



Freshmen Frequently Asked Questions

About Applied Arts courses:

- Applied Arts courses are designed to **deliver experiences** and **opportunities** that simulate scaled-down experiences of the “real thing.” We strive to provide authentic experiential problem-based learning that infuses knowledge and understanding to create, make, solve, build, analyze and grow. As a department we strive to create a culture of curiosity, thinking and doing. We are hands-on and believe in the practice of dive right in and learn by doing!
- Applied Arts **offers multiple year** experiences to students who want to enrich their knowledge and understanding and dive deeper into a student's curiosity. Each pathway offers four year experiences.
- We want students to be able to **explore** all of our course offerings based on current ambitions, passions, and/or hobbies while developing skills and dispositions of solving complex problems in a changing world.
- Students **do not need any previous** software knowledge or experience to enroll in a course that does not require a prerequisite. Think: **It all starts here!** If a student wishes to enroll in a course with a prerequisite but cannot meet the requirement, he/she should obtain department permission prior to enrollment.

Specific to Freshman students:

- All Applied Arts courses meet the **Fine/Practical Arts graduation requirement**.
- Is there homework? Our courses are designed on the Freshmen campus to be an elective experience and there will be **no assigned homework**.
- If in a hybrid situation, we are able to **extend the classroom** at home and offer the same state-of-the-art software using Amazon Web Services and we send home kits with supplies and ingredients.
- **Architecture and Engineering** courses have a **four-year pathway** as an option; however, students can enroll in courses for a **one-year exploratory option**. If taken as a freshman, additional options are available to students on the Winnetka Campus. Northfield courses are designed to be open to all students with various experiences. Both courses will challenge students with previous experience as well.
- Two courses, **Intro to Architecture and Introduction to Engineering Design**, qualify for students **to receive** College Dual Credit. More information about Dual Credit can be found [here](#).
- **Creative Cuisine** is a **freshmen only** option and is not available on the Winnetka Campus. Winnetka culinary courses have no prerequisite. No prior cooking experience is required.
- Geometry, Design and Construction is a **team-taught double period** course that meets back to back periods. This Applied Mathematics and Applied Arts course is offered at the level 9 credit and is open to Freshman. It fulfills both a Math and a Fine/Applied Arts graduation requirement.
- Introduction to Coding and Design Technology is an **infused coding/design technology course**.
- Fashion Construction is offered on the Northfield campus and is also offered on the Winnetka campus.

About Architecture:

- There are five different architecture courses offered in our pathway.
- Any grade level on either campus can enroll in Introduction to Architecture.
- Introduction to Architecture serves as a prerequisite for Architectural Studio, Architectural Models, Architectural Building Design, and PLTW Civil Engineering. Many students enroll in Interior Design sophomore year.
- Students enrolled in any of the architecture courses are eligible to receive College Dual Credit.
- Students do not need prior knowledge of any software. Students are exposed to the following software: AutoCAD, Revit, Sketchup, Photoshop, In-Design and InDesign.
- Courses are designed to teach students how to think and problem-solve like an architect and/or designer.

About Culinary:

- We offer a multi-year culinary program where students experience an assortment of food genres and build individual and group culinary skills.
- Creative Cuisine is a lab based course where students cook 95% of the time.
- Students can enroll in the following culinary courses as one-year experiences or sequentially: Creative Cuisine (freshman), Gourmet (sophomore, junior), Real World Cooking for Seniors (senior). Students can enroll in any eligible course based on their grade level. Each class focuses on different recipes.
- Students with food allergies can enroll in this course. Teachers are informed of students' food allergies by the school nurse, and adjustments are made to recipes to ensure the safety of everyone in the class.

About Engineering:

- This course is a great problem solving course for every student! You do not need to be great at math, science or design to be successful.
- There are five different engineering courses offered in our nationally recognized Project Lead the Way Engineering pathway. Students who are interested in engineering or product design take Introduction to Engineering Design on either the Northfield or Winnetka campus. Advanced-level courses are Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, Biotechnical Engineering, and Civil Engineering.
- Students enrolled in any Project Lead the Way Engineering courses are eligible to receive College Dual Credit.
- The primary focus is on hands-on problem-solving engineering projects that use a design process known as "Design Thinking." This approach is unique to engineering but the process can be applied in various areas around the school curriculum and to real world issues. Students develop engineering thinking and problem solving skills. All projects are project based where students design and then make their designs physically work.
- Emphasis is on individual and group projects. Group projects are a great way to meet other classmates.

About Design Tech/Coding:

- In this exploratory class, students are introduced to two areas: computer science and design technology.
- Coding environments that have been taught: Python, Scratch, Codea, Droneblocks, Node-Red.
- Design Tech exposes students to laser cutters, 3D Printers, and power tools.

About Fashion:

- Fashion Construction is taught on both the Northfield and Winnetka campuses.
- No previous sewing experience is necessary.
- Project examples: Winter beanie, spirit wear, wearable technology, pajamas

About Geometry, Design and Construction

- This course is offered to both freshman and sophomore students who are eligible to enroll in Geometry.
- Students learn and apply Geometry through design and building projects.
- This is a double-period class that meets back to back. For example, this year the class meets 8th period and 9th period. Students will earn **both Math and** a Fine/Practical Arts credit. So in essence, this class is similar to taking both an elective and a math class.
- This 9-level course is open to students who are recommended for 3-level or 2-level Geometry.
- The course covers the same content as 3-level Geometry and is weighted as a 3-level course in student's GPA.
- Prepares students for their subsequent Algebra 2 course.
- No previous design or building experience is needed to enroll.