Meridian High School Course Descriptions
Updated: 05/14/12

Graduation requirements for the class of 2013 and Beyond

Current 8th graders
31 credits are required to graduate. All subjects receive .5 credits per semester. Only the semester grades are recorded on the transcript, which is the official record. The quarter grades are progress reports.

ENGLISH – 4 credits
- Integrated Language Arts Level 9 A & B - 1 credit – 2 semesters
- Integrated Language Arts Level 10 A & B - 1 credit – 2 semesters
- English – 2 credits - 4 semesters

FINE ARTS – 2 credits – 4 semesters
(Includes: Choir, Band and Art)

HEALTH AND FITNESS – 2.5 credits
- Physical Education – 2 credits
- Health – .5 credit - 1 semester

MATH - 4 credits
- 3 credits of Math include Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2
- 1 credit of Math Guided Study (Math Support)

OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION – 2 credits - 4 semesters (including MOS)
- Occupational Education classes include: Industrial Arts, family and consumer science, business and office education, trade and technical education, vocational and agriculture classes. All freshmen are required to take .5 credits -1 semester of MOS.

SCIENCE - 3 credits (2 credits must be lab sciences)
NOTE: Freshmen are required to take one year of Integrated Biological Science 1. Sophomores are required to take one year of Integrated Biological Science 2.
NOTE: Horticulture class meets two semesters of the science requirement, or can be used to fulfill occupational education requirements.

SOCIAL STUDIES - 4 credits
- WA St. History - .5 credit -1 semester (requirement may have been met at MMS. Subject to board revision.)
- World Cultures – 1 credit - 2 semesters
- World History – .5 credit - 1 semester
- U.S. History – 1 credit - 2 semesters
- Senior Social Studies – 1 credit - 2 semesters

ELECTIVES - 9.5 credits
The number of credits that a student must earn to be considered as a:
- Sophomore is 8
- Junior is 16
- Senior is 24

NOTE: ALL students will be required to successfully complete a Graduation Project in order to receive a Meridian High School diploma.

ALL students will be required to pass all sections of the High School Proficiency Exams (HSPE) or state approved alternative in order to receive a Meridian High School diploma.
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Senior Year Schedule – Seniors’ schedules shall include a minimum of one credit of English and one credit of Social Studies. They are required to take a full load regardless of the number of credits remaining to graduate.

Attendance Requirement – An important learning objective of all MHS classes is to help prepare students for the world of work. Good attendance is therefore necessary. Absences of more than eight days may result in denial of credit. There is an appeal process available should this become a concern.

Dropping and Changing Classes – Dropping and Changing Classes – All Classes (including those during 0 period) that students register for both fall and spring semesters are considered final. Changes in schedules will be made only when a COMPELLING EDUCATIONAL REASON for the change can be shown. The student request must be submitted on a Class Change Request Form the first three days of each semester. The form must include evidence of a compelling educational reason and requires signed approval by teachers, parents, counselor, and administrator. Changes will be confined to the first two weeks of each semester. Classes that are dropped after the first four weeks of the semester will result in an "F" grade being recorded on the student’s transcript. Attempts will be made to replace the dropped class. However, the lack of an available class may result in a reduction in the student schedule which may negatively affect the student’s ability to graduate on time. Students will not be allowed to remain on campus during any period they are without a scheduled class.

COLLEGE PREPARATION

Colleges specify that certain courses must be taken by high school students in order to gain admission, and all strongly recommend a high level of competence in English, foreign language, mathematics, technology, natural science, and social science. In addition, certain courses are helpful for a given major in college. Students should consider the following as minimum high school requirements for college entrance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3-4 credits – Algebra and Geometry or Geometry and Algebra 2 and beyond.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3-4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>2 credits (in one language)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1 credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since the college admission process has become increasingly competitive, the majority of students who are admitted have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average. Check the specific requirements for the school you plan to attend.

During the junior year, and/or early in the senior year, students should take the SAT or ACT test. Most colleges will require one of the tests. Please check individual college/university websites for details.
NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students planning to enroll as college freshman, and wishing to be eligible TO PARTICIPATE IN Division I or II intercollegiate athletics must first register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Students are encouraged to register and apply online for certification by the end of their junior year.

TO BE CERTIFIED BY THE CLEARINGHOUSE, STUDENT MUST MEET NEW ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS:

- Students entering any college or university on or after August 1, 2005, your NCAA initial eligibility will be evaluated using the new rule, which increases the number of core courses from 13 to 14.
- For students entering any college or university on or after August 1, 2008, your NCAA initial-eligibility will be evaluated under the 16-core course rule, which increases the number of core courses from 14 to 16.

MUST ALSO:
1. Graduate from high school
2. Earn a grade point average of at least 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale)
3. Successfully complete core-curriculum of at least 14 NCAA Approved academic core courses (2007) or 16 core courses (2008) during grades 9-12 (see table below)

NEW Core Units Required for NCAA Certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Core</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Core (Algebra I or higher)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural/Physical Science Core</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including at least one year of lab science, if offered)</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science Core</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From English, Math or Natural/Physical Science</td>
<td>1 years</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Core (English, Math, Science, Social Science, Foreign Language, Philosophy, Non-doctrinal Religion)</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CORE UNITS REQUIRED</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Receive the necessary and minimum score on the SAT or ACT college entrance exam (necessary score depends on students GPA; see table below)

5. The minimum GPA in the 14 and 16 core courses and required ACT or SAT score vary according to the Initial-Eligibility Index.

The new core GPA/Test Score Index
(to be used with 14 and 16 core courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core GPA</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.550 &amp; above</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.525</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.500</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.475</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.450</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.425</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.375</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.350</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.325</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.300</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.275</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.250</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.225</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.200</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.175</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.150</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.125</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.075</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.050</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*IMPORTANT REMINDER: Requirements for eligibility to participate at Division I differ from those required at Division II. For further questions, students should check with NKHS counselor, call NCAA Clearinghouse directly at (319) 337-1492, or contact an athletic department official at the institution to which the student is applying.

Meridian High School Course Descriptions
Updated: 05/14/12
**COLLEGE TECH PREP**

*College Tech Prep* is a unique program that allows high school students to get a jump-start on their college education. High school Tech Prep courses, identified by a ( accuses logo symbol) in the course title, meet the entry-level course requirements of comparable college courses at local Community and Technical Colleges. Students who take College Tech Prep courses earn both high school and college credit *provided the student demonstrates proficiency in the identified college course competencies with a “B” or better grade.* At the end of the semester, each student who has successfully achieved these criteria will complete the *College Tech Prep/Dual Credit* process. Students will complete the on-line registration process and pay a one-time “transcript fee” of $25.00 to the college (required with the first request only; the fee allows the college to create an academic transcript for the student.). Registration for college credit must be completed during the same academic year the course was taken at the high school. At the end of the school year, students may request a copy of their college transcript indicating the number of college credits earned and grades received for each College Tech Prep course completed.

For students who continue with their college education after high school graduation, the College Tech Prep courses/credits may apply to elective or core requirements, depending upon the student’s major. Students planning to attend other colleges (other than BTC or WCC) may request that an official transcript be sent to the college/university admissions office to evaluate the classes to determine if credits will apply to elective or specific program requirements. College Tech Prep credits are primarily intended for two-year technical education programs in Washington’s community and technical college system. Students should consult with four-year colleges or universities to determine specific credit transfer requirements.

For additional information contact the Career Center, Counseling Center, or the teacher of a College Tech Prep class.

Check the College Tech Prep website for more program information [http://www.whatcomtechprep.org](http://www.whatcomtechprep.org)

Or, email *techprep@btc.ctc.edu* for more information
Construction Careers Academy

This program was developed in partnership with local construction industry organizations and employers. The Construction Careers Academy is a year-long program designed to prepare students for careers in the construction industry. Students study a nationally recognized construction trades curriculum and participate in hands-on building related activities.

Career preparation is emphasized through industry presentations and worksite tours. Students learn about worksite safety, construction math, use of hand and power tools, reading blueprints and rigging techniques. Construction projects include, but are not limited to, framing, roofing, siding, stairs, rafters, and some finish work. The program helps students explore a variety of construction-related career opportunities, develop appropriate work readiness skills and prepare to enter construction-related apprenticeships, postsecondary education programs or entry-level jobs. The course will be taught in the new Career and Technical Building on Meridian High School’s campus. The course is available in two sessions:

- Session One: 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM
- Session Two: 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

With successful completion of the program, students will earn three high school credits and a national industry-recognized certificate of training completion. The high school credits are:

- Communication – 1.0
- Technical Math – 1.0
- Occupation Ed – 1.0

Students are expected to maintain a C or better grade average in each semester of the course. Students who successfully complete all course outcomes with a B or better grade may qualify to earn 37 college credits through the Tech Prep program.
Academy of Engineering

The Academy of Engineering, also referred to as Sustainable Engineering, is an ideal program for students interested in the creation, design, and production of new environmentally friendly products. While designing and building a series of projects, students will develop skills in renewable energy, advanced manufacturing (CNC and milling), product design and visioning (CAD/CAM and Solid Works), then witness their projects being produced on our rapid prototyping 3D printer. Participating students will take an active role in shaping tomorrow's environmentally smart future!

This program will be taught by engineer Dave Bren, PE, Director of the Washington Engineering Institute (www.weiedu.org) in the new Career and Technical Building on Meridian High School’s campus. The course is available in two sessions:

Session One: 7:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
Session Two: 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Students may earn three (3) high school credits as well as articulated Tech Prep credits with local community and technical colleges. The three high school credits are:

Engineering – 1.0  
Computer Science – 1.0  
Math Analysis – 1.0

Students are expected to maintain a C or better grade average in each semester of the course. Students who successfully complete all course outcomes with a B or better grade may qualify to earn 19 college credits through the Tech Prep program.
# FOUR-YEAR PLAN TO GRADUATE

## FRESHMAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Integrated Language Arts 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. World Cultures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Introduction to P.E.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Integrated Biological Science 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Math</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Math Support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. MOS 1/Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1. Integrated Language Arts 9 |
| 2. World Cultures |
| 3. Introduction to P.E. |
| 4. Integrated Biological Science 1 |
| 5. Math |
| 6. Math Support |
| 7. MOS 1/Art |
| 8. Elective |

## SOPHOMORE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Integrated Language Arts 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. World History/Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Integrated Biological Science 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Math</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1. Integrated Language Arts 10 |
| 2. Health/World History |
| 3. Integrated Biological Science 2 |
| 4. Math |
| 5. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |
| 6. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |
| 7. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |
| 8. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |

## JUNIOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. English Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. U.S. History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Math</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Science/4 Yr College-Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Elective/4 Yr College-Wrld Lang</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1. English Elective |
| 2. U.S. History |
| 3. Math |
| 4. Science/4 Yr College-Chemistry |
| 5. Elective/4 Yr College-Wrld Lang |
| 6. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |
| 7. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |
| 8. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |

## SENIOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;ST&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;ND&lt;/sup&gt; SEMESTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. English Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Senior Social Studies Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Elective/4 Yr Colleges-Math</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Elective/4 Yr Colleges-Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Elective/4 Yr College-Wrld Lang</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1. English Elective |
| 2. Senior Social Studies Elective |
| 3. Elective/4 Yr Colleges-Math |
| 4. Elective/4 Yr Colleges-Physics |
| 5. Elective/4 Yr College-Wrld Lang |
| 6. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |
| 7. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |
| 8. Elective/ e.g. Fine Art/PE/OCC ED |

---

Note: Washington State History may be completed @ Middle School.
SPECIAL PROGRAMS

CAREER CENTER SERVICES - The Career Center houses a wide variety of resources that are work related. The Career Cruising program is available to help students build a portfolio; identify interest areas, possible career fields and schools. The Career/Counseling Center has an abundance of college catalogs, testing and scholarship information. Plan to visit the area to learn what is available.

RUNNING START - This is an opportunity for on track juniors and seniors (to include meeting standard in all required sections of the HSPE) to take an assessment test at either Whatcom Community College or Bellingham Technical College which determines their eligibility to enroll in college classes that can count for both high school and college credit at the same time. Meridian High School pays for the tuition for college level courses and the student is responsible for books and fees. Whatcom Community College fees currently include a testing fee and per credit fee. Eligible students may qualify for a fee waiver. Discussion with a counselor of the positive features and possible pitfalls of this program is strongly encouraged before making a decision to enroll in Running Start. Information nights for sophomores, juniors and their parents are held each spring at the respective colleges.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES –
As a learning community, Meridian High School is committed to providing multiple levels of service for ALL of our students with disabilities. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004, ALL students with disabilities are provided with a free appropriate public education. Student success is our primary focus, thus we provide a continuum of instructional alternatives within the least restrictive environment to ensure that each child has the opportunity to be successful. MHS offers special education classes and general education classroom instruction with special education assistance and/or modifications. Our program options are designed to prepare our students to function at their highest academic and vocational ability. We share the common goal of preparing our students to lead a productive and independent adult life.

In order to be enrolled into any Special Education Course, students must be found eligible for special education services and must have a current Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) in place. Please contact your student's case manager with specific questions about program and scheduling options.

HOW COLLEGES EVALUATE YOU (in approximate order of priority)  

- Grade Point Average (GPA)  
  (Grades 9-11 plus first semester of 12th grade)
- The academic rigor of the courses taken during high school. Students are strongly encouraged to go beyond the basic admission requirements.
- SAT, ACT
- Class Rank
- Advanced Placement/Honors classes
- Special talents
- Extracurricular Activities and Volunteer Service
- Essay
- Date of application
- Teacher’s recommendations
- Work experience and references
- Interview
- Alumni legacy
- Geographic distribution
STUDENT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

Students may participate in extra curricular activities on school days **only** if they were in school that entire day or had a prearranged excused absence. The rule applies to practices as well as game situations. Students who failed, received no credit or an incomplete in one or more classes during the previous grading period must participate in the after school study program in order to participate in sports. Students who are failing one or more classes will not be allowed to participate in field trips or co-curricular activities that cause them to miss class.

ATHLETICS

FALL
Cross Country (Coed)
Football (Boys)
Soccer (Girls)
Volleyball (Girls)

WINTER
Basketball (Boys & Girls)
Wrestling (Boys & Girls)

SPRING
Baseball (Boys)
Golf (Coed)
Soccer (Boys)
Softball (Girls)
Track (Coed)

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Chamber Choir
Cheerleading
Chess Club
Class Officer
Community Leaders of America
Drama Performance
FBLA – Future Business Leaders of
FCCLA - Family, Career and
FFA – Future Farmers of America
Honor Society
International Club
Jazz Band
Knowledge Bowl
Mock Trial
Robotics/TSA (Technology Student Association)
Student Council
TATU (Teens against Tobacco Use)
Travel Club
The following pages contain descriptions of the courses that will be offered at Meridian High School during the next school year (2012-2013). Consult the counselor if you need help choosing your classes.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT OR GUIDED STUDY (ASC)
Students may be assigned to Academic Support or Guided Study courses in specific content areas based on the students’ academic needs. These classes will be counted as electives.

ENGLISH

Integrated Language Arts 9  
Prereq: None  
Course emphasis is on development of skills in areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Writing will center on expository and persuasive essays using the Six Trait Writing Process, and technical writing of a research paper using the Four Trait Technical/Information Writing Process. Speaking experiences will support the writing strand with personal experience, demonstration, and persuasive speeches, as well as an oral presentation of a literary analysis of a poem. Reading will parallel the speaking and writing strands through a study of literature framing the experiences of characters from a variety of backgrounds of similar age to the student. Listening skills will be taught to support and augment all areas of language arts study.

Integrated Language Arts 10  
Prereq: Grade 10  
Course emphasis is on development of skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Writing will focus on persuasive and expository essay writing, evaluation, and analysis using the Six Trait writing process; and technical writing for the Sophomore Project Research paper in conjunction with the Science Department. Speaking focus will be on leadership and group dynamics for working effectively with other people. Reading will emphasize literature focused on individuals and their relationship to society. Listening skills will be taught to support and enhance all areas of language study.

Advanced Placement English  
Prereq: Grades 11-12  
Dependent on enrollment for 2012-2013  
The Advanced Placement (AP) program is designed to provide the opportunity to receive college credit and appropriate placement for secondary school students who have successfully mastered introductory level college coursework. Compared to high school courses, AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition are more demanding but also more rewarding. The curriculum is designed to build student skills and discipline in reading, writing, and analyzing more challenging literature. Each class is essentially a four-year college freshman English class. All students enrolled in AP English are required to take a AP English/Academic studies class (ASC). Summer Reading Required

Business Communications  
Prereq: Grade 12  
The curriculum in this class will focus on the reading, writing, and speaking skills that will prepare students for the technical college environment as well as entry level fields/trades in today’s workforce. The readings will include periodicals, technical manuals and instructions, and leisure genres. The writing will be specific to technical/information styles and will include resumes; letters of application; memos; instructional, directional and evaluative pieces; and form completion. Summarizing and paraphrasing will also be emphasized. The speaking element will concentrate on interviewing, facilitating group discussions, and speaking to small groups. Two major areas for emphasis and focus will be career choices and the Senior Graduation Project. This is not a remedial English class, but rather a class designed to give students more confidence in their reading and communication skills.
American Literature  
Prereq: Grade 11
Beginnings through the Civil War (Semester 1)
What makes one an American? Is there one identity that defines all Americans, including you? What distinguishes us as a country from others? This course offers a survey of American literature from its “beginnings” to the mid-nineteenth century, exploring issues peculiarly American. Students will interpret literary works within their historical contexts, responding via formal and informal speaking and writing. This course introduces students to a wide range of literary forms and genres (such as poetry, narratives, romances, and novels among others) and cultural movements (such as Puritanism, the American Renaissance, Transcendentalism, and Revolution.

Realism to the Present (Semester 2)
This course surveys American literature from the late nineteenth century to the present. Students will continue to seek for answers to the question “What makes one an American?” This class will read well-known and loved American novels, stories and plays while also looking at some obscure and little-known works. Speaking and writing assignments will be based on reflection and interpretation of course reading assignments. Completion of American Literature Studies I is not a prerequisite for American Literature Studies II. Nominal time will also be allotted for fulfillment (by seniors) of the Senior Graduation Project’s written elements.

World Literature I – South/Latin America, the Caribbean & Africa (Semester 1)  
Prereq: Grade 12
This class will take students from fiestas and football (soccer) in the streets of Chile, to the shores of the Caribbean Islands, and deep into the jungles of Africa. This course is divided into three units: South/Latin American literature, Pacific and Caribbean Island literature, and African Literature. Short stories, folk/fairytales, poetry, dramas and novels from a variety of authors (men and women, aboriginal, classic and contemporary, dead and alive!) are all part of the class readings. Readings are supplemented with videos and class work (discussions, projects & presentations, essays, quizzes, etc.) will focus on the major themes of Love & Marriage, Gender Roles, Power & Oppression, Religious Beliefs, Wealth & Poverty, etc. along with historical and cultural significance.

World Literature II – The Mediterranean, Middle East, India, the Far East, and Australia (Semester 2)  
Prereq: Grade 12
This class will take students from the shores of the Mediterranean, and the hillside amphitheaters of ancient Greece, to gaze over the Great Wall of China and explore the Australian outback. This course is divided into four units: Mediterranean/Middle East Literature, India, Asian/Far East Literature, and Australian Literature.

European Literature (1 semester)  
Prereq: Grade 12
From the castles and kings of historic England, the quaint French villages and picturesque countryside under the Swiss Alps, to the most modern European metropolis, this course includes traditional and contemporary European authors. Explore the excitement, passion and horror of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, and the quiet romance of seaside Cornwall. Short stories, folk/fairytales, poetry, dramas and novels from a variety of authors (men and women, classic and contemporary, dead and alive!) are all part of the class readings. Readings are supplemented with videos and class work (discussions, projects & presentations, essays, quizzes, etc.) will focus on the major themes of Love & Marriage, Gender Roles, Power & Oppression, Religious Beliefs, Wealth & Poverty, etc. along with historical and cultural significance.

Shakespeare (1 semester)  
Prereq: Grade 12
“To be or not to be – that is the question:” Is this an Adam Sandler original from *Billy Madison* or really Shakespeare? Murder, romance, insanity, intrigue, war, costume parties and family issues…from tragic deaths to “happily ever after,” Shakespeare’s got it all! Come for the drama, experience the characters, the history, and the laughter. Be prepared to read parts out loud and enjoy the film productions of some of Shakespeare’s classic plays, as well as dive into a few of his many sonnets. This course will include at least three of Shakespeare’s plays: *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *King Lear*, *Julius Caesar*… Class discussions, quizzes, essays, memorization, individual and group projects will all be part of the coursework.

MATHEMATICS
*The usual sequence for Math courses is Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics. The accelerated path for advanced and/or college bound students is Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, and/or AP Statistics, and AP Calculus. Students must receive a passing grade in the first semester of a Math course to continue to the next semester. Select students may also double-up on Geometry and Algebra 2 their sophomore year. Further, students may choose to double-up on AP Statistics with Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus.*
Occupational Math
Prereq: Grades 11-12
Occupational math is comprised of modular learning units designed to help high school students develop and refine job-related math skills. The course focuses on arithmetic skills, problem solving techniques, estimation, measurements, geometry, and simple statistics. Lab activities are used to help reinforce the mathematical concepts.

Accounting (Yearlong)
Prereq: Post HESP Math
Possible Cross Credit with Math and Occupational Ed
Do you want to become a millionaire? This course offers basic principles of accounting for personal and business use. Students will learn to keep and prepare financial records for a small business. This is an excellent class for students who plan to operate a business, work in the business world, or plan to take accounting in college. Also, in the course we look at personal finances and learn how to become that “rich neighbor” that retired early and wealthy. Students who maintain a “B” average qualify for Tech Prep college credit. Just think if you took this class and MOS I and II you could graduate from Meridian High School with 10 college credits having never left campus.

Pre-Algebra
Prereq: None
This course is a way to prepare students for Algebra and future math courses. Students will work in teams to strengthen basic math skills, expand their understanding of algebraic properties, and form connections between math and the world around us. All students enrolled in Pre-Algebra are required to take a Pre-Algebra/Academic studies class (ASC).

Algebra I
Students will be exposed to a powerful set of mathematical tools called Algebra. As a set of tools, Algebra forms the foundation of higher mathematics. Students will collaborate with other students as members of study teams. Emphasis is placed on the understanding of patterns as tables, rules, and graphs. All students enrolled in Algebra 1 are required to take an Algebra 1/Academic studies class (ASC).

Geometry
This course centers on the study of shapes. Students will investigate new situations, discovering relationships, and figuring out what strategies can be used to solve problems. Students will collaborate with other students as members of study teams. By the end of the year students will have an understanding of a variety of geometric principles and properties that govern the world around us.

Algebra 2 (4 year College Requirement)
Study will focus on functions including linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, absolute value, simple rational, logarithmic, and square root equations. Other topics include conics, sequences and series, systems with and without matrices, and complex numbers. Students will collaborate with other students as members of study teams. Whenever possible, topics will be investigated in context of real problems. All students enrolled in Algebra 2 are required to take an Algebra 2/Academic studies class (ASC).

Pre-Calculus (4 year College Recommendation)
Prereq: Algebra 2
Instructor Approval Required
Study will focus on trigonometry and sinusoidal motion, parent graph functions and their transformations, exponential and logarithmic functions including the natural logarithm, conics, polar functions, vectors, sequences and series, and an introduction to the fundamentals of the calculus.

AP Calculus (4 year College Recommendation)
Prereq: Math Analysis
Dependent on enrollment for 2012-2013
Instructor Approval Required
Students are required to have a TI-84 calculator. Students will approach Calculus using a four-pronged approach: numerically, graphically, algebraically, and verbally (whichever is appropriate). This course will prepare the student to take the optional Advanced Placement exam at year’s end to earn college credit. Scope and sequence for the course is: Limits, Derivatives, and Integrals; Properties of Limits; Derivatives and Indefinite Integrals; Products, Quotients, and Parametric Functions; Definite and Indefinite Integrals; The Calculus of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions; The Calculus of Growth and Decay; The Calculus of Plane and Solid Figures; Algebraic Techniques for the Elementary Functions; The Calculus of Motion, Averages, Extremes, and Vectors; The Calculus of Variable-Factor Products; and The Calculus of Functions Defined by Power Series. All students enrolled in AP Calculus class are required to take a AP Calculus/Academic studies class (ASC)
AP Statistics (4 year College Recommendation)  
Prereq: Algebra 2  
Dependent on enrollment for 2012-2013  
Instructor Approval Required  
Students are required to have a TI-84 calculator. Statistics is the science of reasoning from data. Its purpose is to aid people in making decisions based on the analysis of numerical information. Data and numerical arguments occur not only in science and the social sciences but also in almost every field of academic inquiry. In addition most people encounter statistical reasoning in everyday life. Therefore, it is appropriate and important for all educated citizens to study the principles and methods of statistics.

The emphasis in this course will be on understanding statistical concepts and on interpreting and communicating the results of statistical analyses. In other words, you will be asked to read carefully, write well, and speak knowledgeably in addition to “doing math.” You will be expected to construct and analyze numerical arguments as well as draw conclusions based on statistical evidence. You are expected to actively participate in class activities and projects throughout the course. Since statistics is applicable in everyday life and most academic fields, you will analyze genuine data from a variety of applications throughout the course. These data will span a wide variety of subject matter; most should be of interest to a general audience. All students enrolled in AP Statistics are required to take an AP Statistics/Academic studies class (ASC).

HEALTH

Health (semester)  
Prereq: Grade 10  
Health is a required one-semester sophomore class. This course deals with the systems of the human body, personality development, communicable diseases, mental disorders, first aid, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and safety education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Introduction to Physical Education  
Introduction to Physical Education is a required year-long course for all freshmen. Basic PE class procedures, expectations and skills for a variety of activities will be covered. The class is designed to prepare the new MHS student for the PE classes taught here. An emphasis is placed on student fitness and participation.

Recreational PE  
Prereq: Grade 10 or above  
Team sports, individual and dual sports, and fitness in taught in recreational sports. The emphasis will be on advanced techniques and strategies. A variety of skills and rules of sports are learned including but not limited to; flag football, volleyball, basketball, softball, indoor soccer, speedball, team handball, badminton, and pickle ball.

Fitness for Life  
Prereq: Grade 10 or above  
This course is designed to develop an overall healthy lifestyle, including instruction on nutrition and diet, aerobics, lightweight training, and alternative conditioning opportunities outside of a competitive setting.

Lifetime Sports  
Prereq: Grade 10 or above  
Students will receive basic instruction in technique, strategy, rules and safety of lifetime activities. Since many of the activities will be performed outside the school facilities, fees will be required to cover costs. This class teaches a number of activities that can be done for a lifetime to stay physical active including; bowling, tennis, archery, frisbee golf, roller hockey, floor hockey, golf, softball, bocce ball, lacrosse, and croquet.
*Approximate $25.00 fee required for field trips.

Yoga  
Prereq: Grade 11-12  
10th graders instructor approval required  
This is a semester long course offered to sophomore through seniors to gain the benefits of yoga. This class is designed to improve the students overall fitness level by flexibility, prevent injury, build muscle and endurance, and teach relaxation techniques.

Fitness and Performance  
Prereq: Grade 10 or above  
This semester long course offers students the opportunity to improve upon fitness and performance in both life and athletics. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of anaerobic, aerobic, and flexibility exercises through use of weight training, yoga, balance, and agility drills.
SCIENCES

Horticulture may satisfy the 10th grade science credit for qualifying students.

Integrated Biological Science 1
This freshman science course introduces the student to the core concepts of physical science, life science, and earth & space science while using scientific inquiry as the integrating theme.

Integrated Biological Science 2
Prereq: Grade 10 or above
Completion of Integrated Biological Science 1
This sophomore science course is designed to promote enduring understandings of biological evolution, heredity, the environment, natural resources, chemical reactions, motion and forces, and geochemical cycles while using scientific inquiry as the integrating theme.

Chemistry (4 year College Bound Requirement)
Prereq: Grades 10-12
Completion of Algebra I
Course prepares students for first year college chemistry by surveying experimentation, matter, chemical symbols, formulas, atomic structure, chemical nomenclature, gram-molecular weight concepts and balancing equations. The chemical bond, wave and quantum mechanics, kinetic theory, state of matter, gas laws, chemical equilibrium, acids, bases, and salts and solutions will be studied with numerous labs. Honors chemistry option is available for students choosing to do more in-depth homework and lab-work.

AP Biology
Prereq: Integrated Biological Science 1 and 2 - Grades 11-12
Instructor Approval Required
AP Biology aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. AP Biology includes those topics regularly covered in a college biology course for majors. The college course in biology differs significantly from the usual first high school course in biology with respect to the kind of textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, the type of laboratory work done by students, and the time and effort required of students.

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year of college. After showing themselves to be qualified on the AP Exam, some students, in their first year of college, are permitted to take upper-level college courses in biology or register for college courses for which biology is a prerequisite. Other students may have fulfilled a basic requirement for a laboratory-science course and will be able to undertake other college courses to pursue their majors.

The AP Biology course is designed to be taken by students who have already completed Science 1 and 2 with a grade of A or B (or an A or B in their last science course). They should be currently enrolled in (or have completed) Algebra 2 and Chemistry. All students enrolled in AP Biology are required to take an AP Biology/Academic studies class (ASC).

Physics (4 year College Bound Recommendation)
Prereq: Grades 11-12
Algebra I and Geometry
Physics deals with the study of the physical universe. It is helpful if the student has had chemistry and Integrated Math II, but it is not mandatory. Topics covered include scientific methods, mathematics refresher, problem solving, motion, matter and energy, mechanics, heat, light, sound, electricity and atomic structure.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Cultures
Prereq: Grade 9
World Cultures is a full year course that will examine the cultural diversity of the world by studying the different geographical regions. The course will review basic map skills and the historical background of each region. The five main themes of geography (location, movement, place, regions and human environment) will be included.
**World History (Semester)**
Prereq: Grade 10
Course covers world history from the late 1800s through the collapse of Communism. Goals of the course are to help students understand significant developments leading to WWI, connections between WWI and WWII, dramatic changes resulting from war, and post WWII developments in Europe, Asia, Middle East and Latin America.

**U.S. History & Government**
Prereq: Grade 11
The first semester of this course covers the basics of the U.S. government, including the Constitution, Political behavior, Elections, Congress, The Supreme Court, and the Presidency. The second semester covers U.S. history from 1900 through the present.

**The Law and Society**
Prereq: Grade 12
Course examines the law as it deals with the individual. Civil law (torts, consumer) and criminal law, along with certain rights, responsibilities and privileges under the law will be considered. The goal is to make every student aware of and understand his/her rights and responsibilities in a democratic society.

**Current Issues**
Prereq: Grade 12
The goal of this class is to examine contemporary events and develop the essentials of knowledge for operating in today's society. Topics will include: various domestic policy issues including the environment, education, health care, immigration, and the budget. The course will also look at key foreign policy concerns and practical economics.

**AP U.S. Government and Politics**
Prereq: Grade 12
Dependent on enrollment for 2012-2013
Instructor Approval Required
This course serves as a comprehensive study of the U.S. national government and public policy. The course will help students understand the structure and institutions of our government, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties and interest groups, public policy, civil rights, and civil liberties. Students will also gain thorough knowledge of the constitutional foundations of the U.S. government. This is a year-long course. All students enrolled in AP Government are required to take an AP Government/Academic studies class (ASC).

**Human Development (Semester)**
Prereq: Grade 12 ONLY
Do you miss coloring? Playing with play dough? Having a nap? “You mean I have to wear that thing?” (the pregnant belly) What is it like to be a parent? Just a few of the topics we explore while learning about children. This course is designed to educate students on the different aspects of Human Development, from conception to birth; from toddlers to teens; from young adults to elderly. Within this course students wear an “Empathy Belly” and get to take home “Baby Think it Over” two aspects of parenting that simulate pregnancy and caring for a baby. This course is intended to help prepare students for their responsibilities in the lives of children, teens, young adults and the elderly around them now and in their future.

**FINE ARTS:**

**ART**

**Fundamentals of Art (Semester)**
This course provides an introduction to the basics of drawing, including instruction in the use of pencil, charcoal, chalk, colored pencils, and oil pastels. The students will also be introduced to the elements of design and color. Students will learn how to mix colors and how to use various color schemes using tempera, watercolor, and acrylic paint. In addition, students will be introduced to various artists, time periods, and art movements through slide lectures and quizzes. Students will be expected to purchase and maintain a three ring binder (for art only), which will be used as a source for ideas. Advanced Art credit may be given for this class with teacher permission. This is a one-semester course.

*This course requires a $10.00 fee to cover materials due by the end of the first six weeks.

**3-D Design (Semester)**
This course offers an introduction to sculpture using a variety of building methods which include, but are not limited to: clay, plaster, paper, wood, wire and found objects. Students will be instructed in the principles of three dimensional design, the history of sculpture, and public art. Students will be expected to purchase and maintain a three ring binder (for art only), which will be used as a source for ideas. This is a one semester course.

*This course requires a $10.00 fee to cover materials due by the end of the first six weeks.

Meridian High School Course Descriptions
Updated: 05/14/12
**Advanced Art**
Prereq: Fundamentals of Art or 3-D Design
Grade 10 and above – Instructor Approval Required
This is an advanced art course in which students will begin strengthening skills and techniques from Fundamentals of Art and 3-D Design with an emphasis on drawing, painting, and sculpture. They will complete projects using a variety of two-dimensional media which will include: Graphite, Prisma color/sticks, acrylic, portrait drawing, watercolor, pastel, pen and ink. Techniques include: Drawing, shading (value, gradation, stipple, crosshatching), painting, and collage. They may also be asked to complete projects using a variety of three dimensional media including clay, plaster and wire. Students will be encouraged to continue identifying their strengths, as well as add personal expression to their projects. They will also learn to begin talking about and identifying aspects of their own works of art. Depending upon the student’s grade, (10-12) the final result may be an accumulation of artwork in which they would be able to develop an AP Art Portfolio.
*This course requires a $10.00 fee to cover materials due by the end of the first six weeks.

**AP Studio Art**
Grade 10 or above – Instructor Approval Required
AP Studio Art is recommended for students who have college-level ability. It is strongly recommended that students enrolling in AP Studio Art be extremely interested in Visual Arts. There is no exam for AP Studio Art; instead, assessment and evaluation are based upon the completion of all the requirements for the AP portfolio. Students will work toward the development of a comprehensive portfolio that may meet the requirements for entry into college-level classes. Students learn to seek out creative problems that are interesting and challenging and use goal setting, informed decision making and problem solving skills to pursue their own artistic interest in an informed way. Students are responsible for demonstrating mastery at using the elements of art to organize the principles of design in their work. A minimum of 24 works will be completed for the College Board’s exam.
*This course requires a $10.00 fee to cover materials due by the end of the first six weeks.

**Floral Design** (semester)
Prereq: Grade 11-12
Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art if taken for Art Credit
This course is a semester long course in floriculture that focuses on the art of arranging flowers and learning skills that you can apply to a floriculture related job. This course will include units on the principles and elements of design, floriculture careers, and most importantly, the basic skills in designing floral arrangements for all occasions. If you are interested in working with flowers, making boutonnieres or corsages, and bringing home arrangements to your family, this is a great class for you. Students are expected to be involved in leadership, career development, and service learning activities through class, FFA, school and community experiences.
*Class Fee: $20

**Digital Photography & Graphic Design** (Elective or Art Credit)
Prereq: As Art Credit Fundamentals of Art
Do you want to learn how to take better photos and use Photoshop? This class uses computers, digital cameras, and Photoshop. You will design and make a wide variety of projects that you can take home. Several assignment projects will allow you to make your own choices so that your personal interests can be expressed. Join this class and have a great time while being creative and learning employable skills. No previous knowledge or skills are required to take this class. Are you interested in being considered to be a part of Yearbook staff? If the answer to that question is ‘Yes’ you need to take this class.

**Yearbook**
Prereq: Instructor approval required
Fulfills – 1 Occupational Ed Credit
Cross Credit for Art Credit requires Fundamental of Art Prerequisite
This is a year-long course in which you will be creating the Meridian High School’s yearbook the Zenith. You will be introduced to and work with Photoshop, InDesign and will use digital photography. Instructor permission and initials on your registration form are required to be in this class.
MUSIC

Concert Band
Prereq: Play a band instrument
The Concert Band is made up of brass and woodwind players and percussionists who wish to continue their growth in instrumental music. The Concert Band performs master concert band literature, pep band music from the pop genre and various types of marching band music. The MHS concert band performs in concerts, festivals, graduation, parades, sporting events, school and community events. Percussionists are also members of the MHS Drum line, which meets once a week in the evening. Most graded performance events take place outside of the school day. Each student will be required to attend all concerts and performances. This course may be repeated for credit. Students of the music department will also participate in ASB fundraising.

Jazz Band
Prereq: Audition and Instructor Approval
(.50 credit—full year commitment)
The Jazz Ensemble explores various styles of music, such as blues, swing, pop, rock, latin and funk. The MHS jazz ensemble performs in concerts, festivals, school and community events. Most graded performance events take place outside of the school day. Each student will be required to attend all concerts and performances.

The Jazz Ensemble rehearses two times per week during zero hour (6:55am to 7:45am) and an occasional evening sectional. Experience on a musical instrument is required. First priority is given to students enrolled in the concert band class. This course may be repeated for credit. Students of the music department will also participate in ASB fundraising.

Concert Choir
Prereq: None
Offered to all students, choir introduces the principles of music theory, vocal technique and sight-singing through choral master literature, Broadway and popular music. The MHS concert choir performs in concerts, festivals, school and community events. Most graded performance events take place outside of the school day. Each student will be required to attend all concerts and performances. This course may be repeated for credit. Students of the music department will also participate in ASB fundraising.

Chamber Choir
Prereq: Audition and Instructor Approval
(.50 credit—full year commitment)
The Chamber Choir explores varying styles of pop and A Cappella choral literature from several different time periods. The MHS Chamber Choir performs in concerts, festivals, school and community events. Most graded performance events take place outside of the school day. Each student will be required to attend all concerts and performances.

The Chamber Choir rehearses two times per week during zero hour (6:55am to 7:45am) and an occasional evening. A basic understanding and demonstration of vocal skills and sight singing are required. Students of the music department will also participate in ASB fundraising.

OCCUPATIONAL COURSES:

AGRICULTURE

Beginning Metals (Semester)
This is an introductory course in agricultural mechanics. It includes units on metal shop tools and safety, arc and MIG welding, oxygen and acetylene cutting, sheet metal fabrication and soldering, hot iron forge work, and tap and die. Students’ first pair of safety glasses will be provided. The school will provide communal welding gloves and coveralls for this class. Students will also have the opportunity to showcase their skills through displays, projects and career development events facilitated through course work and FFA participation.
*Shop fee $25.00
Intermediate Metals  (Semester)  Prereq: Intermediate Metals and Instructor Approval
This is a continuation of beginning metals however the student will learn to weld GMAW with E7018, E6013, and E6010 welding rods. They will also be expected to become proficient in GMAW (MIG) welding in various processes and metal thickness. There will also be a section on oxy-acetylene welding. The students will learn the plasma arc cutting process. There will be a culminating project that will test all the skills they have learned in both beginning and intermediate welding. The students’ first pair of safety glasses will be provided. The school will provide communal welding gloves and coveralls.
*Shop fee $25.00

Advanced Metals  Prereq: Beginning Metals and Instructor Approval
Can be repeated for credit
This is a SEMESTER/YEAR – (could enroll for either semester or for the year) course in advanced agricultural mechanics. After a shop safety review, the semester will be spent working on independent projects of the student’s choice. The course will further develop skills learned in beginning metals and small gas engines and the opportunity for application of those skills. This is an excellent class for career preparation for mechanics or engineering careers. The school will provide the first pair of safety glasses and communal welding gloves and coveralls. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their skills through displays, projects and career development events facilitated through course work and FFA participation.
*Shop Fees: $25.00 initial fee and additional fees may apply depending on student projects.

Horticulture  Prereq: Grade 10 and above
Fulfills - Occupational Ed, or Elective Credit for 3rd or 4th year science. (This class may satisfy the 10th grade science credit for qualifying students.)
Students will participate in learning the plant science required for the commercial production of bedding plants and hanging baskets. A large part of this class will be spent in the greenhouse performing “hands-on” activities with various plants and propagation methods. Turf and landscape management and floral design units will be explored. Students will also have the opportunity to showcase their skills through displays, projects and career development events facilitated through displays, projects and career development events facilitated through course work and FFA participation.

Agricultural Communications  Prereq: Grade 10 and above
Instructor Approval required
Repeable for credit
An independent study class designed for advanced students to pursue extended learning activities in FFA or an agricultural related field of interest. This class may be repeated for credit and must have instructor approval. This class will meet outside of class time once a week, dates and times TBD.

Advanced Horticulture  Prereq: Horticulture
Instructor Approval required

BUSINESS

Microsoft Office Specialist  (MOS I) (Semester)
You will be able to earn your industry standard MTA (Microsoft Technology Associate) certification in this class for free! Do you want to spend less time doing homework? Do you want to have your other teachers think, “How in the world did they do that?” You will learn how to use Microsoft Office efficiently and effectively so that you won’t have to spend as much time doing papers and projects in other classes. Not only will learn how to use Microsoft Office which will help you in high school and college but with your MTA certification you will be ahead of the competition when applying for jobs. Students who earn a “B” or better qualify for Tech Prep college credit. Just think if you took this class and Accounting you could graduate from Meridian High School with seven college credits in addition to your high school credits.

Accounting  (Year)  Prereq: Post HESP Math
Possible Cross Credit with Math and Occupational Ed
This course offers principles of accounting for personal and business use. Students will learn to keep and prepare financial records for a small business. This is an excellent class for students who plan to operate a business, work in the business world, or plan to take accounting in college. Also, in the course we look at personal finances and learn how to become that “rich neighbor” that retired early and wealthy. Students who maintain a “B” average qualify for Tech Prep college credit.

Meridian High School Course Descriptions
Updated: 05/14/12
Computer Applications 🖥️ (Semester)
Do you have aspirations of becoming a graphic designer? Have you ever wanted to ‘Photoshop’ pictures? You will be introduced to the power of Photoshop. You will create a variety images. We will concentrate on manipulating images into fantastic works of art. You will learn what the professionals do to literally every picture that you see in every magazine you see. This is a project-based class with only one (yes only one) test. If you have aspirations of being a part of the Yearbook staff you should take this class.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Family and Consumer Science A: Introduction to Foods & Nutrition  (Semester)
This course focuses on beginning foods preparation and nutrition. Students are introduced to basic principles and skills in planning, preparing and serving nutritious, economical foods. Includes written, oral and practical laboratory experience and assignments.
*$20.00 Lab Fee Required

Family and Consumer Science B: Consumerism & Design  (Semester)
This course focuses on a basic understanding of Advertising and Marketing; an introduction to Interior Design; and Fashion: clothing selection, care, and basic construction (sewing) skills. Students will need to purchase sewing supplies and materials for two to three sewing projects; estimated cost is $25-30. Written, oral and practical laboratory experience and assignment.
*$25.00 to $30.00 Cost

Introduction to Culinary Arts 🍔 (Semester)  
Prereq: Family and Consumer Science A  
Grade 10 and above  
Instructor Approval Required
“Food glorious Food!” Yes, you will get to eat food! This course is designed to introduce students to many aspects of the food industry. From the knowledge and application of fundamental cooking techniques, to an understanding and demonstrated practice of food safety and sanitation principles, to an exploration of careers within the food industry, students will be exposed to a wide range of culinary topics. Some of these include: kitchen proficiency, food safety and sanitation, career exploration, table setting/etiquette, nutrition, meal planning, garnishing/presentation, and much more. The course will consist of lecture, demonstration, video, guest speakers and practical lab applications. Students may receive credit from BTC.
*$20.00 Lab Fee Required

Independent Living  (Semester)  
Prereq: Grade 10 and above
What do I need to live away from home? Yes, this course focuses on “Life Skills” for living on one’s own after high school graduation. Topics for knowledge and skill development include: career exploration, post high school education/training opportunities, banking, credit, Major purchases, (car, housing, insurance), income taxes, legal documents and other topics of interest.

Human Development (Semester)  
Prereq: Grade 12 ONLY
Do you miss coloring? Playing with play dough? Having a nap? “You mean I have to wear that thing?” (the pregnant belly) What is it like to be a parent? Just a few of the topics we explore while learning about children. This course is designed to educate students on the different aspects of Human Development, from conception to birth; from toddlers to teens; from young adults to elderly. Within this course students wear an “Empathy Belly” and get to take home “Baby Think it Over” two aspects of parenting that simulate pregnancy and caring for a baby. This course is intended to help prepare students for their responsibilities in the lives of children, teens, young adults and the elderly around them now and in their future.

LEADERSHIP
This is year-long elective class for ASB officers
Fulfills - 1 Occupational Ed Credit
$30.00 ASB Card Required
This course is designed to help students learn the functions of student government, parliamentary procedure, organization and human relation skills related to fundraising and other activities. Topics will include record keeping methods, including ASB budget and spending. A technology and communication focus will be included as students learn to use various computer applications to produce products for use in advertisement and communications with regard to Student Government and ASB activities. Students can expect to perform some work outside of the regular class time to earn leadership hours as well as community service hours.

Meridian High School Course Descriptions
Updated: 05/14/12
TECHNOLOGY

Computer-Aided Design (CAD) (Semester)
Everything from video games to clothing, jewelry and homes is now designed using computers. This class is an introduction to design, manufacturing and shop processes. You will design, draw, and then construct various projects in the lab. You will also gain experience in planning, organizing and producing drawings and products commonly found in business and industry. Join this class and learn how to use both 2-D and 3-D Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software as well as designing and building test models.

Wood Technology 1 (Semester)
In this course you will create personal projects in the wood shop! The goal of this class is to provide you with the opportunity to plan and construct products made of wood and other materials. Topics to be covered include use of hand and power tools, shop safety, methods of construction, and finishing techniques. Students learn how to select materials, plan, design, build, and finish a project. Students also learn about careers related to wood technology and the skills required to obtain these jobs. Components of employability and leadership skills are covered throughout the duration of the course. No previous knowledge or skills are required to take this class, just a strong interest to be creative. **Students are to supply their own wood and materials after the 1st project.**

A $10-$12 lab fee is required and due at the beginning of the course.

Digital Photography & Graphic Design (Semester) (Elective or Art Credit)
Cross Credit for Art Credit requires Fundamental of Art Prerequisite
Want to learn how to take better photos and use Photoshop? This class uses computers, digital cameras, and Photoshop. You will design and make a wide variety of projects that you can take home. Several assignment projects will allow you to make your own choices so that your personal interests can be expressed. Join this class and have a great time while being creative and learning employable skills. No previous knowledge or skills are required to take this class. Are you interested in being considered to be a part of Yearbook staff? If the answer to that question is 'Yes' you need to take this class.

YEARBOOK
Prereq: Instructor approval required
Fulfills – 1 Occupational Ed Credit
Grade 10 and above
Cross Credit for Art Credit requires Fundamental of Art Prerequisite
This is a year-long course in which you will be creating the Meridian High School’s yearbook the Zenith. You will be introduced to and work with Photoshop, InDesign and will use digital photography. Instructor permission and initials on your registration form are required to be in this class.

WORK BASED LEARNING
Prereq: Instructor approval required
Grade 11 or above
This program will allow the student to gain useful knowledge and experience about the world of work while completing his/her education. Student must have a job. A maximum of one credit can be earned in work-study in the semester. The hours required for one credit are a weekly average of 12.50 and the student is required to turn in a work record on a monthly basis to ensure that this average is met. A student may earn no more than two work-study credits toward high school graduation. Students will be required to attend a work experience class, culminating in a portfolio of student work. Arrangements must be made through instructor for enrollment in this class.

WORLD LANGUAGE:
*Students must receive a passing grade from their world language class at the end of each semester in order to progress to the next semester of language study.*

SPANISH

Spanish I (4 year college requirement)
Prereq: Grades 10, 11 or 12 with a recommended cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better with recommended “B” average in English.
This course is an introduction to the Spanish language. Students will practice comprehending, speaking, reading and writing fundamental Spanish through oral and written exercises and classroom games. Second semester will expand on vocabulary and will include additional complex grammar structures, as well as introduce all present tense verb groups. Conversational and written language proficiency are emphasized.

Meridian High School Course Descriptions
Updated: 05/14/12
Spanish II (4 year college requirement)  Prereq: Grades 11 or 12 and completion/passing of Spanish I

This course builds on principles covered in Spanish I. Students study more complex aspects of written and spoken Spanish, using methods applied in Spanish I. Past tense is thoroughly studied, as well as other vocabulary groups that broaden conversational and written skills. Oral participation is a significant part of the grade.

ELECTIVES:

Introduction to Agriculture (Yearlong)  Prereq: None
This orientation course provides the opportunity for students to learn how the agricultural industry is organized; its major components; the economic influence of agriculture at state, national and international levels; and the scope and types of job opportunities in the agricultural field. Basic concepts in animal science, plant science, soil science, horticulture, natural resources, agribusiness management, agricultural biotechnology, food science technology and environmental science will be presented. Students will have a Supervised Agricultural Experience Project to complete during this course. This course promotes FFA involvement and meets the criteria to be involved in the FFA Organization.

"Students in FFA must take at least one Ag course every year to remain in FFA. Likewise, students in Ag classes are strongly encouraged to be in FFA."

ASSISTANTS – LIBRARY/OFFICE/TEACHER
Students may take no more than one class per semester and a total of 2 credits of assistant classes.

Library Assistant  Prereq: Grades 11-12
Permission from librarian required
Library assistants will perform a variety of daily tasks such as collecting mail, taking statistics, checking materials in and out, filing and shelving materials, preparing and repairing books, and running errands. They will be expected to learn the operation of the library well enough to help students and teachers use the library.

Teacher Assistant  Prereq: Grades 11-12
Instructor approval required
The TA course is designed to give students direct knowledge of the teaching profession by working closely with a selected teacher and his/her students.

LifeSkills Assistant  Prereq: Grades 11-12
Instructor approval required

IRPS Assistant  Prereq: Grades 11-12
Instructor approval required

Office Assistant  Grade level: 11-12
Principal Approval Required
Repeat for credit: Yes
Course description: Need a chance to develop skills in customer service, business machine operation, and telephone etiquette? Earn an occupational or elective credit while growing your resume for countless jobs in your future. TA’s will learn a variety of useful tasks, including how to run copy machines, use a multi-line phone system, and attend to customer needs in a busy office or classroom setting. Students are responsible for a pass/fail graded curriculum to include a total of 10 assignments (journal entries, resume, and reflection letter).

Floral Design A and B (Over 2 semesters)  Prereq: Grade 11-12
Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art if taken for Art Credit
This course is a semester long course in floriculture that focuses on the art of arranging flowers and learning skills that you can apply to a floriculture related job. This course will include units on the principles and elements of design, floriculture careers, and most importantly, the basic skills in designing floral arrangements for all occasions. If you are interested in working with flowers, making boutonnieres or corsages, and bringing home arrangements to your family, this is a great class for you. Students are expected to be involved in leadership, career development, and service learning activities through class, FFA, school and community experiences.
Class Fee: $20

Meridian High School Course Descriptions
Updated: 05/14/12