



Secondary Program of Studies

November 26, 2019

Prepared by Diane Schumacher
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Background

Code of Iowa Chapter 256.11 identifies the educational program Pre-kindergarten through grade twelve by listing the areas of study. ICCSD legally mandated policy 602.2 states that the superintendent is to keep the board apprised of curriculum implementation activities. The current Program of Studies is posted on the district website and the proposed changes to this are listed below.

New Courses - High School

AP Environmental Science

Students in AP Environmental Science will investigate and explore the interrelationships of the natural world. Students will analyze environmental concepts and problems both natural and human-made, evaluate the risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing these problems. Emphasis will be placed on laboratory investigations, fieldwork, and current issues in environmental science. AP Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography.

GRADE LEVEL: 11-12

CATEGORY: Science elective

PREREQUISITE: Biology is a prerequisite; Chemistry or Physical Science can be a corequisite

LENGTH: 1 Year

Personal Finance (Kirkwood CC Credit Course)

Personal Finance is the process of planning spending, financing, and investing while implementing specific strategies and actions to optimize your financial circumstance and independence. This course is designed to explore the concepts of budgeting, tax planning, retirement planning, estate planning, insurance, financing, and investing while examining specific strategies and action steps related to each. Students will earn Kirkwood Community College Credit.

GRADE LEVEL: 11-12

CATEGORY: Meets the Personal Finance Requirement

PREREQUISITE:

LENGTH: 1 Trimester

French II Honors

French II Honors builds on the foundation begun in French I. Honors is for highly motivated students who have shown proficiency and talent in language learning and are interested in expanding their knowledge of the language and culture. This course is intended for students with a high level of self motivation. Emphasis on communication with necessary grammar and vocabulary continues. The class expands the students' knowledge of the French language and French culture. Grammar study is expanded to help the student learn to use the language. A variety of everyday situations allows the student to practice the language skills. Audio and video recordings are used to enrich the learning experience. Areas of emphasis and AP skill building include: pronunciation, vocabulary, cultural capsules, idiomatic phrases, regular and irregular verbs in the present, past and immediate future tenses, grammar structures including object pronouns, comparisons of adjectives and adverbs, uses of the infinitive, foods and cooking, geography, short stories and plays. Students may elect French III or French III Honors after this course. Students must pass each trimester in order to continue to the next trimester or level of language study. Students must have a passing grade at the end of each trimester in order to continue to the next trimester or level of language study.

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of French I and teacher recommendation

LENGTH: 1 Year

French III Honors

French III Honors is for highly motivated students who have demonstrated an ability to acquire language quickly and intend to improve and expand their skills. French III Honors reviews previously learned skills, expands vocabulary and introduces more complex language

and their use. Students improve their language proficiency and broaden their understanding of French cultures. Much of the class is conducted in French. French III continues the study of French and the communication skills begun in French I and II. Added emphasis is placed on application of reading, writing, and listening skills and a special emphasis on speaking skills in appropriate context for language practice. French III will include a review of grammatical structures previously learned and the study of reflexive verbs, relative pronouns and the imperfect and future verb tenses as well as the conditional and subjunctive. In addition to the textbook, the course will include films, varied readings, as well as research projects. Students may elect either French IV or AP French after this course. Students must have a passing grade at the end of each trimester in order to continue to the next trimester or level of language study.

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of French II and teacher recommendation

LENGTH: 1 Year

Construction Lab (Student Built House)

Provides introductory construction lab experience in a project-based environment that emphasizes teamwork, communication, productivity and the soft skills required for success in the construction industry. Students are introduced to hand and power tools commonly used in construction, along with basic residential and commercial construction systems and construction safety. Construction systems may include foundation systems, floor systems, wall systems, roof systems, exterior finishes and interior finishes. Students will earn Kirkwood Community College Credit.

GRADE LEVEL: 11-12

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Introduction to ACE, Residential Construction, or Construction Technology

LENGTH: 3 Periods, 3rd Trimester

Textiles and Design (Replacing Creative Fabrics)

Students of any level can take this sewing course. In this course students will learn foundational sewing techniques and read and use patterns that will be used on various projects of choice determined by the instructor. Careers in fashion, textiles, and design will be explored. Examples of projects include: personal quilt, clothing, pillowcases, and zipper bags. Students will leave with a knowledge of how to insert a zipper, read a pattern, sew a straight and zigzag stitch and create projects to bring home.

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Trimester

Personal Wellness and Fitness

This course provides students with information about healthy lifestyles and helps them assess areas that may need to change to promote optimal health, wellness and fitness. Students will design and implement a personal wellness and fitness plan that incorporates multiple health concepts including nutrition, stress management, safety, relationships, and physical fitness. Some class periods will take place in the gym to incorporate activity into an overall healthy lifestyle.

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

CATEGORY: Fulfills Health Requirement

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Trimester

Philharmonic Orchestra

Philharmonic focuses on developing intermediate orchestral techniques such as advancing bow Techniques. Students will prepare repertoire by a variety of composers and are required to participate in all scheduled performances. Students will register for all three trimesters, and improve their skills through individual practice and lessons. Students work toward the goal of attaining membership in Symphony Orchestra.

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: Participation in Junior High Orchestra and audition with the director

LENGTH: 1 year

Certification Courses

Certificate programs are either stand-alone or a series of related courses that focus on the skills students need to succeed in a specific industry. A certificate credential from Kirkwood Continuing Education will demonstrate to employers and supervisors that students have studied a body of knowledge or have mastered a practice or new technology. Possible certificates that may be offered include Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Welding. Please see your guidance counselor to learn about these programs as additional certificates may become available.

GRADE LEVEL: 11-12

CATEGORY: Elective

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 trimester

New Courses Descriptions - High School

Current and Critical Health Issues

This course provides students with decision-making skills and experiences related to current and critical health issues. Students will have the opportunity to self select a contemporary health issue to be investigated, researched and explored. Topics may include and are not limited to: stress management; mental wellness; positive body image; substance abuse prevention; disease prevention; and environmental health issues.

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

CATEGORY: Fulfills Health Requirement

PREREQUISITE: None

LENGTH: 1 Trimester

Eliminated Courses - High School

Relationships 101

Creative Fabrics II

Sewing for a Cause

Name Changes Only - High School

AP Art and Design (formerly AP Studio Art)

Team and Recreational Activities (formerly Phys Ed)

Residential Construction (formerly Construction Skills)
