Placement Team process an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed for eligible students. Parents and students needing further information on special education opportunities may speak to their school counselor or to the special education district office/staff.**

**511 Healthy Living**  
**870 Work Education Seminar**

**885 Career Exploration Mini-Course**

## 511 Healthy Living

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation of teacher.

**Description:** This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of many aspects of leading a healthy life. The content of the course will cover the areas of personal living skills, home living, community living and self-awareness. Each of these areas will be explored in depth and include a variety of current topics related to leading a healthy life. Students will participate in class discussions, projects and research opportunities.

## 870 Work Education Seminar

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation of teacher.

**Description:** This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the world of work and assist them with the transition from High School to post-school employment, education, community participation, and independent living. The content of the course will include activities for the student to identify their interests and match them to a variety of career options or career clusters. Careers will be explored through research as well as work experience opportunities. Also included in the course will be the opportunity for students to develop the skill and knowledge necessary for locating, applying, and interviewing for jobs to secure employment in the community. The course will include critical information regarding accessing adult service providers, such as; DDS, BRS, and disability services at the college level. Another piece to the course will be the opportunity for students to develop strong self-advocacy skills by increasing their knowledge of their own disability, strengths, and weaknesses. Other areas of concentration included in this course are; relating to others, money management, consumerism, housing, food choice and preparation, clothing, and health care.

## 885 Career Exploration Mini-Course

Grades 11-12

1 Semester

.25 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None. (Open to Junior and Senior students.)

**Description:** The intent of the course is to help students determine their career options, goals, and post-secondary plans in a thoughtful, reflective and systematic way. In this course students will learn how their interests, personality, and talents can influence their career choices. They will be able to identify career paths that fit their interests and personalities while considering the job outlook in these areas. Additionally, students will develop job search and employability skills.

The course contains 8 self-paced modules that can be completed remotely or in school utilizing a Google Classroom platform, and other online resources. At the end of the successful completion of the course, students will receive a Career Exploration "Certificate of Completion" that can be used on resumes, and college and job applications. The course is offered through the Counseling and Career Center and the Special Education Department.

## Technology Engineering Education

The Technology Innovation Design & Engineering (TIDE) department offers an activity-oriented program that provides insight, understanding and application of 21st Century technological concepts, processes and systems. The curriculum is divided into three areas of concentration: Visual and Multimedia Design, Production/Applied Engineering and Engineering Design. These pathways assist students in selecting sequential courses within their focus or interest. For strong technological literacy and cross-curricular connections, students should explore multiple areas of each strand within the TIDE program.

### TIDE Strands

#### Visual and Multimedia Design

- Graphic Design I
- Graphic Design II
- Photography and Video Production

#### Production/Applied Engineering

- World of Technology
- Manufacturing - Woodworking I
- Manufacturing - Metalworking
- Manufacturing - Woodworking II
- Welding
- Honors CNC Machining
- Introduction to Construction Trades

#### Engineering Design

- Honors Engineering Graphics I
- Honors Engineering Graphic II
- Architectural Design
- Robotics I
- Robotics II

#### Capstone Opportunities

- Honors Research and Development
- Technology Seminar

**. 5 STEM credits must be taken in Technology Engineering Education. All Tech Eng. Ed. contribute to meeting graduation requirements in STEM.**

**907 Manufacturing - Woodworking I**  
**908 Manufacturing - Metalworking**  
**909 Manufacturing - Woodworking II**  
**918 Robotics II**  
**912 Honors Research and Development**  
**937 Welding**  
**940 World of Technology**  
**932 Honors Engineering Graphics II**  
**957 Technology Seminar**

**949 Honors Engineering Graphics I**  
**934 Digital Photography and Video Production**  
**947 Robotics I**  
**963 Introduction to Construction Trades**  
**948 Honors CNC Machining**  
**953 Architectural Design**  
**954 Graphic Design I**  
**955 Graphic Design II**

## **907 Manufacturing - Woodworking I**

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** In this highly active and hands-on course students will explore the craft of woodworking. Students will learn about safety practices and the safe operation of tools and machines used in the woodworking environment. Various woodworking techniques, project planning, material calculations and joinery methods will be taught through tangible woodworking projects.

## **908 Manufacturing - Metalworking**

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This class will explore how products are manufactured from common industrial metals. Students will learn about safety practices and the safer operation of tools and machines used in the fabrication of metal parts. Nearly all topics covered will result in tangible products as students learn about: Computer-aided drafting and design, machining (manual and CNC), casting, welding, sheet metal work, and forming.

## **909 Manufacturing - Woodworking II**

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Manufacturing - Woodworking I.

**Description:** This course will expand upon the knowledge and skill that students develop in Manufacturing Woodworking I. Students will have the opportunity to develop and produce their own individual project design ideas. Topics of this class will focus on hands-on activities and include: safety instruction of the manufacturing tools and machines within the TIDE facility, tool and machine use, product design and development, project construction techniques, and automated cutting systems such as CNC operation.

## **918 Robotics II**

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Robotics I with B- or better.

**Description:** This course will investigate the field of robotics, automation, and electronics. Focus will be on programming in Vex Blocks, and Python Language. Electronic circuits and breadboard construction

will be introduced with the Arduino interface. This competition-based course will entail multiple games and challenges throughout each unit.

## **912 Honors Research & Development (Pre-Engineering)**

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Students must have the **instructor's permission to join the class.**

**Description:** Over the course of a year students will engage in a series of problem solving and design activities covering areas of transportation, electronics, fabrication, mechanical engineering, etc. The course is centered around student interest with projects and activities influenced by the members of the class. The class will work together as a team towards common goals and projects. While it does not have to be the case, in the past the class has chosen to design and build electric vehicles to race in the Electrathon America Challenge.

## **937 Welding**

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Students will explore modern welding and cutting processes including: Arc (stick welding), MIG, TIG, Plasma, and Gas. Exploration in manual and CNC Plasma operation will also be covered. Safer operation of tools and machines related to welding and plasma cutting will be instructed. Students will apply this knowledge to a variety of hand-on activities and projects.

## **940 World of Technology**

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** World of Technology is an introductory course covering topics like communication, transportation, manufacturing, construction, and biotechnologies. This course is a hybrid between theoretical discussions and hands-on activities. Students will learn the engineering design process by solving problems both on their own and in teams. This course is an opportunity for students of all skill levels to begin exploring the field of engineering as well as learn practical hands-ons skills that can be applied to the trades.

## **932 Honors Engineering Graphics II**

Grades 10-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Engineering Graphics I with Solidworks with a C- or better.

**Description:** Students will further their knowledge in Solid Modeling with a focus on material analysis, non-destructive virtual testing, engineering design and engineering journals. Students in this course also prepare for, and take an industrial certification test in Solidworks to become a Certified Solidworks Associate. Successful completion of this course will earn the student 3 college credits that can be transferred to other institutions.

## **957 Technology Seminar (Independent Study)**

Grade 12

Depending on Credit .25, .5, .75, or 1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Teacher Permission only. **Students will be charged for materials if their project is of a personal nature that will be taken home at the end of the activity.**

**Description:** This opportunity is for the student who has fulfilled all the classes offered within the Visual/Film Media strand, Production/Applied Engineering strand, or Engineering Design strand, and is



seeking to further their experience within their concentration. The student will be held accountable for knowledge of all course curriculums within that strand and will be challenged to enhance and use that knowledge at a higher level through a real life project. The student will meet with the teachers of the Technology Engineering Education program prior to the student's participation to discuss, select the framework for the project (this could be project based or exist as a teacher's aid if deemed appropriate), and to identify the assessment criteria that the student will be held accountable for at the end of the experience.

## **949 Honors Engineering Graphics I**

Grade 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Students will be introduced to the concept of engineering design through Solidworks software. This course will introduce students to the world of modeling in three-dimensional space and output of two-dimensional orthographic projections. Students will appreciate the digital world of computer aided drafting and design and its application and role in the engineering world. 3d printing technology will be used to aid in prototyping in this class.

## **934 Digital Photography and Video Production**

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Ever wanted to take your photography or filming skills to the next level, but didn't know where to start? In this course you will have the opportunity to explore the world of both photography and video production. During the semester you will learn how to operate a Digital S.L.R. camera for both photo and video applications. In the photography section of the course we will cover taking different style photographs, visual design principles, and digital photo treatments. On the video production side, you will have the opportunity to learn video editing, special effects, green screening, and much more! This class will cover the basics of adobe software like photoshop, lightroom, and premiere pro.

## **947 Robotics I**

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) course emphasizes problem solving, teamwork, programming and basic robotic understanding. Students will participate using a variety of 21st century skills including building simple robots, flying drones, programming in block style coding and Python language. Through challenging design briefs, students will create robots to perform specific tasks. Students will also have experience programming a humanoid robot.

## **963 Introduction to Construction Trades**

Grade 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course is designed to introduce students to the world of skilled construction trades and residential home repair. This course would serve anyone who may be interested in entering into the skilled trades as a career. This course will also serve anyone who will live in a residential structure and be interested in repairing and working on the systems within these homes. Topic covered will include; framing, plumbing, electrical, zoning and codes, as well as some basic CADD.

## 948 Honors CNC Machining

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course is written for students who are interested in learning to operate and program computer controlled machines. Through a variety of hands-on projects, students will learn to control automated machines through computer aided design software (MasterCam) as well as through the use of code. The programs students create will be run on a variety of machines as students produce their parts from materials such as foam wood, Corian, brass, aluminum, and steel. Students can expect to operate CNC routers, milling machines, and lathes to produce their projects.

## 953 Architectural Design

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Students will explore the world of residential construction through the use of engineering design principles in the development of a detailed set of plans for a residential structure. Through construction principles and the operation of Chief Architect software, students will develop a complete set of construction plans including cost analysis and develop a scale model of their design. The whole process of residential construction planning from start to finish will be explored.

## 954 Graphic Design I

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** Ever wonder who makes the logos of your favorite brands? How about the posters for promoting upcoming movies? Do you have an eye for design, but are unsure how to implement it into the digital world? In this course, you will have the opportunity to learn about the behind-the-scenes of the psychology and design elements that will go into all the graphic work in the world. In order to do so, you will be given the opportunity to learn how to use several programs in the Adobe suite, which will enable you to create your own digital design layouts, templates, logos, posters, and whatever else you set your mind to.

## 955 Graphic Design II

Grades 9-12

1 Semester

.5 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Graphic Design I with a C- or better.

**Description:** This course will expand upon the knowledge and skills the students developed in Graphic Design I. Through the use of open ended design projects students will continue to explore principles of design as they experience a wide range of graphic projects. Some projects that students will be exposed to include label creation, poster printing, t-shirt design and printing, website creation, and laser engraving.

# World Language

The primary goal of the World Language Program is to provide students with the skills to communicate in at least one language other than English, and increase their understanding of other cultures. Students will expand their knowledge of other disciplines through their study of language and culture, as well as participate in multilingual communities. A multimedia approach is used in the acquisition, demonstration, and assessment of World Language skills.

The State of Connecticut requires students to take one full-year world language course beginning with the graduating class of 2023. Students who successfully complete a full-year Spanish or French course will earn **one high school credit**. In addition to the graduation requirement, students are encouraged to continue taking language classes, as many universities recommend that students complete at least two years of the same language. (Three years are strongly recommended.)

**401 Intro to French (Not Offered 2023/2024)**

**369 French 1**

**362 French 2 Honors**

**363 French 2**

**364 French 3 Honors**

**365 French 3**

**366 French 4 Honors**

**367 French 4**

**368 French 5 Honors**

**403 Intro to Spanish**

**394 Spanish 1**

**354 Spanish 2 Honors**

**355 Spanish 2**

**356 Spanish 3 Honors**

**357 Spanish 3**

**358 Spanish 4 Honors**

**359 Spanish 4**

**389 Spanish 5 Honors**

## 401 Intro to French (Not offered 2023/24)

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course is for students with no prior French language experience. Upon successful completion of this course with a C-, students may go to French 1. The course offers students the opportunity to explore the French language and the cultures that speak it.

## 369 French 1

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in Intro to French.

**Description:** Students are expected to learn basic communication skills based on grammar and vocabulary. These skills are enhanced by oral and written exercises, directed classroom conversation and dialogues, short original dialogues, short original compositions and selected readings. All activities planned with the objective of learning about the many cultures of Francophone countries through authentic sources to build both oral and written proficiency. The pace of this course allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

## 362 Honors French 2

Grades 9-12

Full year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in French 1.

**Description:** The students expand their knowledge of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary, increasing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing French in order to communicate in a wide range of situations. They will use authentic materials featuring native speakers and cultural topics of the francophone world. Students will prepare presentations and read challenging selections with emphasis on grammar.

## 363 French 2

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in French 1.

**Description:** Students expand their knowledge of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary, increasing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing French in order to communicate in a wide range of situations. They will use authentic materials featuring native speakers and cultural topics of the francophone world. Students in this course will continue to build the language foundation acquired in beginning levels. The pace of this class allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

## 364 Honors French 3

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in Honors French 2.

**Description:** The focus is on productive language skills as students review and increase knowledge of French grammar and vocabulary. There is an emphasis on oral and written exercises, original dialogues, composition, selected readings, and discussions. Cultural components are introduced through authentic materials including newspapers, magazines, videos, and television. Students will prepare presentations and read challenging selections with more emphasis on grammar.

## 365 French 3

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in French 2 or Honors French 2.

**Description:** The focus is on productive language skills as students review and increase knowledge of French grammar and vocabulary. There is emphasis on oral and written exercises, original dialogues, composition, selected readings, and discussions. Cultural components are introduced through authentic materials including newspapers, magazines, videos, and television. Students in this course will continue to build the language foundation acquired in French 2. The pace of this course allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

## 366 Honors French 4

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in Honors French 3.

**Description:** Students review and expand grammar and vocabulary. Reading selections and other course material enhance cultural understanding. There is an emphasis on oral expression and writing

using advanced French grammar. Students will prepare presentations and read challenging selections with more emphasis on grammar.

### **367 French 4**

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in French 2 or Honors French 3.

**Description:** Students review and expand grammar and vocabulary. Reading selection and other course material enhance cultural understanding. There is an emphasis on oral expression and writing using correct French grammar. Students in this course will continue to build the language foundation acquired in French 3. The pace allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

### **368 Honors French 5**

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in Honors French 4.

**Description:** This course places a major emphasis on complete communication in French. Students refine their oral, listening, and writing skills using advanced grammar, selections, written for native speakers, presentations, and short novels.

### **403 Intro to Spanish**

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** This course is for students with no prior Spanish language experience. The course offers students the opportunity to explore the Spanish language and the cultures that speak it. Upon successful completion of this course with a C-, students may go to Spanish 1.

### **394 Spanish 1**

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in Intro to Spanish.

**Description:** Students are expected to learn basic communication skills based on grammar and vocabulary. These skills are enhanced by oral and written exercises, directed classroom conversation and dialogues, short original dialogues, short original compositions, and selected readings. All Activities are planned with the objective of learning about the many cultures of Hispanic countries through authentic sources to build both oral and written proficiency. The pace of this course allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

### **354 Honors Spanish 2**

Grade 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in Spanish 1.

**Description:** Students expand their knowledge of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary increasing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish in order to communicate in a wide range of situations. They will use authentic material featuring native speakers and Hispanic cultural topics. Students will prepare presentations and read challenging selections with emphasis on grammar.

## 355 Spanish 2

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in Spanish 1.

**Description:** Students expand their knowledge of basic grammatical structures and vocabulary increasing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish in order to communicate in a wide range of situations. They will use authentic material featuring native speakers and Hispanic cultural topics. Students in this course will continue to build the language foundation acquired in beginning levels. The pace of this course allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

## 356 Honors Spanish 3

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in Honors Spanish 2.

**Description:** The focus is on productive language skill as students review and increase knowledge of Spanish grammar and vocabulary. There is emphasis on oral and written exercises, original dialogues, compositions, selected readings, and discussions. Cultural components are introduced through authentic materials including newspapers, magazines, videos, and television. Honors Spanish 3 students will prepare presentations and read challenging selections with emphasis on grammar.

## 357 Spanish 3

Grades 10-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in Spanish 2 or Honors Spanish 2.

**Description:** The focus is on productive language skills as students review and increase knowledge of Spanish grammar and vocabulary. There is emphasis on basic oral and written proficiency. Cultural components are introduced through authentic materials including newspapers, magazines, videos, and television. Students in this course will continue to build the language foundation acquired in the Spanish 2 course. The pace of this course allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

## 358 Honors Spanish 4

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in Honors Spanish 3.

**Description:** Students review and expand grammar and vocabulary through reading selection and other course material designed to enhance cultural understanding. There is an emphasis on oral expression and writing using advanced Spanish grammar. Students will prepare presentations and read challenging selections with emphasis on grammar.

## 359 Spanish 4

Grades 11-12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** C- in Spanish 3 or Honors Spanish 3.

**Description:** Students review and expand grammar and vocabulary. Reading selections and other course material are used to enhance cultural understanding. There is an emphasis on oral expression and writing using correct Spanish grammar. Students in this course will continue to build the language foundation acquired in the Spanish 3 course. The pace of this course allows students the opportunity to practice and improve their skills.

## 389 Honors Spanish 5

Grade 12

Full Year

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** B+ in Honors Spanish 4.

**Description:** This course places a major emphasis on complete communication in Spanish. Students refine their oral, listening and writing skills using advanced grammar, selections written for native speakers, presentations, and short novels.

## Capstone Experience

### 1050 Capstone Experience - Senior Year

Grade 12

Fall Semester

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** The senior Capstone project is a graduation requirement for all seniors in Connecticut. The intent of a Capstone Project is to utilize, demonstrate, and expand on the knowledge and interdisciplinary skills acquired thus far in high school in a way that synthesizes real world perspective. Through their exploration of new knowledge and expansion of their current knowledge, students will be able to propose a solution to an identified query or create a tangible product that demonstrates their passion.

At Somers High School, The Capstone Experience will provide students with the opportunity to explore an area of personal interest. In order to demonstrate the 21st Century skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing global society, students will be required to plan, complete, and present a self-directed culminating project. Under the guidance of a Capstone Advisor, students will focus on critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communicating effectively.

Depending on the student's medium of choice, examples of possible Capstone Experience culminating projects might be: a fundraising project, a creative project, a community service project, an internship or another advisor approved format. Outside community involvement is also required. A graded .5 credit will be given for course work and a Pass/Fail .5 credit will be given for the presentation of the final project.

### 1060 Capstone Experience - Junior Year

Grade 11

Spring Semester

1 Credit

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** The Capstone project is a graduation requirement for all students in Connecticut. Juniors are permitted to take the Capstone course as an elective during the spring of their junior year. The intent of a Capstone Project is to utilize, demonstrate, and expand on the knowledge and interdisciplinary skills acquired thus far in high school in a way that synthesizes real world perspective. Through their exploration of new knowledge and expansion of their current knowledge, students will be able to propose a solution to an identified query or create a tangible product that demonstrates their passion.

At Somers High School, The Capstone Experience will provide juniors with the opportunity to explore an area of personal interest. In order to demonstrate the 21st Century skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing global society, students will be required to plan, complete, and present a self-directed culminating project. Under the guidance of a Capstone Advisor, students will focus on critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communicating effectively.

Depending on the student's medium of choice, examples of possible Capstone Experience culminating projects might be: a fundraising project, a creative project, a community service project, an internship or another advisor approved format. Outside community involvement is also required. A graded .5 credit will be given for course work and a Pass/Fail .5 credit will be given for the presentation of the final project.

# Media

## 206 Multimedia Communications Course

Grades 9-12

Full Year

1 Credit (Pass/Fail)

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Description:** The Multimedia Communications course will be an introduction for students interested in pursuing careers in fields that incorporate multimedia production, such as news and sports reporting, advertising, corporate communications, and public relations. It will strengthen the students' 21st Century Learning skills of collaboration, communication, and creativity/innovation. The purpose of this course is to provide students with an overview of multimedia skills and equip them to develop digital tools and content for a variety of purposes in multiple mediums. Students will apply and use skills taught in this course to create and edit videos, and design content present in websites and digital applications. Students will be responsible for creating morning announcement videos, managing and updating the student launch page, and producing content and running the scoreboard during home games.

## 933 SHS Yearbook Team

Grades 10-12

Full Year

.75 Credit

**Prerequisite:** Must complete application for enrollment

**To Enroll:** Candidates must see Mr. Serrell-Dube and express interest.

**Description:** This course is an independent study made up of driven students who want to work in a team environment in order to develop a unique and competitive yearbook. Students need to be highly motivated team players who want to use their creativity in an actual publication. Students will need to meet real-world deadlines for the publisher, become familiar with the basics of photography, photo editing, publishing software, and journalism. Students will have lessons in all these areas to support development of the yearbook. This class offers a unique opportunity to learn and use real-world graphic arts skills, build relationships, and have a finished product at the end of the year that represents all their efforts.



# College Career Pathways

## Articulated Courses and Clusters - Credit for College

College Career Pathways is a formal articulation agreement between Asnuntuck Community College and Somers High School. When enrolled in articulated courses, students will take the course at the high school and then have the opportunity to earn credit from both Somers High School and Asnuntuck Community College. The students are required to fill out an ACC application as well as a CCP application and submit both before the deadline date. Whatever grade a student earns at Somers High School will then be on their transcript for the corresponding course at ACC. Articulated courses are offered through the Business and Math departments. Applications are available from the CCP Coordinator, Mr. Niziolek.

SHS Course	Articulated ACC Course	Credits
<b>Core Courses – Math</b> Honors Algebra II	MAT: 137 - Intermediate Algebra	<b>3</b>
<b>Technology Education</b> Honors Engineering Graphics 1 & 2	MFG: 110 – Solidworks	<b>3</b>

**Notes:** There is an add/drop period for students who enroll in the program and then later decide that they do not wish to participate. If the student drops the dual enrollment before the deadline, they will not have anything listed on their ACC transcript. Dropping after the deadline will result in a Withdraw on their transcript.

\*\*Students must take the Accuplacer test at ACC and receive a 55 or higher to be eligible.

\*\*Students will be required to take a cumulative ACC final exam in addition to the SHS final.

**Students who plan to enroll in College Career Pathways programs need to adhere to the following procedures:**

1. Meet with your counselor and your College Career Pathways Coordinator, Mr. Niziolek.
2. Complete a College Career Pathways application and an ACC enrollment application.
3. Submit completed forms to the College Career Pathways Coordinator before the deadline date.

## **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

The Somers Public Schools is committed to equal opportunity for all students, applicants and employees. The district does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, disability (including, but not limited to, mental retardation, past or present history of mental disability, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, gender identity or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.

Inquiries regarding the District's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to Mrs. Dina Senecal, Title IX Coordinator, 1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071, (860) 749-2270 x 2039 or Caroline Hargraves, Section 504 Coordinator, 1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071 (860) 749-2270 x 2055.

## **Public School Choice Options**

The Connecticut State Board of Education, through its Position Statement on Public School Choice, adopted 10/6/99, challenges each school district to ensure "the highest possible achievement level for every Connecticut student in a creative and flexible environment that values each student's unique abilities, talents, interests, learning styles and backgrounds."

Connecticut General Statute 10-220d, Student Recruitment by Regional and Inter-district Specialized Schools and Programs, and Regulations of the State Board of Education - Section 10-65-5 - Informing Students, specifically directs districts to provide full access in the presentation and recruitment of students through rigorous educational experiences within and across school districts.