

Ninth Grade Classes: Humanities House

The Humanities program of studies requires all Humanities students to take house magnet courses in English and social studies. There are a total of eleven required courses over the four years of the program. Additionally, Humanities students must complete 2.0 credits of Humanities electives. All house required courses and information on the Humanities electives can be found on the Humanities House Certificate Overview document.

Humanities students have a seven period day, and ninth graders have three required classes in the Humanities block and four other classes in their schedule.

Humanities Block

These classes must be taken in ninth grade to earn the Humanities certificate:

Honors English 9- Humanities (1.0 credit) - *this class fulfills an **English** graduation requirement*

AP Government - Humanities (1.0 credit) - *this class fulfills a **social studies** graduation requirement*

Criticism in the Humanities (1.0 credit) - *this is an **elective** credit*

If you have questions about the Humanities curriculum, please contact Mrs. Marks at (Jennifer_V_Marks@mcpsmd.org).

Science

Virtually all Humanities ninth graders take Honors Biology. Some high schools sequence Physics first in the science curriculum. While ninth graders may take Physics, most students find that class more accessible after a year of high school math and high school learning. Not taking a biology class your ninth grade year may create scheduling problems around your Humanities classes later in high school. Questions about science classes may be addressed to the Science resource teacher, Mrs. Sekhsaria at Anupama_M_Sekhsaria@mcpsmd.org.

Math

Most Humanities students take the next math class in the sequence Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, PreCalculus at the on-level or honors level. *Humanities students who were **invited to the SMCS house***, may take Magnet Precalculus. If you have questions about MCPS/magnet math curriculum, please contact the head of the PHS math department, Mr. Kramek, at Kenneth_M_Kramek@mcpsmd.org.

World Language

Poolesville High School offers Spanish and French from levels 1 to Advanced Placement. Students planning to attend competitive colleges are encouraged to take at least three years of the same language. If you have questions about the world languages classes, email Mrs. Hicks at Alexandra_S_Hicks@mcpsmd.org.

Electives

All students need 1.0 credits each of fine arts, physical education, and technology electives to meet graduation requirements.

AP Art History is a required Humanities class in the junior year; it fulfills the graduation requirement in the fine arts. Many Humanities students take additional fine arts electives, though they are not required for graduation.

We recommend that Humanities students take a PE or technology credit in ninth grade to make room for more choices later in high school. Students may request to take one elective one semester (0.5 credit) and another elective the next semester, though students typically take the same elective both semesters.

Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) is one of the technology electives that meets the graduation requirement; AP Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) is the other one. IED is the first requirement in the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering program. Humanities students pursuing PLTW often face scheduling conflicts by junior year. ***In cases of a schedule conflict, student schedules will prioritize Humanities certificate requirements.*** Students interested in taking upper-level computer programming classes, should take AP CSP, then AP Programming JAVA the following year.

If you have questions about art classes, contact the department chair, Ms. Heaton at Shannon_M_Heaton@mcpsmd.org. For questions about PE classes, contact Mr. Lang at Thomas_A_Lang@mcpsmd.org. For questions about technology classes and Project Lead the Way, contact Mr. Young at Terry_W_Young@mcpsmd.org.

Ninth and tenth graders have a lot of required classes; you will have many more choices in your last two years of high school.

You can see course descriptions here:

<http://coursebulletin.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/publications/HSCourseBulletin2021.pdf> (This is the most current version of the course bulletin available.)