



2022-2023 Course Catalog

VAN METER STUDENTS AND PARENTS

This booklet describes the course offerings available to students at Van Meter Community High School and outlines the requirements for graduation that are current policy. This booklet will be helpful to students and parents planning academic courses in high school.

All of the information has been compiled for the purpose of helping students choose courses to take during high school. Careful and thoughtful pre-registration eliminates many problems for the student and the school when the year begins. We urge you to read this guide before listing any courses on your academic plans in Infinite Campus.

A student's program should represent careful planning and selection. Students should consult parents, counselors, instructors and other interested people in this matter. One of the purposes of a high school education is to prepare a student for the world of work. An early choice of a career is helpful but not essential. Vocational, Technical, Military, Area School and College information is readily available in the Counseling Office.

Those students who plan to attend college should decide early which school they wish to attend. Preparation for entering college reaches its final stage during the junior and senior year. A student should plan his/her high school courses so that she/he will meet the admission requirements of the college of his/her choice. **STUDENTS WHO ARE CONTEMPLATING COLLEGE SHOULD TAKE COLLEGE BOUND COURSES AS INDICATED IN THE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.**

The curriculum of the high school is annually evaluated and revised to accommodate the changing demands of today's society. It is our intent that courses listed on the academic plans in Infinite Campus are as final as possible. Some schedule changes will be considered at a later date, particularly if it is necessary to facilitate the scheduling process and/or student change in plans.

This booklet has fairly definitive explanations of each course offered at Van Meter High School; nevertheless, questions often arise about courses or graduation requirements. If you have any questions as your student plans next year's schedule, feel free to call Secondary School Counselor, Melanie Hopkins, in the Counseling Office at 515-996-2221, ext. 320.

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REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

I. CREDITS

- A. 56 Academic Credits which includes 8 PE credits are necessary to receive a diploma (starting with the class of 2016) from Van Meter High School.
- B. 4 years of Physical Education unless excused due to medical reasons or have committed to a full academic schedule of courses. Receive 1 credit per semester towards graduation credits.
- C. Students receive one credit per semester for each academic course passed.

II. REQUIRED CREDITS THAT MUST BE PASSED FOR GRADUATION

- A. 6 (3 years) credits of Math
- B. 6 (3 years) credits of Science
- C. 8 (4 years) credits of English
- D. 6 (3 years) credits of Social Studies (includes two credits of U.S. History and one credit of U.S. Government)
- E. 4 credits from different career and technical education areas: Marketing, Business, Design & Drafting/Industrial Technology, Family & Consumer Sciences. **(2 credits from Fine Arts can be counted towards this requirement beginning in 2014-2015.)**
- F. 8 credits (4 years) of Physical Education

III. GRADE CLASSIFICATION

- A. Sophomore: 15 credits or more
- B. Junior: 30 credits or more
- C. Senior: 44 credits or more

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

I. REQUIRED COURSES

Students will be assigned required courses by the Administration. Required courses may not be dropped during the year. Elective courses may be dropped within the first two weeks of each semester with parent approval. Administration approval is necessary when a student drops a course after the 2nd week of the semester. Schedule changes should only be considered for special reasons once a student's schedule has been developed at registration.

II. CREDITS

Academic courses are worth one credit per semester. Normally, when a student passes a course, that course cannot be retaken for additional credit. However, courses can be retaken if a student receives a D grade range or F for the course, and the higher grade will replace the lower grade. Only the semester grade for a course will appear on the student's transcript.

III. FAILED COURSES

Failed courses will result in loss of credit. If it is a required course, the student will be required to take the class again until they have successfully completed the requirement.

IV. PASS-FAIL PROGRAM

The Pass-Fail program is for elective courses if a student is carrying more than six (6) academic courses. Pass-Fail will be allowed only in special circumstances for students. College bound students normally will not take a course under this program since colleges and universities want the letter grade from high school courses rather than a pass-fail grade. Forms are available in the Counseling Office and should be completed prior to the 2nd week of each semester. This program is only for Juniors/Seniors.

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

Time will be provided each week before or after school as well as on early out Friday's for students to work with teachers at their request or voluntarily. This may include reassessments, skill development, supporting virtual learners, etc.

V. EARLY GRADUATION

A. THREE AND ONE-HALF YEAR REQUIREMENTS

1. Work through the school counselor to assure all graduation requirements are met.
2. Obtain parent approval form from principal at spring registration.
3. Submit formal request form to Principal by the 15th of October.
4. Student, parent, principal, and counselor must agree on program by October of graduation year.
5. Complete all course work and obtain total credits needed for graduation.

VI. GRADING SCALE

Van Meter High School uses the grades of A, B, C, D, with pluses and minus and Pass, or F in the grading scale. Van Meter uses the four-point system in determining grade point average. Weighted courses include AP Language and Composition, Calculus, Statistics, Advanced Biology, Physics, and AP courses. Each of the weighted courses counts .5 more to the overall G.P.A.

A+=4.00, A-=3.667, B+=3.334, B=3.000, B-=2.667, C+=2.334, C=2.000, C-=1.667, D+=1.334, D=1.000, D-=.667

VII. TRANSFERRING/WITHDRAWING

Any student transferring to another school or withdrawing should have a conference with the School Counselor before leaving. The student needs to complete the appropriate forms to transfer or withdraw. These may be obtained from the secondary office. Two forms need to be completed: Transferring/Withdrawal form and Request of School Records to be sent. Any new student entering Van Meter High School will need to have school records on file as soon as possible so credits can be counted in determining graduation credits.

VIII. COLLEGE PREPARATION PROGRAM

The program will include MATH: Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced Math, Calculus or Statistics, SCIENCE: Physical Science, Biology, Anatomy, Chemistry, Physics, Advanced Biology; ENGLISH: English I, English II, English III, Senior English, Creative Writing, Young Adult Literature; SOCIAL STUDIES: World History, World Geography, U.S. History, U.S. Government, Social Sciences, Economics, World Wars, WORLE LANGUAGE: Novice, Novice Mid, Novice High, Intermediate Low, Intermediate Mid/DMAACC. OTHER COURSES: Computers and additional courses related to your specific career goals (Music, Drafting & Design/Industrial Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Marketing, Business, Art).

IX. CAREER INFORMATION

The Counseling Office has information on college programs and costs, military occupations, and career information as well as scholarship information. Students are encouraged to use this material for their post high school career/education planning. Van Meter provides 6-12 grade students with profiles on the College & Career Readiness system, Kuder Navigator. Included on each student's profile are career assessments, college & career exploration, and college test preparation. In addition to these resources, there are many Internet Websites available for students concerning career information.

X. AT-RISK PROGRAM

Van Meter High School has an At-Risk correspondence program through DMAACC, the Dean of Students Office and the Counseling Office to help those students who may need help in obtaining credits in order to graduate within four years. Students not At-Risk for graduation can only retake courses they have **FAILED** at Van Meter through correspondence courses.

XI. POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

Students in grades 11 and 12 have an option to carry college classes while attending Van Meter High School and receive high school credit as well as college credit. Courses offered vary depending on the program and partnership with Van Meter CSD. For information and policies on this program, see the School Counselor. If a student fails a college course they will no longer be permitted to take another course offered through the school.

XII. EQUITY STATEMENT

No student enrolled in the Van Meter Community School District shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the District's programs on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, religion, marital status (for program), ethnic background, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, age (for employment) or socio-economic background (for program). The policy of the District shall be to provide educational programs and opportunities for students as needed on the basis of individual interests, values, abilities and potential. The District has adopted a grievance policy and procedure for any alleged violation of policy concerned with such discrimination. The equity coordinator is Jen Sigrist. Inquiries regarding equity compliance should be directed to Ms. Sigrist at Van Meter Community School District, Box 257, Van Meter, Iowa 50261, by telephone at (515) 996- 9960, or by email at jennifer.sigrist@vmbulldogs.com

XIII. ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Juniors and Seniors have an option to take ADVANCED PLACEMENT classes for college credit at Van Meter High. These courses require the student to pass a year end test to obtain the credit. Students are responsible for covering the fee associated with taking the AP exam.

XIV. PE POLICY

Students in grades 9-12 are required to be in PE with the following exceptions: (1) Medical excuse from a doctor (2) Religious reasons (3) If students' required academic class schedule conflicts with the periods PE is offered, then students will be excused from PE for that semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Please note the prerequisites on some courses in these descriptions. Acceptance into any class will be subject to review and final approval by instructors, the counselor, administration, and parents. **COURSES ARE A FULL YEAR, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.** Students are expected to remain in courses they select for the year or semester and not change schedules unless under special circumstances. All English courses will include reading concepts, such as comprehension of reading selections, interpretation of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

ENGLISH COURSES

ENGLISH I

REQUIRED

GRADE 9

This course is primarily an introduction to the different genres of literature while also learning about the utility of English in other areas of study. Students will explore articles, speeches, short stories, and novels to apply information from social studies, science, math, and exploratory classes. Basic English skills are stressed throughout the year in writing assignments. Clear communication skills, both oral and written, are emphasized during the course of study.

ENGLISH II

REQUIRED

GRADE 10

English II is a study of language, literature, composition, and oral communication with a focus on exploring universal themes across a wide variety of genres. Students use literary interpretation, analysis, comparisons, and evaluation to read and respond to representative works of historical or cultural significance appropriate for grade 10 in classic and contemporary literature balanced with nonfiction. The course will also explore grammar and language construction through our own writing and through the literature we read.

SPORTS LITERATURE & LESSONS

GRADE 10-12

Students will read a variety of articles, short stories, speeches and books that revolve around the theme of sports and lessons in life. In thematic units, students will use reading, writing, speaking and listening standards from the Iowa Core Curriculum. Students will also practice narrative, argumentative, and explanatory writing.

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ENGLISH III

GRADE 11

English III is a study of language, literature, composition, and oral communication with a focus on exploring universal themes across a wide variety of genres. Students use literary interpretation, analysis, comparisons, and evaluation to read and respond to representative works of historical or cultural significance appropriate for grade 11 in classic and contemporary literature balanced with nonfiction. The course will also explore grammar and language construction through our own writing and through the literature we read.

FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATION

GRADES 10-12

***Not currently offered**

In this course, students will view professional speeches to gain a better understanding of how information is presented. Students will examine professional speakers' nonverbal communication and work to improve their own nonverbals. In the course, students will write specifically for different audiences to send an effective message. Students will use rhetoric to convince an audience of important information. Students will support their ideas with research, stories, and accurate information.

PROBLEM SOLVING IN COMMUNICATION

GRADES 10-12

***Not currently offered**

Students get a hands-on opportunity to examine legal processes and current legal issues. In addition to providing familiarity with the law, this course also helps students develop important critical-thinking skills and aid in the development of fundamental research, preparation and presentation skills. Students will learn and utilize collaboration skills to examine a court case and write their own interpretations of the materials.

CREATIVE WRITING

GRADES 11-12

Creative writing will focus on writing as a body of practices, strategies, and activities. The student will think through writing, use literature as a springboard for writing, explore the understanding of and reaction to other students' writing, and make use of publication to improve skills in grammar and usage. Students will use the 6+1 Traits of Writing to improve their work and expand their communication skills.

YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

GRADES 11-12

Young Adult Literature will focus on understanding the major themes behind different fiction texts written for young adults. The course will examine short stories and novels around three core themes: the definition of young adult literature, the challenges of being a teenager, and the appeal of dystopian literature. Students will show their understanding of different texts through discussion, writing, and projects.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION GRADES 11-12

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition is designed to teach college writing through the fundamental elements of literature. This class will function as a workshop where you will be writing, discussing, and reading daily. We will discuss different aspects of writing, rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos), structure, and style (diction, syntax, figurative language, mechanics) as they relate the readings that we are completing as well as your own writing assessments. The writing in this course will be varied and will ask students to write to understand, write to explain, and write to evaluate. Each student's goal by the end of the year will be to combine these three types of writing to evaluate the literary pieces that are read. This course will be stimulating and demanding. It will help students to grow as an academic and as a person. We will be reading mature texts and the true learning will come as students begin to explore larger ideas and questions about what it means to be a member of society and what it means to form their own opinions. Students will get from this course what they put into it, and that will be much more than just a grade or an AP score.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION GRADES 11-12

AP English Language and Composition is an advanced credit course that focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and collaborating about nonfiction sources of information. Activities, assignments, and essays will encourage students to

make meaningful connections to prior knowledge while developing deeper understandings about the complex nature of our world. Technology will be used as a tool to gain access to information, conduct research, and create new ideas. The purpose of the class is to help students to think critically about their current reality, especially as it relates to reading and writing for college and career readiness.

Most colleges require four years of English for admission and our college prep sequence is English I, English II, English III, and Senior English.

MATH COURSES

STRATEGIC MATH

GRADES 9-12

***Not currently offered**

This is a course for 9th graders that students will be assigned by teacher discretion and/or as a result of test scores. This course is designed to meet students' needs wherever they might be and to try and prepare them for a high school Algebra 1 course. Topics may include pre-algebra concepts, ratios, proportions, percents, fractions, measurement, probability, and basic function operations.

MATH I

GRADES 9-12

Math I is planned to give students an introduction to algebra, geometry and algebra 2 to help them attain proficiency in working with the different types of patterns, linear vs exponential equations, introductory statistics and expressions composed of variables and constants. It will give students an overall view of the basic components of math while providing practice in numerous practical problem solving skills.

MATH II

PREREQUISITE: MATH I

GRADES 9-12

The basic objective of Integrated Math II is to teach deductive thinking through the use of geometric figures and algebraic reasoning. It should help the student understand the basic structure of geometry, use and strengthen algebraic skills, and experience the stimulation and satisfaction that comes from clear and sometimes creative thinking.

FOUNDATIONS OF ALGEBRA II

GRADES 9-12

PREREQUISITE: MATH II

This course is designed for students who have had some difficulty completing Math 1 and Math 2 and need a third year of math to complete the graduation requirements. We will cover many of the same standards as our Math 3 course, but we will adapt the standards to better meet the needs of the students.

MATH III

GRADES 9-12

PREREQUISITE: MATH II

Math 3 is the third math course that many students complete in high school and will set them up to take Advanced Math or Statistics the following year. Students taking this course are looking to continue onto an eventual college level math course. Standards are aligned with the Iowa Core Math standards and include the following topics: algebra concepts, function operations, complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, quadratic functions, rational functions, sequences and series, and matrices.

ADVANCED MATH**GRADE 9-12****PREREQUISITE: MATH III**

Advanced Mathematics is typically a two semester course consisting of one semester of trigonometry and one semester of pre-calculus. Students must have successfully completed Math III and are probably interested in taking a Calculus course in the future. The course is aligned to the Iowa Core Math standards and includes the following standards: Trigonometric graphs/function, solving trigonometric equations, verifying trig identities, and using radian measures with trigonometry. Pre-Calculus standards include working with 10 different functions with more depth than the Algebras did. The class also includes conic sections, matrices and limits.

STATISTICS**GRADES 9-12****PREREQUISITE: MATH III AND INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL**

Statistics is a two semester college level course. Students will explore data collection and analysis, probability, simulations, and statistical inference from many different types of data collected. (Students will earn 4 dual college credits for completing this course, Van Meter and DMACC)

CALCULUS**GRADE 9-12****PREREQUISITE: ADVANCED MATH**

Calculus is typically a two semester college level course. Topics include limits, derivatives and their applications, differentials, integrals and their applications, integration techniques, volume and area of 3D objects. (Students will earn five dual college credits for completing this course, Van Meter and DMACC)

Most colleges require three to four years of math for admission. Our college prep sequence is Math 1, Math 2, Math 3, Advanced Math, and Calculus or Statistics.

SCIENCE COURSES**BIOLOGY****GRADE 9**

Biology is the branch of science devoted to the study of life. Today more is known about life than ever before. Cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, plant morphology, zoology, and ecology are studied. Certain fundamental biological concepts are learned at the beginning of the course and from these understandings the student explores the structure and function of molecules, cells, simple organisms to complex plants and animals. The course begins with cell and molecular structure and function and proceeds to reproduction of cells. From there it moves to the evolution of life and how the diversity of life that exists is classified, to apply them to explain different phenomena. Laboratory work includes familiarization with the microscope. Students will use the microscope in microbiology searches and taxonomy, staining of specimens, and identifying protozoans.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE**GRADE 10****PREREQUISITE: HAVE PASSED ALGEBRA OR WITH INSTRUCTOR'S APPROVAL**

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of physics and chemistry, focusing on the disciplinary core ideas of energy, forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, the structure and properties of matter, and chemical reactions.

ANATOMY/PHYSIOLOGY
PREREQUISITE: MUST HAVE TAKEN BIOLOGY

GRADES 11-12

The intent of this course is to teach the components of the body and how these components depend on each other. The philosophy of the course intends to capitalize on the curiosity of the students' interest in their own body and bodily functions. Lab work includes identifying tissues with the microscope, dissection, and some systems testing.

CHEMISTRY

GRADES 9-12

PREREQUISITE: PHYSICAL SCIENCE OR WITH INSTRUCTOR'S APPROVAL

Study of the major concepts important in general chemistry: measurements and unit conversions, atoms and moles, chemical nomenclature, electronic structure and periodicity, chemical bonding, percent composition, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, heat and phase changes, gas laws, solutions, and thermochemistry. Additional topics for the more advanced student may include intermolecular forces, gas stoichiometry, reaction kinetics and equilibria, acid and base chemistry, and thermodynamics.

PHYSICS (Mechanics) (DMACC)

GRADE 10-12

PREREQUISITE: PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ALGEBRA II TO BE TAKEN BEFORE ADMITTANCE.

Algebra-based study of the motions of physical objects. Topics include forces, linear and rotational motion, energy, momentum, oscillations and waves, fluids, gases and heat.

****This physics course is a dual credit course with DMACC. Second semester this course receives dual credit with DMACC. Completion of both semesters will earn students 2 Van Meter science credits and 5 DMACC credits.**

WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

GRADE 9-12

Wildlife Ecology focuses on sustaining wild animals and their habitat through management, protection, and conservation of natural ecosystems. An understanding of the economic, ecological, and societal factors that affect wildlife will be examined through this course by conducting authentic research in lab and field experiences. Students will examine ecological issues affecting wildlife here in Iowa as well as national and global threats to wildlife. Finally, students will collaboratively create solutions to the issues that they research, in order to critically analyze the importance of each species in the world and how survival of each species affects the success of all other species in a habitat. This course is ideal for students who enjoy the outdoors and want to find ways to live responsibly to protect sustainable natural populations, both locally and globally.

ADVANCED BIOLOGY

GRADE 11-12

PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY

Advanced Biology is a course focused on the fields of cellular and molecular biology, developmental biology, microbiology, disease pathology, pharmacology, biochemistry, and bioethics. Students will briefly review topics from biology before delving deeper into the more advanced fields listed previously. These fields of science are rapidly changing the world we live in and our understanding of humans, health and disease. Students will gain an understanding of these areas through frequent laboratory experiments and activities and conduct authentic experiments, of their own, to find applications of these branches of science to the modern world. Finally, because these fields of science are so rapidly changing, students will have to make ethical decisions about what they deem appropriate or acceptable outcomes based on the potential benefits and risks of advances in the field of biology. This course is ideal for students interested in the study of DNA, bacteria and disease, treatments for disease, how and why our body responds the way it does to foreign materials, and the factors that affect embryo and fetal development.

ASTRONOMY

GRADE 11-12

PREREQUISITE: PHYSICAL SCIENCE

A survey of the scientific study of planets, stars, galaxies, other celestial bodies and phenomena, and the forces that govern them. Students will be introduced to the tools and techniques involved in astronomical study and its history, the formation and structure of our solar system and the objects within it, the life cycles and nature of stars & galaxies, cosmology, and the physics which underlies the behaviour of these objects and phenomena. While this course is not a lab course, nighttime sessions for observation of the sky may take place from time to time.

INTRODUCTORY CELLULAR & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

***PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY & PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

This one semester course will provide a detailed overview of many biochemical topics with an emphasis on understanding of the underlying mechanisms in biological systems at the cellular and molecular level. Topics will include: Introduction to Organic Chemistry, Amino Acids and Proteins, DNA, Enzyme Kinetics, Membranes, Signal Transduction, Metabolism, Carbohydrates, Lipids, Cellular Respiration, Synthesis of Amino Acids and Nucleotides, DNA Repair and Replication, RNA Metabolism, and Protein Metabolism. This course has both an inquiry-based lab component and traditional classroom component. Knowledge gained in this course will allow students to be successful in the Biotechnology course.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

***PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY, PHYSICAL SCIENCE, & INTRODUCTORY CELLULAR & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

This is a one semester course focused on lab safety, media preparation, cell culture techniques, solution preparation, isolation, characterization and manipulation of nucleic acids, PCR, purification, characterization, handling and storage of proteins, enzyme assays, immunoassays, gel electrophoresis, and genetic engineering. Students will create and analyze genetically modified organisms within the laboratory and use biotechnology to provide solutions to problems that humans face today which can improve our lives and our planet as a whole.

Most colleges require three to four years of Science with at least two courses being lab courses. Our college prep sequence is Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, Anatomy, Physics or Advanced Biology.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

WORLD HISTORY

GRADE 9

World History is a 9th grade course with the express goal to develop a greater understanding of the evolution of interaction between different types of human societies. Using relevant factual knowledge of major ideas, events, and consequences found in various types of historical evidence this course will study the political, economic, and social issues of the world using cause and effect as a uniting theme. This course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional and technological precedents that, along with other factors, have impacted the development of human civilization.

This exploration of history will include many different subject matters; from geography and economics, technology and politics. The first semester will emphasize topics found between the years 5,000 BCE and 1820 CE. The second semester will emphasize topics found from 1800 to around the year 1989.

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS (SEMESTER)

GRADE 9

****Currently offered to all 9th grade students**

Economics is a course designed solely for freshmen. In this class, students will survey the basic economic concepts of microeconomics. The course will serve as an introduction to topics such as economic models, supply and demand, competition and monopolies, the role of government in the economy, and other concepts. In addition, students will look at the global economy and the role countries across the world play in changing the economy.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (SEMESTER)

GRADES 9-12

***Not currently offered**

Human Geography is an elective course. Human Geography explores how humans impact the Earth and how different groups interact with each other. To aid in their study of geography students will investigate the world's landforms, become proficient in using maps and data, and explore the world's cultures. In today's globalizing world, the study of geography allows people from any walk of life to better understand the world that surrounds them.

UNITED STATES HISTORY (Civil War to Present)

REQUIRED

GRADE 10

United States History is a required course designated for sophomores. In this class, students will receive "a broad view of the people and events that have contributed to the foundation of this country and the smooth operation of our system of democracy," (Sleeter, 1988). The course will present a vivid, graphic and chronological history of the United States from 1860 until the present day. Students will be challenged to examine the values, decisions and events of the past that account for present day circumstances.

SOCIAL SCIENCES (1st SEMESTER PSYCHOLOGY/2nd SEMESTER SOCIOLOGY)

GRADES 10-12

Social Sciences is an elective designed for sophomores through seniors. In this course, students will survey the basic theories of psychology one semester and sociology the next. The course will help students gain an understanding of behavior as they learn the knowledge and skills necessary to address critical problems of the individual and society.

MACROECONOMICS (SEMESTER)

GRADES 10-12

Economics is an elective designed solely for sophomores through seniors. In this class, students will survey the basic economic concepts of macroeconomics. The course will help students gain a deeper understanding of the problems of unemployment and inflation, the distribution of income, the role of government in the economy, and other policy issues. In addition, students will look at the global economy and the role countries across the world play in changing

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the economy.

THE WORLD WARS

GRADES 10-12

The World Wars is an elective designed as an academic exploration of the various geographical, political, economic, and social issues that surrounded the First and Second World Wars in the 20th Century. The course will include an analysis of the role of geography, economic resources, and demographics in the major conflicts and the efforts at genocide, including the Holocaust in the early half of the twentieth century.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT (SEMESTER)

REQUIRED

GRADE 11

United States (US) Government is a required course designated for junior level students. In this class, students will examine the machinery of the US government along with how and why the various phases of government were developed. Discussions will inspect the basic structure and principles of all levels of government (national, state & local) in the US. The material is current, meaningful and will aid students to recognize and interpret political happenings in their society. In addition, students will be encouraged, expected to become active participants in civic and/or community affairs.

Most colleges require three to four years of Social Studies for admissions. Our college prep sequence recommends World History or World Geography, US History, US Government and one other Social Studies elective.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

Most higher education institutions require world language study prior to admission. Three to four consecutive years of one language fulfills requirements for many post high school institution graduation requirements, however before entering freshman year, students should research any university they are considering attending and begin planning their schedules to ensure proper requirements are met upon graduation.

Instruction of Spanish at Van Meter is delivered through **Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI) and Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS)**. Using Comprehensible Input, students are exposed to sheltered, repetitive, comprehensible high-frequency structures and vocabulary. To ensure successful language acquisition, interaction in the classroom takes place in the target language. Teachers scaffold instruction adding two to three high frequency structures daily, recycling previously introduced and acquired structures and vocabulary.

Culture is an integral part of language acquisition and is explored through the use of stories, media, music, novels, games, authentic and adapted readings and class discussions. Skills are reassessed every few weeks in the areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Attendance and active participation in the target language in class is vital to successful language acquisition. Students with schedule conflicts must set up an alternate plan in advance to ensure consistent, accurate delivery of comprehensible input.

Incoming high school students including transfers from other schools will be assessed for accurate placement with a proficiency level that matches his/her skill set. A student who receives below a C average at the end of the grading period will not be recommended to continue to the next level unless the instructor grants special permission to advance. It is strongly recommended that students commit to a plan with consecutive years of language.

In order to move to the next proficiency level each year students must achieve a B in all skills without reassessing. Students with multiple C's, F's or Zeros (0) in the skill sets do not demonstrate consistent growth and are at risk of failing. They will not be recommended to proceed to the next proficiency level. Students who achieve B's in skills by means of reassessment will be recommended to remain in current proficiency.

NOVICE

GRADES 9-12

This course is designed for students with limited to no understanding of Spanish language. A Novice student acquires structure of basic language patterns, high frequency structures and vocabulary. At the beginning novice level, students will be able to recognize words they have heard and repeat and/or produce single words and short phrases. Students will begin to answer a variety of questions to which they have been exposed repeatedly.

Exposure to present, past and simple future (in all persons) with a limited exposure to other tenses using sheltered verbs (Super 7).

Focus on listening, reading and writing. Minimal spontaneous communication.

NOVICE MID

GRADES 9-12

This course is designed for students with previous study of or successful completion with an A or B average of Novice Spanish course. A Novice-Mid student continues to acquire structure of basic language patterns, high frequency structures and vocabulary. Students produce short phrases and connecting words. Students will answer a variety of

questions to which they have been exposed repeatedly.

Exposure to present, past and simple future (in all persons) with a limited exposure to a variety of other tenses using sheltered verbs (Sweet 16).

Focus on listening, reading and writing, broadening and expanding spontaneous communication into complete sentences.

NOVICE HIGH

GRADES 9-12

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed one year of Spanish Novice Mid with an A average, (and at the discretion of the teacher, students who have completed two years of Novice Mid with at least a B average). A Novice High student continues to acquire structure of basic language presented at the Beginning Novice level, high frequency structures and vocabulary. As more structures are introduced and recycled, students will begin to provide information using words, phrases and short sentences. They will begin to speak confidently using the high frequency structures introduced and recycled from previous Novice courses.

Continued exposure present, past and simple future tenses with more exposure to a variety of tenses using sheltered vocabulary.

INTERMEDIATE

GRADES 11-12

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed one year of Novice High with an A average (and at the discretion of the teacher students who have completed two years of Novice High with at least a B average). An Intermediate student examines grammar in context and continues to acquire structure of language patterns, high frequency structures and vocabulary. Students begin to convey complex, comprehensible messages and continue conversations using recycled structures and circumlocution. Students begin to maneuver among a variety of tenses and refine skills in reading, listening, writing and speaking.

INTERMEDIATE II

GRADES 11-12

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed one year of Intermediate with an A average. Students continue to examine grammar in context and communicate using complex sentences and connectors, conveying complete, comprehensible messages. Students maneuver among a variety of tenses and refine skills in reading, listening, writing and speaking.

DMACC FLS 241 (Prerequisite: Intermediate Spanish I)

GRADE 12

This course aims to extend proficiency in Spanish. Skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing are further developed around themes of academic and social issues using authentic resources to expand their knowledge of cultures of the Spanish-speaking peoples of the world. The intermediate level places special emphasis on classroom discussion and on compositions of greater length.

This is an IN-PERSON class and attendance is required in order to receive DMACC credit.

DMACC FLS 242 / (Prerequisite: FLS 241 or instructor approval)

GRADE 12

This course builds on FLS 241 to further develop proficiency in Spanish. Emphasis is on the continued study of authentic and representative literary and cultural texts to expand skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing with increasing complexity. Class topics center around themes of academic and social issues and use of authentic resources to strengthen awareness of the cultures of the Spanish-speaking peoples of the world.

This is an IN-PERSON class and attendance is required in order to receive DMACC credit.

Independent Study Advanced Spanish

GRADE 12

**This course is not offered every year*

This course is designed for seniors who have successfully completed two years of Intermediate or one year of Intermediate and one year of DMACC, maintaining an A average. Students in Advanced Spanish examine particular topics focused on culture, such as film, music and literature. An Advanced Spanish student demonstrates advanced proficiency and focuses on refining grammar skills by means of listening, reading and writing.

FRENCH I

This class is designed to be a 3rd language course for students **currently** enrolled in Spanish demonstrating strong proficiency in a 2nd language. It is an independent, student driven course with the student checking in with the teacher every other week.

Prerequisites: Student is currently enrolled in Spanish and has consistently demonstrated proficiency (an A average in Spanish without reassessing) and has completed one year of Novice High or at the discretion of the teacher. In order to receive the instruction part of a latin-based language, the student must remain enrolled in Spanish and complete 17 hours of study in Duolingo per semester in French. Students will demonstrate proficiency through writing at the end of the semester.

FRENCH II

French II is designed to be a 3rd language course for students **currently** enrolled in Spanish demonstrating strong proficiency in a 2nd language. It is an independent, student driven course with the student checking in with the teacher every other week. In order to receive the instruction part of a latin-based language, the student must remain enrolled in Spanish and complete 17 hours of study in Duolingo per semester. Students will demonstrate proficiency through writing at the end of the semester.

Prerequisites:

1. Successful completion of French I
2. Student is currently enrolled in Spanish and has consistently demonstrated proficiency (an A average in Spanish without reassessing). In order to receive the instruction part of a latin-based language, the student must remain enrolled in Spanish and complete 17 hours of study in Duolingo per semester. Students will demonstrate proficiency through writing at the end of the semester.

HEALTH

***Currently offered to all 9th grade students**

This class will cover: An overview of Personal Health, Food & Nutrition, Environmental Health, Safety & Survival Skills, Consumer Health, Family Life, Human Growth & Development, Substance Abuse and Non-use, Health Resources, Prevention/Control of Disease-STD/I's/AIDS, Human Sexuality, Stress Management, and Interpersonal Relationships.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GRADES 9-12

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Physical Education is offered with a Lifelong Physical Activity/Fitness focus: Areas that will be incorporated: current/future physical fitness level, recognition of correct skill execution, appreciation for a physically active lifestyle, identification of fitness benefits/requirements of each activity, and development of personal fitness plans that will allow lifelong participation. Proper dress and tennis shoes are required.

All students are required to have four years of physical education before graduation. A student will be excused from the physical education course and receive credit if: (1) Medical excuse from a doctor (2) A conflict with the student's religious beliefs (3) Enrolled in academic courses not otherwise available.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES

Students can possibly receive college credit for some career and technical education courses taken at VMHS. These courses are in the Business Education Department, Drafting & Design/Industrial Technology Department, Family & Consumer Sciences Department, and the Marketing Department. Ask your Career and Technical instructors, counselor or principal for more information and details about this opportunity.

LIFE SKILLS

(SEMESTER)

GRADE 11

This course provides students with information about a wide range of subjects to assist them in becoming wise consumers and productive adults. These courses often emphasize such topics as goal-setting, decision-making, and setting priorities; money and time management; relationships; and the development of the self. Practical exercises regarding selecting and furnishing houses, meeting transportation needs, preparing food, mending of clothes, personal finance and budgeting, insurance basics, loans, and simple home and auto maintenance are integral to the course. The class is designed to be taught by Family Consumer Science, Business and Industrial Technology teachers collectively for a semester in length. **This course is a graduation requirement starting with the class of 2018 and counts toward a student's Vocational credit total.**

ACCOUNTING AND BOOKKEEPING

WORKPLACE READINESS (SEMESTER)

GRADES 9-12

Workplace Readiness is recommended for any student who wants to prepare to make the school to work transition with employability skills. As employees are being expected to exercise more and more control over their own work, 6 basic units - COMMUNICATION, ENTHUSIASM & ATTITUDE, NETWORKING, PROFESSIONALISM,, TEAM WORK, and PROBLEM SOLVING-show students the processes. Videos show actual companies putting these skills to work and illustrates a wide variety of career opportunities.

PERSONAL FINANCE (SEMESTER)

GRADES 9-12

This course provides a unique problem-solving model that will train students on how to break down financial decisions, identify resources at your disposal, generate appropriate solutions, and, when necessary, effectively communicate your conclusions and understandings. In this course, students will gain understanding of finances as they relate to money as a resource, property rental, automobile purchase, postsecondary education, money management, taxes, insurance, charitable giving, revolving credit, personal credit, home ownership, investing, and employment.

ACCOUNTING I

GRADES 10-12

This course provides students with complete coverage of three types of businesses - proprietorship, partnership and corporation. Each type of business is presented in a complete accounting cycle covering analyzing transactions, journalizing, posting, petty cash, financial statements, and adjusting and closing entries. We will utilize a multicolumn journal approach that allows students to focus on analyzing transactions that will be entered in the same journal. The students will also complete reinforcement activities or simulations at the end of each semester that will help prepare them for a career in the accounting field.

ACCOUNTING II

GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: ACCOUNTING I

An excellent course for those students interested in pursuing a career in the accounting area. Especially helpful for

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those who are going on to college to major in Business or Accounting. Students will expand on topics introduced in the first-year course while adding new topics about management accounting, cost accounting, not-for-profit accounting, and financial analysis. This class could be an independent study course as determined by the administration.

MARKETING

WORKPLACE READINESS

GRADES 9-12

SEE INFORMATION ON THIS COURSE IN THE BUSINESS COURSES

GENERAL BUSINESS

GRADES 9-12

The intention of a course in general business is to furnish the student with a broad introduction to the world of business and to help realize that it is a very important part of this world. This course provides a general background in business and economics and introduces the student to the various careers associated with each unit. The first unit discusses our economic system and focuses on careers as economists, financial managers, actuaries, etc. Topics studied include how to select and use the services of business; acquire a knowledge of banks and the banking system in order to assist the student in managing financial affairs; savings plans; travel and communication services; shipping services; personal financial record; and the importance of considering careers in which an individual can make the greatest contribution to personal, civic, social and economic well-being. A career portfolio project is required of the student in which he or she selects a career and investigates it thoroughly.

MARKETING (1ST SEMESTER)

GRADES 9-12

The purpose of a course in Marketing is to provide students with an understanding of the marketing process and to present the area as a desirable and challenging field. Marketing consists of the performance of business activities that direct the flow of goods and services from the producer to the consumer or user. Major marketing functions include product/service management, promotion, pricing, financing, marketing-information management, selling and distribution.

(2ND SEMESTER)

Students will be introduced to the consumer's role in the marketplace by analyzing what population has to do with the size, characteristics, income and spending patterns within the different types of market areas and how their decisions influence the decisions of the marketers. The sales field is the prime target of the marketer and is regarded as one of the more exciting areas in business. Finally, the research will be done on a career in marketing.

ADVANCED COMPUTERS

GRADES 10-12

We will review Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and provide instruction on how to use each application properly. This course will also give the student in-depth work with iMovie, iPhoto, iDVD and GarageBand. We will also show students how they can create a simple web page as we explore various Google Apps. Finally, the students will be introduced to a social media unit where they will learn about protecting their digital footprint and identity as well as several social media/networking tools such as Twitter, Diigo, Skype, YouTube, Shelfari, Blogging, Animoto and other Web 2.0 Tools.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

GRADE 12

***Teacher Approval Required**

The ultimate goal of Work-Based Learning (WBL) is to hopefully provide an internship-type experience during the 2nd semester while also completing the necessary classwork during the entire school year. For the second semester, the internship may require having more than one free period, so you would need to be ahead on your credits in order to

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consider WBL as an option.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY COURSES

INTRO TO ENGINEERING (SEMESTER)

GRADES 9-12

This course is designed to introduce students to drafting and design with the use of CAD software. Through the use of the computer, students will be able to create many interesting and fascinating drafting projects. Students will gain experience in creating mechanical parts and part assemblies. Upon completion of the course, students will have a good understanding of computers and their use in the design world.

ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING (SEMESTER)

GRADES 10-12

This course will give students an opportunity to study architectural design considerations and an opportunity to design a home. The student will complete several board drawings, which include: floor plan, elevations, details and plot plans. Computer aided drafting will also be used for some course requirements. When the course is completed, the students will have a set of house plans of their own design plus information and considerations that go with the designing of a home.

WOODWORKING (SEMESTER)

**GRADES 9-12
COST: PROJECT MATERIALS**

This course is designed to build upon the student's woodworking knowledge. Safety is emphasized. The student must pass a safety test to remain in the class. Students will participate in various woodworking projects that test the students' knowledge over various species of wood, woodworking skills, and problem solving. Students will also develop a final project that will be first approved by the teacher, and complete that by the end of the semester.

MANUFACTURING/WELDING (SEMESTER)

GRADES 10-12

This course focuses on the safety, application, and use of metals, as well as the use of gas, Arc, and MIG welders. Students will learn how to use our CNC PlasmaCam to cut out metal projects, as well as powder coat and assemble metal signs. Students will learn about basic and advanced welding techniques, as well as the appropriate use of each welding machine. Students are assessed on both content knowledge, as well as their individual ability to properly use equipment.

AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS (SEMESTER)

GRADES 10-12

This course focuses on the safety, maintenance, and application of knowledge of both small engines and automobiles. Students will learn both content knowledge about small engines and automobiles, as well as hands on knowledge in the shop. Students will utilize both online resources for engine design and manuals, as well as experience utilizing shop manuals to locate small engine repair knowledge and techniques. Students will be assessed

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on their ability to retain both content knowledge, as well as their ability to deconstruct and rebuild their small engines.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY
ONE OR TWO SEMESTERS**

**GRADES 11-12
COST: PROJECT MATERIALS**

Independent study is available for select juniors and seniors who have taken all courses offered in a particular subject area and still wish to work and learn in a specific skill area. Students must be approved in advance by the instructor.

**INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE
ONE OR TWO SEMESTERS**

Computer Programming courses provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to construct computer programs in one or more languages. Computer coding and program structure are often introduced with the BASIC language, but other computer languages, such as Visual Basic (VB), Java, Pascal, C++, and C#, may be used instead. Students learn to structure, create, document, and debug computer programs. Advanced courses may include instruction in object-oriented programming to help students develop applications for Windows, database, multimedia, games, mobile and/or Web environments. An emphasis is placed on design, style, clarity, and efficiency. In these courses, students apply the skills they learn to relevant authentic applications.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

FOODS I and FOODS II

GRADES 9-12

Limit of 16 students enrolled at one time.

This is a year long course and students that do not take class first semester, cannot join second semester.

Students will learn the need for food and food supply, learning more and evaluating their own health with MyPlate.gov, nutrients (including various vitamins and minerals), health and wellness, and shopping for food to learn more about comparisons to get the most of their money. We will also discuss food safety and using proper equipment. We will learn different preparation techniques and cooking methods. Students will be introduced to careers within food and nutrition. As we get closer to the end of the first semester and into the second semester, we will look at the different food groups. We will do various kitchen experiments and labs focusing on food combinations. Students will be introduced to global foods.

**CLOTHING & TEXTILES
(SEMESTER)**

GRADES 9-12

Extra costs may be required for specific projects desired.

Students will learn about the need for clothing and the influences on clothing. We will examine and understand the importance of clothing in other cultures. Students will learn more about the history of fashion and fashion styles. We will focus upon key elements and the science in clothing and textiles including color, design, fibers, fabrics, and fabric construction. Students will learn how to care for and repair clothing along with selecting the clothing that is right for them and others. Students will be introduced to the many careers within the world of fashion. Students will learn more about the sewing machine and focus on clothing construction and will learn various techniques as we complete classroom projects.

**HOUSING & INTERIOR DESIGN
(ONE SEMESTER)**

GRADES 9-12

Housing needs and alternatives are examined. Students are introduced to what universal design is. The principles and elements of design help students choose background and window treatments, furniture, accessories, appliances, and other needs for their own personal designed house. Students use technology in creating floor plans and 3D rooms. Along with learning the aspect of design, students learn more about housing styles and architecture found here in Iowa. Students will take the knowledge learned and complete their "dream house" including construction basics and interior design features.

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**ADULT LIVING
(SEMESTER)****GRADE 11-12**

This course you will learn about life as an adult and about yourself as an individual. You will learn decision making, your own personal development, including identifying your personality and how it affects the relationships you have with others. Conflict resolution and diversity will be covered and how to handle differences with others in an appropriate manner. We will cover relationships with others including dating, mate selection and adjusting to married life.

**FAMILY LIVING
(SEMESTER)****GRADE 11-12**

Families are all different because everyone comes from a variety of backgrounds and challenges. This course will explore families as a basic unit of society and how we can build strong families. In this course you will learn more about the family and about yourself as an individual. You will learn how to strengthen relationships through communication and conflict management skills. We will explore how the global society affects the family and vice versa. We will also explore how to balance work and family.

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND PARENTING
(SEMESTER)****GRADE 9-12**

We will continue to focus on the roles and responsibility of parenting. We will cover the female and male reproductive systems, prenatal development, the baby's arrival, ages and stages of child development, and careers with children. Students will choose one weekend that works into their schedule to bring home the "Baby Think It Over" infant simulator. This will show students how challenging being a parent to a newborn can be. There is also an empathy belly to show students a realistic view of pregnancy. Students will learn the ages and stages of child development and will have the opportunity to work with kids in the elementary classrooms.

FINE ARTS

ART STUDENTS MAY PURCHASE ANY EXTRA SUPPLIES BEYOND THE REQUIRED PROJECTS OF STUDY.

ART COURSES SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED. IF A STUDENT WANTS TO REPEAT A COURSE, PLEASE SEE THE ADVANCED COURSE OF STUDY PROGRAM FOR ART.

**INTRODUCTION TO ART
(STUDENTS WILL STUDY DRAWING, PAINTING, CERAMICS)****GRADES 9-12**

This course must be taken before any other art course. In Introduction to art, the student will study and use the elements of art and principles of design when creating and evaluating art. Methods of 2D and 3D art and design will be explored while working with drawing, painting, sculpture, and ceramics media and techniques. Emphasis will be placed on demonstrating the use of techniques, creativity, originality, craftsmanship, classroom expectations, and self evaluation. Students will create a digital portfolio to showcase and discuss art. **Students will create a sketchbook at the beginning of the year.**

2D ART**GRADE 10-12**

Students in 2D Art will explore the creative process within 2D media and techniques. Students will be taught visual awareness and self-discovery through their art. Students will learn how to draw what they see (translate 3-D to 2-D). Drawing and painting media and techniques will be explored within this course such as: pencil, colored pencils, charcoal, ink, marker, watercolor paint, acrylic paint, etc. Emphasis will be placed on demonstrating the use of techniques, creativity, originality, craftsmanship, classroom

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expectations, and self evaluation. Students will create a digital portfolio to showcase and discuss art.
Students will create a sketchbook at the beginning of the year.

3D ART

GRADES 10-12

Students in 3D Art will explore the creative process within 3D media and techniques. Students will be taught visual awareness and self-discovery through their art. Students will learn how to translate 2D to 3D. Several sculptural media and techniques will be experienced. Approximately 1 semester will be spent creating ceramics from hand built techniques and wheel thrown pottery. Knowledge of glazes and coloring methods will be gained as well as an understanding of the firing process. Second semester will consist of an exploration of a variety of other sculptural techniques. Emphasis will be placed on demonstrating the use of techniques, creativity, originality, craftsmanship, classroom expectations, and self evaluation. Students will create a digital portfolio to showcase and discuss art.
Students will create a sketchbook at the beginning of the year.

ADVANCED ART

GRADE 11-12

PREREQUISITE: STUDENTS MUST HAVE TAKEN FOUR SEMESTERS OF ART BEFORE THEY CAN ENROLL IN THE ADVANCED COURSE AND BE IN 11 - 12 GRADE OR WITH INSTRUCTOR'S APPROVAL FOR ENROLLMENT IN ADVANCED ART.

This course is for students who want an opportunity to advance to a higher level of understanding and skill development and who have a special ability and interest to work independently on self selected projects. Students will be required to turn in project proposals before beginning a project, participate in class critiques, work independently on a project of choice, and reflect about their art and the art world around them. Students will be encouraged to develop their own unique style and will be challenged to create their own original art. Emphasis will be placed on creativity, originality, craftsmanship, classroom expectations, self evaluation and self motivation.

Students will create a sketchbook at the beginning of the year.

COLLABORATIVE ART

GRADE 10-12

Students in Collaborative Art will explore the creative process within 2D media and 3D techniques. Students will be taught visual awareness and self-discovery through their art as well as collaborating with others to create art. Students will have voice and choice when deciding what projects they would like to collaborate on. Emphasis will be placed on demonstrating the use of techniques, creativity, originality, craftsmanship, classroom expectations, self evaluation and collaboration to create art for public display. Students will create a digital portfolio to showcase and discuss art.

MIXED MEDIA & DESIGN

GRADE 10-12

***Not currently offered**

This is a year long course designed to allow students to explore various art media including digital photography, image editing and multimedia projects. Students will learn to communicate their individuality and creativity through a wide-range of projects. Students will be working towards expressing their artistic skill; utilizing their communication skills and promoting the arts in their community.

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL COURSES

HIGH SCHOOL BAND

GRADES 9-12

High School Band is offered for those students interested in playing a musical instrument. It is generally recommended for those students who have participated in band previously and have knowledge of an instrument. However, in some cases exceptions can be made. Many performance opportunities are available for high school band members such as: Marching Band, Concert Band, Honor Bands, Large Group Contest, Pep Band, and Concerts. Members may participate in Jazz Band and/or participate in Solo and Ensemble contests as well as honor band festivals. All Band members will participate in Marching Band and Pep Band during the football and basketball seasons.

JAZZ BAND 9-12

Jazz band is an audition only group comprised of students who are generally in grades 9-12 and enrolled in their respective concert band. The Jazz Band competes at numerous festivals and contests throughout the year in addition to all the home concerts. Jazz Band generally rehearses before school twice a week.

HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

GRADES 9-12

Vocal music is offered as an elective and is generally open for all students. Certain fundamentals of music are taught as well as techniques in singing and the responsibilities involved in being a member of a chorus. Performance opportunities are available for high school vocal members such as: Large Group Contest, Solo Contest, and many public performances. Members may audition for Chamber Choir, which is a small group that performs the National Anthem at basketball games and other public performances and is rewarded an additional credit.

CHAMBER CHOIR

GRADES 9-12

Chamber Choir is an audition only ensemble in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in High School Chorus. Chamber Chorus is for those students who want to perform more complex literature and participate in more events. When possible the Chamber Chorus participates in contests and festivals.

MUSIC THEORY

GRADES 9-12

***May not be offered every year; can be an independent study**

In this course the students will learn basic principles, techniques and mechanics of writing, playing, and singing music. Students will also train their ears to hear certain components of music such as time signatures, intervals, chords, and dictation.

Music Tech

GRADES 9-12

***May not be offered every year**

Music Tech will teach students the fundamentals of how sound works, how we record, and how we edit music. No prior music experience is required to take Music Tech. Specifically, we will talk about microphones, audio interfaces, recording techniques, producing, and mixing/mastering. Students will use Garageband and Logic Pro X as our primary tools for mixing and mastering. This class can be taken independently.

EDUCATION COURSES

CADET TEACHING

GRADE 12

This program allows students to work in collaboration with teachers. Teachers will support students in college and career readiness by utilizing a review process with the student on employability skills. Students can work with either elementary or secondary teachers. Some may work more closely with elementary students under the supervision and guidance of the elementary teacher. **(This course counts for Vocational credit as of the 2020-2021 school year.)**

DRIVER EDUCATION

AGE 14

Students must be over the age of 14 and have a valid driver's permit before the start of this course. This course can be taken during the school year nights and weekends through a Driver Training company, such as Drive Tech or over the summer through a private company. There is a fee for this course. There is no academic credit given by Van Meter High School for Driver Education.

POST-SECONDARY OPTION COURSES JUNIOR/SENIOR

Students can take a PSEO class for both high school as well as college credit. However, the college class cannot be similar to a course offered at Van Meter High School. Students must also have an overall GPA of 3.00 to take a PSEO class. Registration for these classes takes place in the spring and before the end of first semester during the school year. On a case by case basis, with approval needed by the school counselor and administration, students in grades 9-10 can be approved to take courses from the post-secondary options listed below. Information considered for approval includes standardized test scores, cumulative GPA, and ability to work independently and responsibly. Transportation is not provided to these campuses; students must provide their own transportation.

DMPS - CENTRAL ACADEMY

Central Academy fosters academic excellence through the challenge of a compacted curriculum and the stimulation of intensive work with the students' intellectual peers. The curriculum offers acceleration and enrichment beyond the traditional high school program and prepares students to take Advanced Placement coursework by 10th grade.

DMPS - CENTRAL CAMPUS

Nine career academies with three dozen specialized programs offer multiple pathways to college and career readiness. Explore international learning experiences and earn nationally recognized advanced career certificates before high school graduation. Central Campus offers hands-on, real world work-based educational programs to a highly diverse community and surrounding areas.

DMACC - ONLINE & ON-CAMPUS

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Van Meter partners with DMACC to offer college credit courses online as well as in-person. There are a variety of different courses available, including courses like Intro to Psychology and Composition I, that will help to satisfy general education requirements at most colleges. Additionally, students can take courses that will support their career exploration and their discovery of what field they may want to pursue in the future.

WAUKEE APEX

Through a collaboration between education, business, and the community, Waukee Aspiring Professional Experience (APEX) develops highly skilled, adaptable, global innovators and leaders. Waukee APEX draws on the expertise of business partners to bring real-world experience to high school. Through passion-based learning, authentic projects, and experiences, students add value to business partners while exploring career possibilities identified by economic trends within our metro area and state.

MADISON COUNTY CAREER ACADEMY

Winterset High School, in conjunction with DMACC, offers college level courses to students. Courses include culinary arts, electricity, construction, elementary education, and CNA. Project Lead the Way offers engineering courses to students through this setting as well. Typically, there is no charge for students.

REGENTS ADMISSION INDEX

Students wishing to enroll at one of the Regents Universities (Iowa State, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa) must meet the following RAI equation described below.

$$\begin{aligned} & (3 \times \text{ACT Composite Score}) \\ & + (30 \times \text{Cumulative GPA}) \\ & + 5 \times \text{total number of high school core courses} \\ & = \text{Regents Admission Index Score (RAI)} \end{aligned}$$

Applicants who achieve at least a 245 RAI score and who meet the minimum high school course requirements will automatically be offered admission. Applicants who achieve less than a 245 RAI score and who meet the minimum high school course requirements may be offered admission, but their applications will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Core classes include: 4 years of English with writing, 3 years of higher Math, 3 years of Science with two being a lab course in either biology, chemistry or physics, 3 years of Social Studies and at least two years of World Language.

GENERAL NOTES TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

ELECTIVES: More than ½ of your total high school program is comprised of required subjects. This allows a flexibility to meet your individual needs and interests, and to design a program that best suits your career plans. However, along with this flexibility comes the responsibility for making wise choices of the non-required of “elective” courses. Thoughtful and farsighted attention is required since selections will be important for many years to come. The choice of electives is usually based upon the following factors:

1. The aptitudes of the students in certain areas of study
2. The interests of the students
3. The students’ intentions after completing high school.

PREREQUISITES: In some sequence courses, guidelines or prerequisites are offered to help the student make a practical choice in relation to previously acquired skills and knowledge. ***Exceptions to these guidelines may be made with the approval of both the instructor of the course and the administration.***

GRADE LEVEL OF COURSES: Recommendations have been made as to when you should take various courses. By following these recommendations, you will improve your chances of developing a conflict-free schedule. It is a good idea to take the basic course in the various areas early in your high school career because these courses are often prerequisites for more advanced courses that you will take later. Some courses are restricted to juniors/seniors or seniors only.

ALTERNATIVES: Changes in your selections may have to be made if not enough students select a course to warrant offering it next year. Your first course selections may conflict with each other, making it necessary to take one or more of them during another year.

INDEPENDENT CLASSES: Independent courses are not normally offered to any student. If there are circumstances under which a student feels they need to take a course independently then the instructor and administration must approve of the independent course.

GOING TO COLLEGE: Students who plan to attend a state university in Iowa will be required to have taken the following high school college prep courses: **English** 4 years; **Math** 3 years; **Social Studies** 3 years; **Science** 3 years, **World Language** 3-4 years of a single world language. In the past there has been a tendency for some college-bound students to avoid rigorous basic courses in order to achieve upper-half class standing. While these students may rank ahead of others who struggle through more difficult courses, they may not qualify for admission to the universities.

NCAA DIVISION I/II CLEARINGHOUSE REQUIREMENTS: Freshman-eligibility standards for Division I/II Colleges and Universities. All Student-Athletes must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Freshman can practice, compete, and receive athletic scholarships as a freshman if they meet the following requirements:

1. Graduation from high school
2. Have a GPA of 2.300 in 16 core academic classes
3. Sliding Scale of Test score (ACT or SAT) and grade-point average for Division I (Example: 2.500 core-course GPA requires 1000 SAT or 85 sum ACT) (Example: 820 SAT or 68 sum ACT requires core-course GPA of 2.950).
4. The highest scores on the four individual tests of the ACT may be combined to achieve the highest scores:
5. 16 core high school courses in the following areas:
 - 4 years English;
 - 3 years math at Algebra I level or higher;
 - 2 years natural or physical science (one lab if offered at any high school attended);
 - 1 year additional English, math or natural/physical science;
 - 2 years social science; and
 - 4 years additional from areas above or foreign language, philosophy or comparative religion.
6. Must complete 10 core courses before seventh semester of high school (e.g., senior year). Of the 10 core courses completed, seven must be in the area of English, math, or science