

Course Catalog 2026-2027



MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL

194 W. Laurel Rd. | Bellingham, Washington | (360) 398-8111
<https://www.meridian.wednet.edu/mhs/>

MR. SHAUN DOFFING, PRINCIPAL

MR. ROB ZABEL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MS. CHERYL McBRIDE & MR. DON McMAINS, COUNSELORS

INTRODUCTION

This packet contains important information about graduation requirements and the courses available at MHS. It's designed to help you meet your graduation goals and prepare for life after high school.

In addition to traditional classes, MHS offers several exciting options like AP courses, College in the High School, Running Start, and NCTA programs. Learning about these opportunities can help you make informed decisions for next year and beyond.

As you plan your schedule, keep in mind:

- The courses listed in this packet will only run if enough students sign up.
- The classes you choose now will shape your schedule for next year and influence what you'll need to take in the future.
- Signing up for a class is a commitment, and schedule changes may not be possible later.
- Courses can help support you in your graduation pathway (see more below) - make sure you're thinking about what yours will be before you request courses

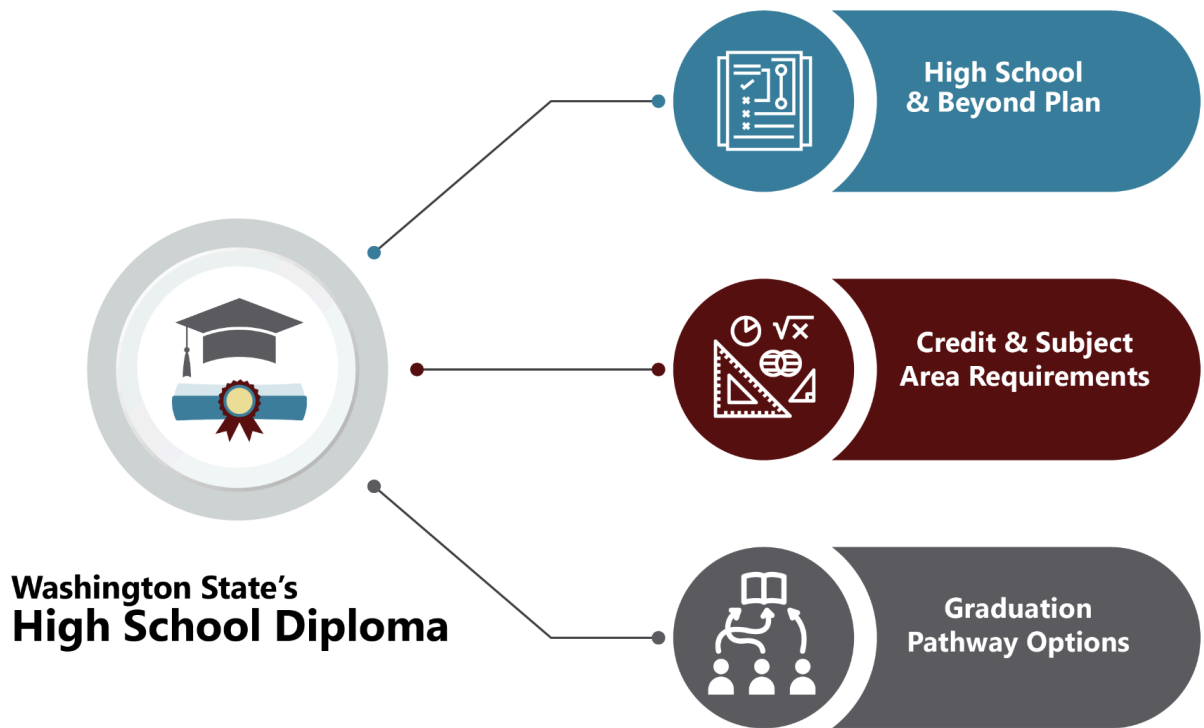
An electronic version of this catalog is available online at MHS Counseling webpage. Take time to explore your options and think carefully about your interests and goals.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Washington State Diploma Requirements	3
High School and Beyond Plan	4
Credit and Subject Area Requirements	5
Graduation Pathway Options	7
Dual Credit Opportunities	8
Academic Acceleration Policy	10
Preparing for Next Steps After High School	10
Course Descriptions - English	11
Course Descriptions - Mathematics	14
Course Descriptions - Social Studies	18
Course Descriptions - Science	21
Course Descriptions - World Language	25
Course Descriptions - Health & Physical Education	26
Course Descriptions - Agriculture	28
Course Descriptions - Arts & Music	33
Course Descriptions - Business & Computer Science	36
Course Descriptions - Family Consumer Science	39
Course Descriptions - Special Programs	42
Course Descriptions - Other Opportunities	45

WASHINGTON STATE DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Earning a Washington State High School Diploma involves three key steps: the **High School & Beyond Plan**, **Credit & Subject Area Requirements**, and **Graduation Pathway Options**. These ensure students set goals, complete required courses, and prepare for life after high school—whether that means college, a career, or another path.



Each step helps create a personalized and well-rounded plan for graduation, which this catalog will explain in more detail over the next several pages.

HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND PLAN

The **High School and Beyond Plan** (HSBP) is a graduation requirement designed to help students set and work toward their future goals. It encourages students to explore their interests, career options, education paths, and create a personalized course of study that aligns with these goals. Students take ownership of their high school experience by choosing courses and activities relevant to their plan. Each year, they revisit and update their HSBP as they make progress. The HSBP guides students in selecting their courses and making post-high school plans.

HSBP Checklist:

- Career Interest Inventory
- Educational Goals
- Four-Year Course Plan
- Personal Pathway Requirement
- Resume
- State and Other Assessments
- Interventions and Supports (if state assessment not passed)
- Transcript and Progress Review



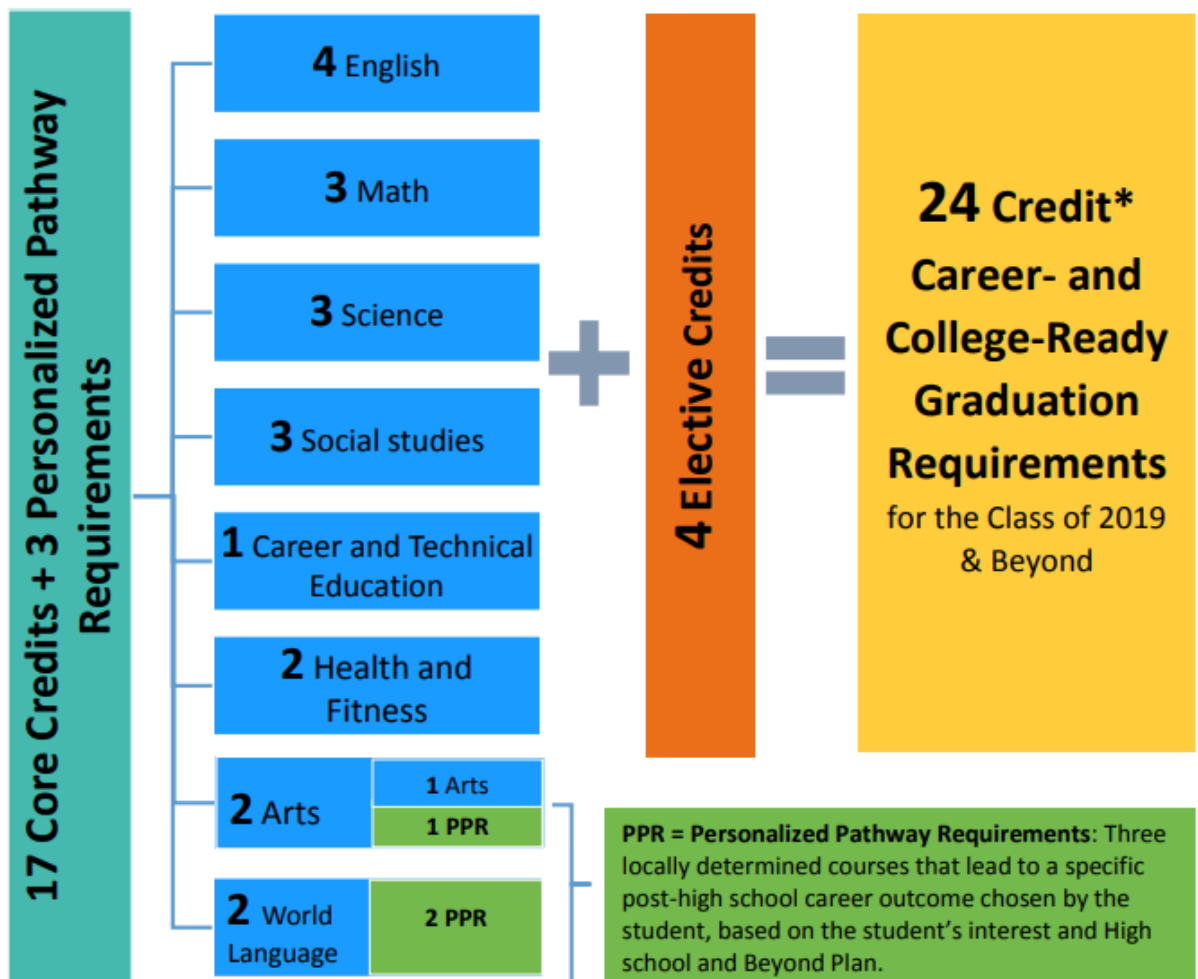
CREDIT & SUBJECT AREA REQUIREMENTS

The second requirement to earn a Washington State high school diploma is to meet **credit and subject area requirements**. The 24 credits required for graduation are distributed across specific subject areas. For detailed requirements of individual courses, please refer to the descriptions on the following pages based on your graduation year.

24-Credit Career- and College-Ready Graduation Requirements:

How Do the 24-Credit Graduation Requirements Add Up?

$$17 + 3 + 4 = 24$$



CREDIT & SUBJECT AREA REQUIREMENTS

CLASS OF 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029

To graduate, students must earn 24 credits, with each course providing 0.5 credits per semester. Only semester grades are recorded on the official transcript, while six-week and twelve-week grades are progress reports and do not appear on the transcript.

ENGLISH - 4 Credits (8 semesters)

- English 9: 1 credit (2 semesters)
- English 10: 1 credit (2 semesters)
- English 11: 1 credit (2 semesters)
- English 12: 1 credit (2 semesters)

FINE ARTS – 2 Credits (4 semester) (1 Credit can be substituted based on HS & Beyond Plan)

- Courses include fine arts and music. See course descriptions in this catalog.

HEALTH AND FITNESS – 2 credits (4 semesters)

- Physical Education: 1.5 credits (3 semesters)
- Health: 0.5 credit (1 semester)

MATH – 3 credits (6 semesters)

- Algebra 1: 1 credit (2 semesters)
- Geometry: 1 credit (2 semesters)
- 1 additional credit (2 semesters) based on High School & Beyond Plan

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) – 1 credit (2 semesters)

- Courses include agriculture, business, computer science, family & consumer science, and work-based learning. See course descriptions in this catalog.

SCIENCE - 3 credits (6 semesters)

- Lab Science: 2 credits minimum (2 semesters minimum) Options include: Biology, AP Biology, Food Science, Chemistry, or Physics
- Non-Lab Science Options: Plant Science

SOCIAL STUDIES – 3 credits (6 semesters)

- World History: Social Studies Elective: 1 credit (2 semesters)
- U.S. History: 1 credit (2 semesters)
- Civics: 0.5 credit (1 semester)
- Contemporary World Problems: 0.5 credit (1 semester)

WORLD LANGUAGE – 2 credits (4 semesters)

- Two consecutive years of the same world language
- Can be replaced with electives based on High School & Beyond Plan

ELECTIVES – 4 credits (8 semesters)

- Additional courses chosen based on the High School & Beyond Plan and interest

GRADUATION PATHWAY OPTIONS

The third element of earning a high school diploma is completing a **graduation pathway**. There are eight ways a student can meet this requirement. To fulfill the pathway, students need one qualifying score in English Language Arts (ELA) and one in Math. Students may combine options from the list below to meet the requirement. Note that Options 2 and 7 do not require separate ELA and Math scores.

Option 1: AP Courses

- Advanced Placement (AP): Earn a C+ or better in an AP course for ELA or Math

Option 2: CTE Sequence of Courses

- Complete 2 or more credits in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that includes either a dual-credit course, or leads to an industry-recognized credential
 - At Meridian, the following CTE sequences are offered: Agriculture, Foods, Business and Marketing

Option 3: Dual-Credit Courses

- Running Start Courses: Pass an ELA or Math course at the 100 level or higher
- College in the High School: Pass an eligible ELA or Math course

Option 4: Transition Course

- Bridge to College Courses: Pass the Bridge to College English course

Option 5: ACT or SAT Scores

- ACT: ELA = 14, Math = 16
- SAT: ELA = 410, Math = 430

Option 6: AP Exam Scores

- Advanced Placement (AP): Earn score 3 or higher on an AP exam for ELA or Math

Option 7: ASVAB Qualifying Exam Score

- Score **31** on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) exam

Option 8: Statewide Assessments (Smarter Balanced / WA-AIM)

- Smarter Balanced Test: ELA = 2548, Math = 2595
- WA-AIM Test: ELA = 104, Math = 103

DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Dual Credit allows high school students to earn both high school and college credit for the same course. This gives students a head start on their postsecondary education by allowing them to complete college-level coursework while still in high school. Dual credit opportunities can include Advanced Placement (AP) courses, College in the High School programs, Running Start, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Dual Credit courses, and partnerships with post-secondary institutions. These programs provide students with the chance to gain valuable college experience, earn credits at a reduced cost, and strengthen their college applications.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

AP courses are college-level classes offered at the high school. Students can earn college credit by doing well on the AP exam. Students who sign up for AP courses are expected to complete the full year of the course. Look for the AP logo next to the course title in the catalog.

College in the High School

This program allows high school students to earn college credit while staying at their high school. The program partners with local colleges, and students pay a reduced price for college credit (no extra fees or book costs). Students must meet grade requirements to earn college credit. Look for the logo next to eligible courses. College registration for these classes will take place in the fall.

Running Start

Running Start allows juniors and seniors to take college classes at Whatcom Community College or Bellingham Technical College and earn both high school and college credits. Students are responsible for paying for books and any class fees, as well as providing their own transportation. Some students may qualify for fee waivers. Both students and parents must attend an informational meeting and sign an agreement. Colleges require an in-person meeting for all students who are newly enrolled in Running Start.

CTE Dual Credit

This program allows students to earn both high school and college credit for certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Students must demonstrate proficiency by earning a “B” or better in the course to qualify for college credit. CTE Dual Credit courses are mainly for two-year technical programs, but students should check with four-year colleges about transfer policies. Registration for college credit must happen during the school year in which the course is taken. Look for the CTE Dual Credit logo next to eligible courses.

Northwest Career & Technical Academy

NCTA offers programs to equip students with skills, certifications, and experience for employment or further education. Whether entering the workforce, pursuing an apprenticeship, or continuing at college, NCTA provides essential training. Tuition-free courses are available to high school juniors, seniors, and young adults aged 16-20 without a diploma. Students gain experience and credentials while earning high school and college credits. Some programs may have industry-related costs or lab fees, and students must provide their own transportation for courses outside session 1 on the Mount Vernon campus. Explore NCTA programs and shape your future! Learn more at nwtech.k12.wa.us. Applications open February 14, 2026. Don't delay!

ACADEMIC ACCELERATION POLICY

High school students will be automatically enrolled in more advanced courses if they meet the state standard on the statewide student assessment. After completing these advanced courses successfully, students will move on to even more challenging courses, with the goal of eventually enrolling in dual credit courses. The courses students are enrolled in will be based on their performance in specific subjects on the assessment. Parents and students can choose to opt out of participating in this process for any or all of the content areas assessed. See a counselor for opt-out information.

PREPARING FOR NEXT STEPS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

When planning for life after high school, it's important to understand the specific requirements for different post-secondary pathways. Whether pursuing community college, technical training, military service, or a four-year university, students should ensure they meet the necessary qualifications to keep their options open.

Navy:

- General Education Degree (GED)

Community College, Technical College, Army, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard:

- Meridian High School Diploma

4-Year University:

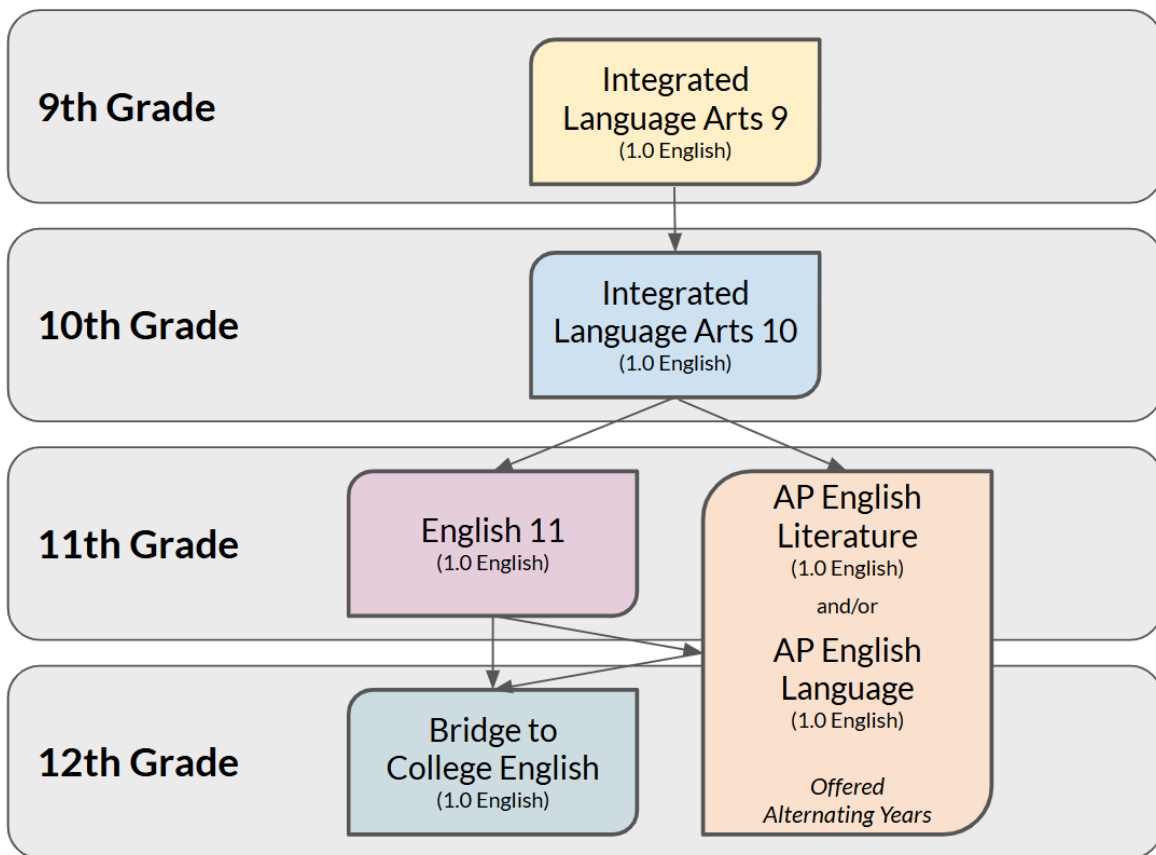
- World Language: 2+ years of the same language
- Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Mathematics: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics
- Senior Year: Quantitative Math or Algebra-based Science (e.g., Chemistry, Physics, AP Biology) or completion of Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics, or AP Calculus
- Students should check individual college requirements to see if SAT or ACT tests are needed and what other prerequisites may be required for admission

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English Department

The English Department at MHS is committed to developing students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking to prepare them for success in high school, college, and beyond. Our curriculum offers a range of courses, including foundational classes, Advanced Placement options, and the Bridge to College program, all aligned with Washington State's K-12 Learning Standards. Students engage with literature, nonfiction, and poetry while building strong analytical and communication skills. Through opportunities to write creatively, persuasively, and academically, students learn to express their ideas effectively. The department also emphasizes habits of mind like independence, persistence, and reflection, ensuring students are ready for future academic and career challenges.

4 credits required for graduation



Students who are identified as part of the Multilingual Learners program or have an Individualized Education Plan may not follow this pathway and should work with their counselor to determine their English course of study.

Integrated Language Arts (ILA) 9

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
English

This class has four main units: Narrative, Informational, Argumentative, and Poetry/Drama, and focuses on building key reading and writing skills. Students will learn how to closely read and take notes on stories, poems, and other texts. They will practice writing essays, editing their own work, and giving feedback to classmates. Students will also develop skills for informational and argumentative writing. The class includes learning grammar basics, parts of speech, and key terms for literature, poetry, and writing to build a strong foundation for future learning. *This is a required course for all 9th grade students.*

Integrated Language Arts (ILA) 10

Prerequisites:
ILA9

Grade Level:
10th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
English

This class has four main units: Narrative, Informational, Argumentative, and Poetry/Drama. Students will write stories, research papers, and speeches while learning storytelling, research, and argument techniques. They will also analyze figurative language and poetic structures to better understand Macbeth by William Shakespeare. Throughout the course, students will practice analytical writing, self-editing, and peer feedback to improve their skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking. *This is a required course for all 10th grade students.*

English 11 - Bridge to College English Prep

Prerequisites:
ILA9, ILA 10

Grade Level:
11th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
English

This course focuses on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research based on Washington State's K-12 Learning Standards for English Language Arts (Common Core State Standards). Students will build skills in critical reading, academic writing, research, and effective communication to prepare for college and careers. The course also helps students develop important habits for success, such as working independently, staying persistent, and thinking about their own learning (metacognition) to support future growth and achievement.

English 12 - Bridge to College English

Prerequisites:
ILA9, ILA 10, English 11

Grade Level:
12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
English

This course focuses on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research skills based on Washington State's K-12 Learning Standards for English Language Arts (Common Core State Standards). The course strengthens essential, practical reading and writing skills for success in any path after high school – college, trades, or the workforce.

AP AP English Language and Composition**THIS COURSE NOT OFFERED 2026-2027, BUT MAY BE OFFERED 2027-2028**Prerequisites:
ILA9, ILA 10Grade Level:
11th or 12thLength:
YearlongCredit:
English

AP English Language and Composition offers high school students the chance to earn college credit by passing the AP exam in May. The class is similar to an introductory college course and focuses on studying and writing analytically and persuasively on nonliterary topics. Students will develop their writing skills by studying style, effective techniques, and how authors craft their work. This course prepares students for college-level writing and opens opportunities for success in higher education. Students may have the opportunity to earn college credit by scoring at certain levels on the AP exam in May - see your college's guidelines to determine the score needed.

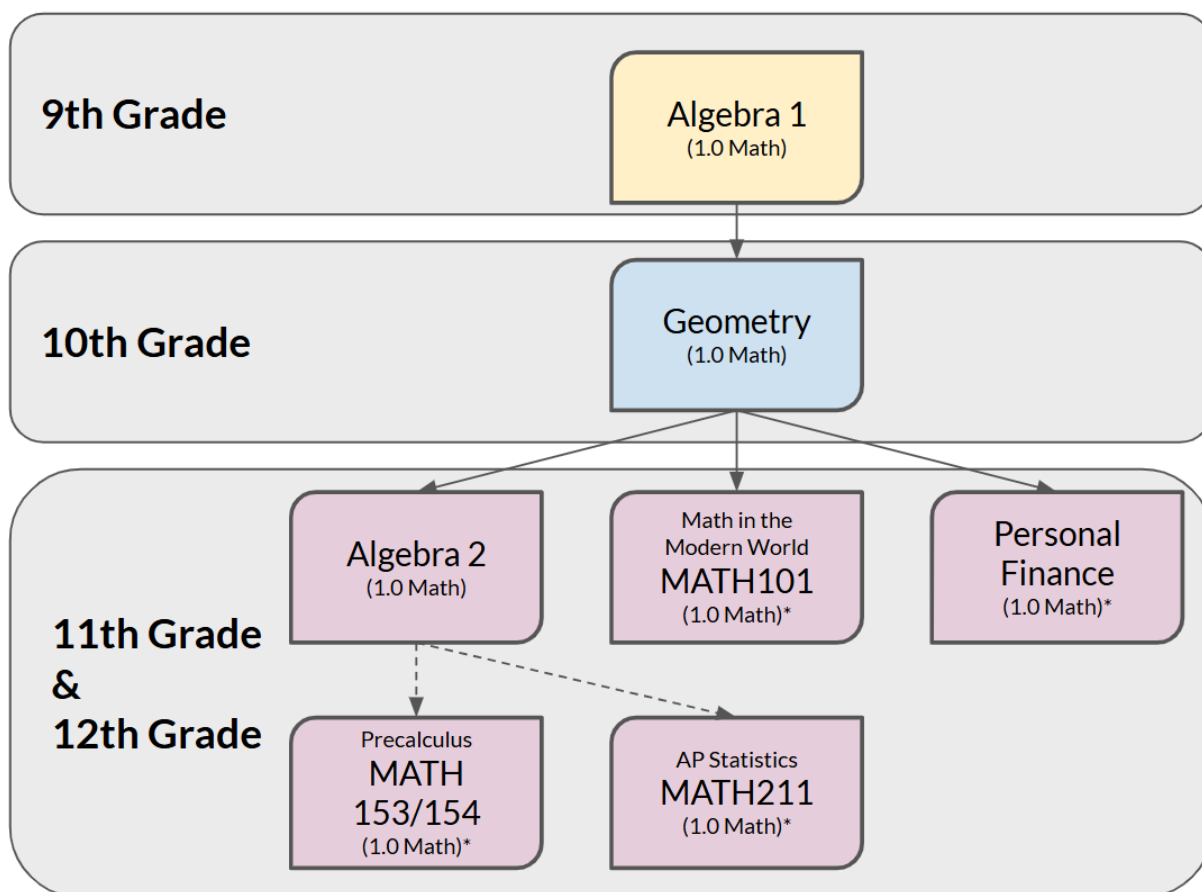
AP AP English Literature and CompositionPrerequisites:
ILA9, ILA 10Grade Level:
11th or 12thLength:
YearlongCredit:
English

Students in this course will read two novels over the summer, complete notes, and write an essay before the class begins. Throughout the year, they will engage in independent, college-level reading. Students will analyze poems, short stories, plays, and novels, focusing on language, structure, and themes. Writing practice includes essays, timed writes, and dialectical journaling, emphasizing voice, style, and fluency. Students may have the opportunity to earn college credit by scoring at certain levels on the AP exam in May - see your college's guidelines to determine the score needed.

Mathematics Department

The Math Department is dedicated to providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in mathematics and beyond. Our courses emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, and real-world applications, preparing students for academic and career opportunities. From foundational algebra to advanced topics like calculus, statistics, and trigonometry, we offer a comprehensive curriculum to meet diverse student needs. Our department fosters a collaborative learning environment, encouraging students to explore mathematical concepts, develop confidence, and achieve their full potential. With a focus on rigor, relevance, and support, the Math Department equips students to navigate a data-driven world with competence and curiosity.

3 credits required for graduation



**courses marked with an asterisk are eligible as a graduation pathway for mathematics*

Algebra 1

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

This course focuses on the study of linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, exploring their properties through tables, graphs, and equations. Students will also examine arithmetic and geometric sequences, solve linear and quadratic equations, and analyze systems of linear equations. Emphasis is placed on understanding the relationships between different representations of functions and developing problem-solving skills to apply these concepts in various contexts.

Algebra 2

Prerequisites:
Algebra 1, Geometry

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

Algebra 2 is a rigorous, fast-paced course for highly motivated and capable math students who have successfully completed Algebra 1 and Geometry. This in-depth study of advanced algebra covers all major Algebra 2 topics with greater complexity and depth, and may include introductory analytical geometry, conic sections, and circular functions. Logical development and sequencing of mathematical concepts are emphasized. Students are expected to dedicate significant time and effort to self-directed study and readings.

Geometry

Prerequisites:
Algebra 1

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

This course explores the study of shapes and geometric principles through investigation and problem-solving. Students will analyze new situations, discover relationships, and develop strategies to solve problems. Collaborative work in study teams will enhance understanding and communication skills. By the end of the year, students will have a strong grasp of geometric principles and properties that shape the world around us.

MATH101 - Math in the Modern World

Prerequisites:
Algebra 1, Geometry

Grade Level:
11th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

This course develops critical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills through the exploration of mathematical concepts and their applications in modern society. Students will enhance their ability to explain mathematical information in various forms, convert it between forms, and perform accurate calculations. They will use mathematics to draw conclusions, evaluate assumptions in estimation, modeling, and data analysis, and effectively communicate their mathematical thinking. Selected topics emphasize the development and real-world applications of mathematics. Students may have the opportunity to earn college credit via the College in the High School program - see your college's guidelines to determine the score needed.

MATH153 / MATH154 - Pre-Calculus (formerly MATH141 / MATH142)

Prerequisites:
Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2

Grade Level:
11th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

This course focuses on advanced mathematical topics, including trigonometry and sinusoidal motion, parent graph functions and their transformations, exponential and logarithmic functions (including natural logarithms), conics, polar functions, vectors, sequences and series, and an introduction to calculus fundamentals. Students are required to use a TI-84 calculator, with a limited number available for checkout from the school library. Students may have the opportunity to earn college credit via the College in the High School program - see your college's guidelines to determine the score needed.

MATH 172 / MATH 173 - AP Calculus

Prerequisites:
Pre-Calculus

Grade Level:
11th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

Students will solve Calculus problems using numerical, graphical, algebraic, and verbal analysis. This course will prepare students to take the optional Advanced Placement exam at year's end. The course will cover: Limits and their properties; Derivatives; Definite and Indefinite Integrals; the Calculus of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions; Growth and Decay; Plane and Solid Figures; Particle Motion; and Averages and Extremes. We will use Calculus to model mathematical functions and to analyze various real world applications including accumulation, areas, and volumes

AP MATH211 - AP Statistics (formerly MATH146)

Prerequisites:
Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

Statistics is the science of reasoning from data, helping people make decisions based on numerical analysis. This course emphasizes understanding statistical concepts, interpreting and communicating results, and constructing and analyzing numerical arguments. Students will actively participate in class activities and projects, using genuine data from various real-world applications and academic fields. A focus on reading, writing, and speaking about statistical evidence complements the mathematical components of the course. Students are required to have a TI-84 calculator, with a limited number available for checkout in the school library. Students may have the opportunity to earn college credit via the College in the High School* program or by scoring at certain levels on the AP exam in May - see your college's guidelines to determine the score needed.

Math Tools

Prerequisites:
Co-Enrollment in Algebra 1,
Counselor Permission

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Elective

Math Tools is a support class designed to reinforce and deepen understanding of Algebra 1 concepts. This class complements the Algebra 1 curriculum by providing additional instruction, guided practice, and opportunities for individualized assistance. Students will strengthen their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills, building confidence and proficiency as they progress through the high school math sequence.

Personal Finance

Prerequisites:
Algebra 1, Geometry

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

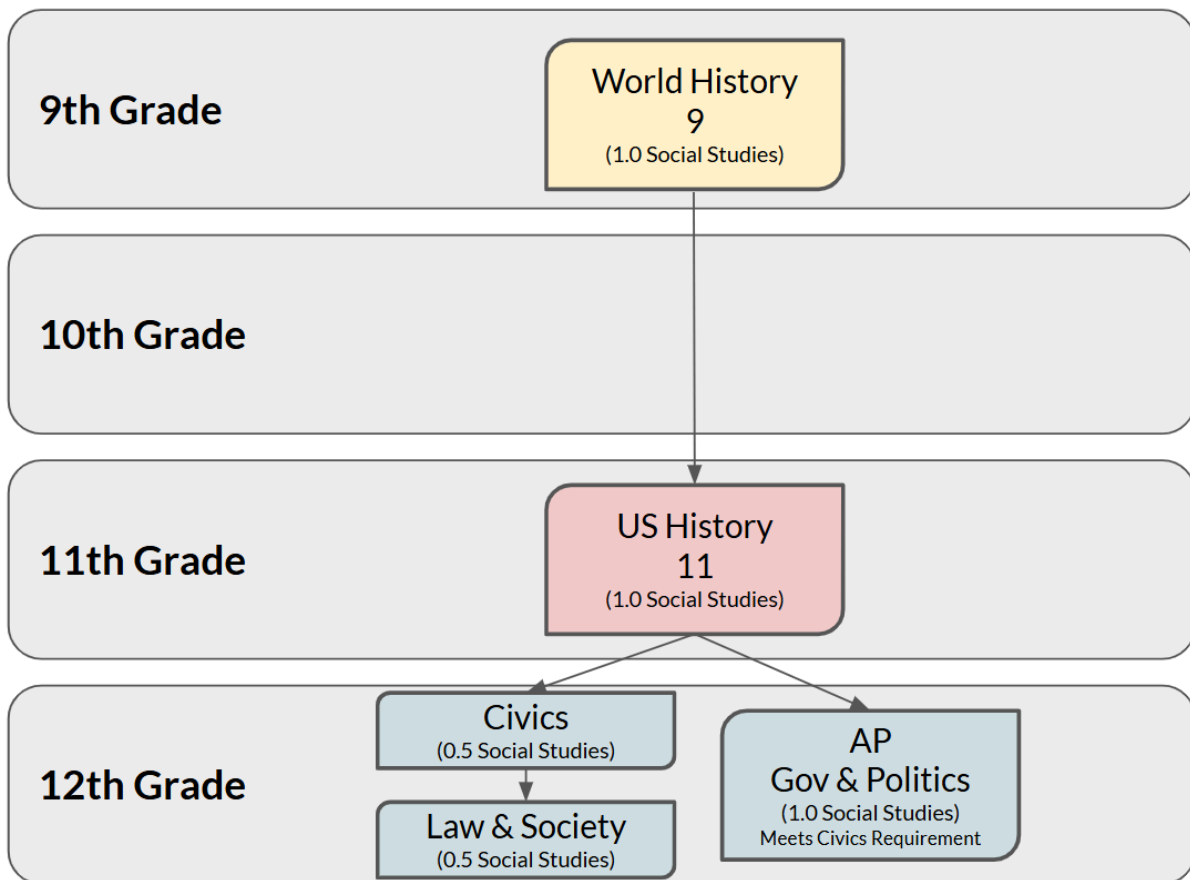
Credit:
Math or CTE

In this course, students will apply math concepts to real-world business scenarios, gaining practical skills essential for financial literacy and workplace success. Topics include financial institutions, business statistics, pricing and sales strategies, payroll calculations, debt management, investment planning, and insurance policies. Students will analyze data, solve problems, and make informed decisions related to personal and business finances. Emphasis is placed on understanding mathematical applications in budgeting, financial planning, and the economic principles that drive business operations. Upon successful completion of the identified course competencies with a grade of 'B' (3.0) and the high school teacher's endorsement that the competency requirements have been met, articulated credit may be granted. This course does not meet college preparatory or NCAA requirements for mathematics.

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies Department at MHS focuses on helping students understand history, government, culture, and society. Through a variety of courses, including world history, U.S. history, and government, students explore key events, ideas, and cultural changes that have shaped the world. The department emphasizes critical thinking, research skills, and the ability to view historical and current events from multiple perspectives. With courses that range from American legal studies to cultural history projects, students are prepared to think deeply about the world around them and their role in it.

3 credits required for graduation



World History

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
**Social Studies
Elective
Credit**

This freshman-level course covers world history from 1200 to the present. Each unit focuses on a specific time period and a major theme that affected the world during that time. Students will develop historical thinking skills and explore past and present world issues from different perspectives to better understand our world. *This is a required course for all 9th grade students.*

US History

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
11th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Social Studies

This course covers U.S. History from 1920 to the present, with a focus on cultural history. Students will study how historical events relate to different aspects of culture, such as music, art, sports, and entertainment. They will explore how history is reflected in these areas and how cultural aspects have changed over time. In the second semester, students will complete a Cultural History Project, creating their own 'book' of American cultural history. *This is a required course for all 11th grade students.*

Civics

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
Social Studies

This senior Civics course teaches students about how the government works and their role as citizens. Students will learn about the U.S. Constitution, federal, state, and local governments, and the importance of voting and civic engagement. The course also covers political parties, civil rights, and public policy. Students will develop skills to analyze current events and understand their rights and responsibilities as active citizens in a democracy.

Contemporary World Problems (CWP)

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
Social Studies

Contemporary World Problems is a required senior-level course that explores major global challenges including domestic and foreign affairs, economics, environmental concerns and current events. Building upon the first semester Civics class, students develop critical thinking, research, and problem-solving skills through discussion and analysis of diverse sources, using historical context and current events to understand complex issues and evaluate potential solutions. The course emphasizes student-driven learning where current events and class input guide the units covered, creating an engaging and responsive learning environment that connects classroom study to real-world developments.

AP Government & Politics

Prerequisites:
US History

Grade Level:
12th

Length:
Yearlong

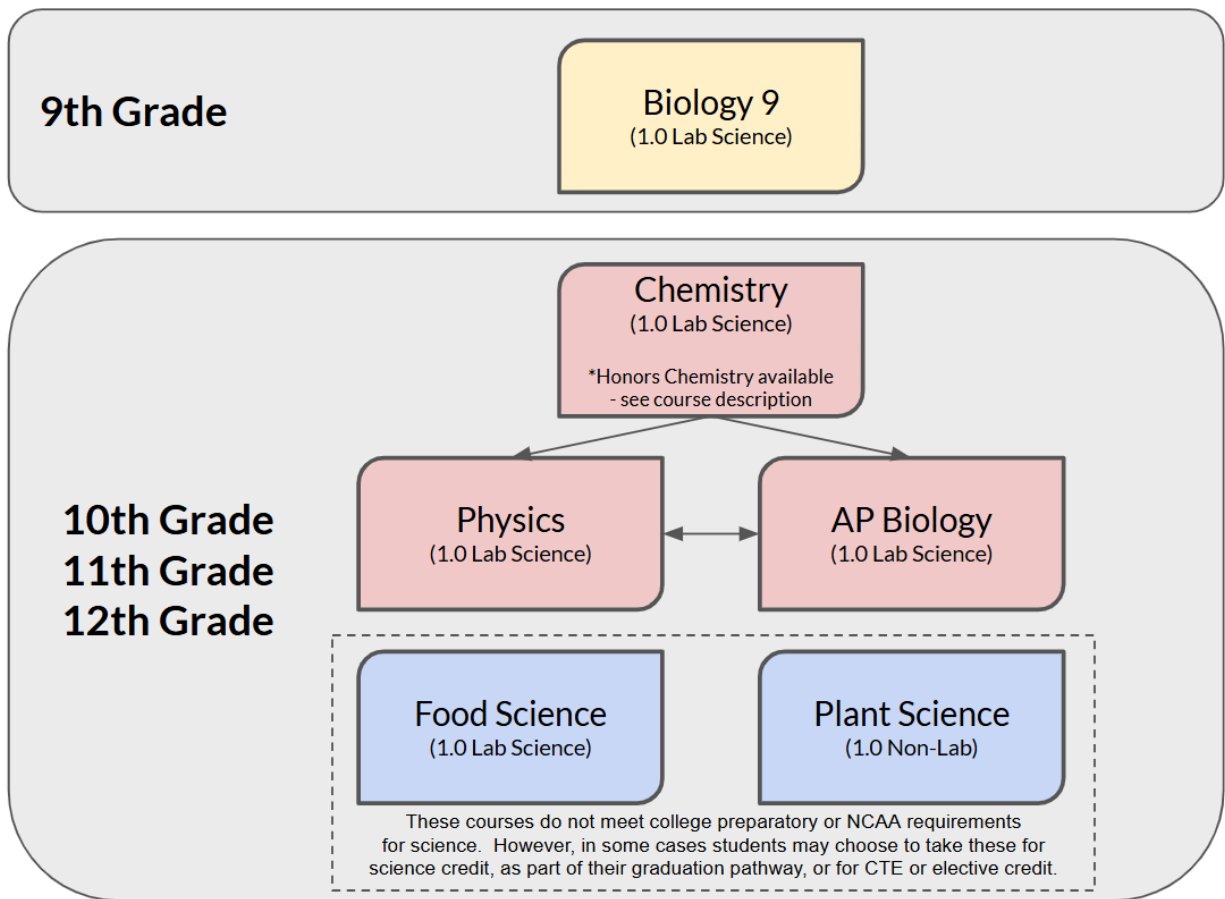
Credit:
Social Studies

This course is a comprehensive study of the U.S. national government and public policy. Students will learn about the structure of our government, political beliefs, political parties, interest groups, public policy, and civil rights and liberties. The course also covers the constitutional foundations of the U.S. government. There is also a summer reading requirement. Students may have the opportunity to earn college credit by scoring at certain levels on the AP exam in May - see your college's guidelines to determine the score needed. *This course meets Civics and CWP requirements for graduation.*

Science Department

The Science Department at Meridian High School offers a comprehensive curriculum designed to engage students in the exploration of the natural world. Our courses emphasize hands-on learning, critical thinking, and real-world applications of scientific concepts. With offerings in fields such as biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental science, students develop essential skills in inquiry, problem-solving, and analysis. Through laboratory experiments, field studies, and collaborative projects, students gain a deeper understanding of scientific principles and their relevance to everyday life. The Science Department encourages curiosity and prepares students for future success in both higher education and careers in science and technology.

3 credits required for graduation (minimum 2 lab science)



Ag Power and Technology

Prerequisites: Biology, Beginning Ag Class	Grade Level: 11th - 12th	Length: Yearlong	Credit: Science - Lab or CTE
--	------------------------------------	----------------------------	--

This class introduces students to mechanics, power, technology, and careers in agriculture. Students will explore engineering concepts through hands-on projects, learning about energy, tool operation, safety, material properties, and machine design. They will develop skills to build, repair, and design agricultural tools, machines, and structures. Topics include shop safety, fabrication, energy production, and technical applications of math and science. Students will also complete an SAE project, gaining experience in entrepreneurship, research, and problem-solving in agriculture.

Biology

Prerequisites: None	Grade Level: 9th	Length: Yearlong	Credit: Science - Lab
-------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------

This lab science course helps students understand key concepts in life science. Topics include molecules and organisms, ecosystems, heredity, and evolution. As a STEM course, it integrates science, technology, engineering, and math into the curriculum. Students will use scientific practices, inquiry, and engineering to explore each topic. The course aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), ensuring students build strong scientific skills and knowledge for future success. *This is a required course for all 9th grade students.*

Chemistry

Prerequisites: Biology	Grade Level: 10th - 12th	Length: Yearlong	Credit: Science - Lab
----------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------

Chemistry is the study of the material world and how it works. Students will explore topics like atomic structure, changes in matter and energy, density, naming chemicals, chemical formulas, and equations. As a STEM course, it connects science, technology, engineering, math, and society to real-world chemistry concepts. The course follows the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to help students build a strong understanding of matter and its interactions. Within this class, students can choose an option to deepen their understanding of chemistry concepts and earn credit as an Honors Chemistry course. Teachers will provide more information on this once classes begin.

Food Science

Prerequisites: Biology	Grade Level: 10th - 12th	Length: Yearlong	Credit: Science - Lab or CTE
----------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------	--

Food Science explores the nature of food, causes of spoilage, food processing, and ways to improve food for consumers. Students will work in teams to conduct food experiments, predict outcomes, and analyze results. Topics include food microbiology, chemistry, technology, and nutrition. Science is integrated through experiments like caramelizing sugars, yeast growth, and chemical leavening. Students also explore careers in food science. This course does not meet college preparatory or NCAA requirements for science but provides valuable hands-on learning.

Physics

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry	Grade Level: 11th & 12th	Length: Yearlong	Credit: Science - Lab
--	--	----------------------------	---------------------------------

Physics is a lab-based class where students explore the physical world and the relationship between matter and energy. Topics include motion, forces, energy, heat, waves, electricity, and magnetism. Students will use math skills and a scientific calculator is recommended. Through investigations, labs, and a STEM approach, students build scientific skills and a strong understanding of concepts. This course aligns with NGSS standards and prepares students for college physics. A solid foundation in Algebra and Trigonometry is suggested.

Plant Science

Prerequisites: Biology	Grade Level: 10th - 12th	Length: Yearlong	Credit: Science Non-Lab or CTE
----------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------	--

Plant Science covers the science behind breeding, growing, and producing agricultural plants. Students will learn about plant production, processing, and distribution. Topics include crop cultivation, agricultural production, and food product processing. Students will also work in the school greenhouse, gaining experience in greenhouse management, plant identification, care, and propagation methods. As part of the class, students will complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project, applying their learning in real-world settings. This course does not meet college preparatory or NCAA requirements for science but provides valuable hands-on learning.

AP BIO201 - AP Biology (formerly BIO211)

Prerequisites:
Biology, Chemistry

Grade Level:
11th & 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Science - Lab

Advanced Placement Biology prepares students for the AP Biology exam and builds on first-year Biology knowledge. This college-level course is for motivated and well-prepared students. It develops critical thinking and analytical skills while focusing on four big ideas, enduring understandings, and science practices outlined by the College Board. Students spend 25% of class time in labs, completing at least two inquiry-based labs per big idea. Independent preparation is essential for success in this advanced course. Students may have the opportunity to earn college credit via the College in the High School* program or by scoring at certain levels on the AP exam in May - see your college's guidelines to determine the score needed.

World Language Department

The World Languages Department at MHS offers students the opportunity to develop strong communication skills in Spanish while also exploring the rich cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Courses are designed to build proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through interactive lessons, real-world application, and immersive cultural experiences. Students will progress from foundational language skills in Spanish I to more advanced grammar and conversation techniques in Spanish II and III. This department aims to prepare students for global citizenship.

Spanish I

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
World Language

Spanish I introduces students to the Spanish language and the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Through audio activities, written texts, music, games, and movies, students will develop skills in three communication modes: Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational. A strong focus is placed on learning Spanish vocabulary, so students should plan to spend 10-15 minutes studying each night to ensure progress.

Spanish II

Prerequisites:
Spanish I

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
World Language

Spanish II expands communication skills by focusing on the past, present, and immediate future tenses, with special attention to the simple past. Through audio activities, written texts, music, games, and movies, students will enhance their vocabulary and understanding of more complex grammar. In Spanish II, students will present on various topics in Spanish. Since vocabulary acquisition is crucial, students should plan to study for at least 15-20 minutes each night.

Spanish III

Prerequisites:
Spanish I, Spanish II

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
World Language

Spanish III builds on knowledge from Spanish I and II, emphasizing real-world application of communication skills. Students will develop interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills for use in real-life situations. Through authentic audio, written texts, and movies, students will explore more complex grammar, with a focus on the future, conditional, and subjunctive tenses. Since vocabulary acquisition is crucial, students should plan to study for at least 20-30 minutes each night.

Health & Physical Education Department

The Health and Physical Education Department offers a variety of courses designed to help students develop healthy habits, physical fitness, and leadership skills for life. From fitness and wellness to team sports, individual activities, and life skills such as stress management and nutrition, students will engage in hands-on learning to improve both their physical and mental well-being. Our courses emphasize the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle, incorporating physical activity, nutrition, and positive mental health practices. Whether through yoga, weight training, recreational sports, or health education, students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy, active lives.

Health

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
10th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
Health

This course explores key health issues, concepts, and behaviors through six main units of study. The units cover Mental and Emotional Health, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs, Relationships, Reproduction, and Reducing Risk, Nutrition and Body Image, First Aid and CPR, as well as decision making, goal setting, and personal growth. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of these important topics to help them make informed, healthy choices throughout their lives.

Fitness and Performance (A & B)

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
PE

This semester-long course provides students with the opportunity to enhance their fitness and performance in both life and athletics. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of anaerobic, aerobic, and flexibility exercises, incorporating weight training, yoga, balance, and agility drills into their routines. This class is designed to help students build strength, improve endurance, and develop a well-rounded fitness foundation.

Recreational PE

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
PE

Students will explore a variety of team, individual, and dual sports, with an emphasis on advanced techniques and strategies. The course covers a range of sports, including flag football, volleyball, basketball, softball, indoor soccer, speedball, team handball, badminton, and pickleball. Students will learn and practice the skills, rules, and strategies necessary to excel in these sports, all while focusing on fitness and teamwork. This class provides an opportunity to enhance athletic abilities and engage in a fun and active environment.

Walking for Fitness			
Prerequisites: None	Grade Level: 9th - 12th	Length: Semester, Repeatable	Credit: PE
In this course, students will improve their fitness through walking, with a focus on pace, distance, and technique. They will learn how to track their progress using heart rate monitors. Some days, students will venture off-campus to walk on local trails and parks, offering a chance to explore the community while enhancing physical well-being. This class promotes cardiovascular health and encourages students to develop a sustainable, lifelong fitness habit.			

Yoga			
Prerequisites: None	Grade Level: 9th - 12th	Length: Semester, Repeatable	Credit: PE
In this class, students will learn a variety of yoga techniques that focus on building strength and flexibility. They will explore breathing exercises, basic to intermediate yoga poses, and different types of equipment used in yoga practice. Students will also learn how to create their own flow sequences. By the end of the semester, students will be equipped to perform personalized yoga sequences and incorporate yoga into their daily routines for lasting physical and mental wellness.			

Agriculture Department

The Agriculture Department offers a comprehensive range of courses designed to equip students with valuable skills for careers in agriculture, technology, and related industries. Through hands-on learning and project-based activities, students gain practical experience in areas such as floral design, welding, robotics, mechanics, and woodworking. The department also emphasizes the development of employability, leadership, and career readiness skills. With opportunities to participate in FFA events, students can showcase their talents, furthering their education and preparing for successful futures in the agricultural field.

^Fine Art credit is available for specific courses with a prerequisite of Fundamentals of Art.

Ag Computer-Aided Design (CAD)

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

Computers are used to design everything from video games to clothing, jewelry, and homes. This class introduces design, manufacturing, and shop processes. Students will create, draw, and build different projects in the lab while learning how products are made in business and industry. They will also use 2-D and 3-D Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software and build test models.

Ag Mechanics

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

In Agriculture Mechanics, students will learn the safe operation of various agricultural tools and equipment. The course covers small gas engine theory, disassembly, repair, reassembly, and troubleshooting, as well as hydraulics and electrical theory. Students will have the opportunity to apply their skills through hands-on projects, displays, and career development events.

Ag Power and Technology

Prerequisites:
Biology, Beginning Ag Class

Grade Level:
11th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Science - Lab or CTE

This class introduces students to mechanics, power, technology, and careers in agriculture. Students will explore engineering concepts through hands-on projects, learning about energy, tool operation, safety, material properties, and machine design. They will develop skills to build, repair, and design agricultural tools, machines, and structures. Topics include shop safety, fabrication, energy production, and technical applications of math and science. Students will also complete an SAE project, gaining experience in entrepreneurship, research, and problem-solving in agriculture.

Ag Robotics

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

In this class, students will explore the field of robotic design through hands-on activities. They will begin by learning to use tools to create robotic devices and work in teams to build simple robots with various capabilities. Students will explore mechanical concepts like gearing, torque, speed, and power. Using this knowledge, they will design and build custom drive trains to meet criteria such as climbing, pushing, and speed. Sensors will be introduced to enable robots to interact with their environment. The class will conclude with a robot design project.

Floral Design

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE or Fine Art^

Floral Design is a semester-long course that introduces students to the art of flower arranging and the skills needed for a career in floriculture. Students will explore the principles and elements of design, learn about floriculture careers, and gain hands-on experience creating floral arrangements for various occasions. This class is ideal for those interested in working with flowers, making boutonnieres or corsages, and bringing home beautiful arrangements. Students will also complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience project as part of the course.

Floral Design - Advanced

Prerequisites:
Floral Design

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE or Fine Art^

Advanced Floral Design is a semester-long course that builds on the foundation established in Floral Design. Students will deepen their understanding of design principles, floriculture careers, and refine their skills in creating more complex floral arrangements. The course includes practice in pricing designs and producing monthly arrangements. Students will also enhance their employability skills by interacting with customers, creating a resume, and gaining experience within the floral industry. A Supervised Agricultural Experience project will be required as part of the course.

Plant Science

Prerequisites:
Biology

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Science Non-Lab or CTE

Plant Science covers the science behind breeding, growing, and producing agricultural plants. Students will learn about plant production, processing, and distribution. Topics include crop cultivation, agricultural production, and food product processing. Students will also work in the school greenhouse, gaining experience in greenhouse management, plant identification, care, and propagation methods. As part of the class, students will complete a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project, applying their learning in real-world settings. This course does not meet college preparatory or NCAA requirements for science but provides valuable hands-on learning.

Welding - Beginning

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

This introductory welding course covers metal shop tools and safety, arc welding, oxygen and acetylene cutting, and tap and die. Students will be provided with their first pair of safety glasses, and the school will offer communal welding gloves and coveralls. Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to showcase their skills through displays, projects, and career development events, facilitated by both the course work. This class is designed to build a solid foundation in welding techniques and safety practices.

Welding - Intermediate

Prerequisites:
Welding - Beginning

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

This intermediate welding course builds upon skills learned in beginning metals, with a focus on SMAW welding using E7018 and E6010 rods. Students will also develop proficiency in GMAW (MIG) welding across various processes and metal thicknesses. Additional topics include oxy-acetylene welding and plasma arc cutting. The course culminates in a project that tests all skills learned in both beginning and intermediate welding. Students will receive their first pair of safety glasses, and the school will provide communal welding gloves and coveralls. Students who earn a "B" grade or better are eligible for college credit through the CTE Dual Credit program at Bellingham Technical College. Students will also have the opportunity to showcase their skills through displays, projects, and career development events through coursework.

Welding - Advanced

Prerequisites:
Welding - Intermediate

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
CTE or Fine Art^

This advanced course begins with a review of shop safety, followed by independent projects chosen by the student. It builds on skills learned in beginning welding and small gas engines, providing opportunities for practical application of those skills. This class is ideal for students preparing for careers in mechanics or engineering. The school provides the first pair of safety glasses, along with communal welding gloves and coveralls. Students will also have the opportunity to showcase their skills through displays, projects, and career development events facilitated by course work. Students who earn a "B" grade or better qualify for college credit through the CTE dual credit program at Bellingham Technical College.

Woods I

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

In this course, students will create personal projects in the wood shop, learning to plan and construct products made of wood and other materials. Topics covered include the use of hand and power tools, shop safety, construction methods, and finishing techniques. Students will gain skills in material selection, project planning, design, building, and finishing, while exploring careers in wood technology, construction, and agriculture. The course also emphasizes employability and leadership skills. No prior knowledge is needed, just a strong interest in creativity. Students will have opportunities to showcase their skills through displays, projects, and career development events facilitated by course work.

Woods II			
Prerequisites: Woods I	Grade Level: 9th - 12th	Length: Semester, Repeatable	Credit: CTE
In this course, students will continue to design and build a variety of more complex wood projects of their own choosing, building on the skills learned in the Level I course. Students will also explore careers related to wood technology, construction, and agriculture, gaining an understanding of the skills needed for these professions. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on employability and leadership skills. A prerequisite of Ag Woods 1 is required. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their skills through displays, projects, and career development events facilitated by course work			

Arts & Music Department

The Arts & Music Department at Meridian High School offers a diverse range of courses designed to nurture creativity and artistic expression in students. From visual arts like drawing, painting, and sculpture to performing arts such as choir, band, and theater, our department fosters a passion for both creation and performance. Students can explore various mediums, develop technical skills, and gain valuable opportunities to showcase their work at concerts, exhibitions, and community events. Whether you're interested in honing your artistic skills, learning music theory, or performing in front of an audience, the Arts & Music Department provides a supportive and dynamic environment for students to grow as artists.

Advanced Art

Prerequisites:
Fundamentals of Art

Grade Level:
9th- 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Advanced Art is designed for students who want to further develop their artistic skills in drawing, painting, and sculpture. Building upon techniques learned in Fundamentals of Art and 3-D Design, students will create projects using a wide range of two-dimensional media, including graphite, Prismacolor pencils, acrylics, watercolor, pastels, pen and ink, and portrait drawing. Techniques such as shading, value gradation, stippling, cross hatching, painting, and collage will be explored. Students may also work with three-dimensional media like clay, plaster, and wire to create sculptures. Throughout the course, students will continue to develop their artistic strengths, add personal expression to their work, and begin discussing and analyzing their own creations. For students in grades 10-12, the course offers the opportunity to build an AP Art Portfolio, showcasing an accumulation of their artistic growth and final projects.

Ceramics

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th- 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Ceramics introduces students to the fundamentals of creating three-dimensional art with a focus on clay. Students will explore basic clay techniques, including pinch, slab, and coil methods, while emphasizing creative expression and craftsmanship. Throughout the course, students will identify their artistic strengths and incorporate personal expression into their projects. Additionally, they will develop the ability to discuss and analyze their own works of art. This course provides an excellent foundation for exploring sculpture and 3-D design.

Fundamentals of Art

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Fundamentals of Art is an introductory course and a prerequisite for Advanced Art. Students will explore the principles and elements of two-dimensional design, with a focus on foundational skills in drawing and painting. The course includes instruction in various media such as pencil, charcoal, chalk, colored pencils, and oil pastels, along with techniques for their effective application. This class is ideal for students looking to build a strong base in visual arts.

Pottery

Prerequisites:
Ceramics

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Pottery is a specialized course for students passionate about working with clay and exploring the art of pottery. This class focuses on creating both functional and sculptural pieces using the pottery wheel. Emphasis is placed on thoughtful design, well-crafted forms, and functional uses. Students will develop their skills in shaping, refining, and finishing pottery with a strong focus on craftsmanship. Note: This class is limited to 6 students at any time and is only available during a concurrent Ceramics class.

Chamber Choir (Outside of Regular School Day)

Prerequisites:
Audition, Music Course

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Chamber Choir explores diverse styles of pop and A Cappella choral literature spanning various time periods. This class is a full-year commitment. The choir performs at concerts, festivals, and school and community events, with most graded performances occurring outside the regular school day. Attendance at all concerts and performances is required. Chamber Choir members must also be enrolled in core music classes, such as Concert Choir or Symphonic Band. Rehearsals are held two to three times per week during zero hour (6:45am to 7:50am), with occasional evening practices. Students must demonstrate basic vocal skills and sight-singing abilities. Participation in ASB fundraising helps offset department activity costs.

Concert Choir

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Concert Choir is open to all students and provides an introduction to music theory, vocal technique, and sight-singing through a variety of choral masterworks, Broadway selections, and popular music. This class is a full-year commitment. The choir performs at concerts, festivals, and school and community events, with most graded performances taking place outside the school day. Attendance at all concerts and performances is mandatory. This course can be repeated for credit, and students participate in ASB fundraising to support department activities.

Jazz Ensemble (Outside of Regular School Day)

Prerequisites:
Audition, Music Course

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Jazz Ensemble offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of musical styles, including blues, swing, pop, rock, Latin, and funk. This class is a full-year commitment. The ensemble performs at concerts, festivals, and school and community events, with most graded performances occurring outside the school day. Attendance at all concerts and performances is mandatory. Rehearsals take place twice weekly during zero hour (6:45 am to 7:50 am), with occasional evening sectionals. Students must have experience playing a musical instrument and be enrolled in core music classes, such as Symphonic Band or Concert Choir. The course can be repeated for credit. Participation in ASB fundraising helps support department activities.

Symphonic Band

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong, Repeatable

Credit:
Fine Art

Symphonic Band consists of brass, woodwind, and percussion players who aim to continue developing their instrumental music skills. This class is a full-year commitment. All Students are required to be a part of both semesters and participate in all components of the Symphonic Band Class – Concert Band is the nucleus of the program, but students will also participate in Pep and Marching Band. The ensemble performs a variety of musical styles, including master concert band literature, pep band music from the pop genre, and marching band selections. The MHS Symphonic Band participates in concerts, festivals, graduations, parades, sporting events, and other school and community events. Percussionists are also part of the MHS Drumline, which holds occasional evening rehearsals. Most graded performance events occur outside of the school day, and attendance at all concerts and performances are mandatory. This course may be repeated for credit, and students take part in ASB fundraising to support department activities.

Business & Computer Science Department

The Business & Computer Science Department offers a diverse range of courses designed to equip students with essential skills for success in today's technology-driven world. Students will explore key areas of business, including finance, marketing, and entrepreneurship, while also gaining hands-on experience in computer science through courses in programming, web development, and digital media production. The department emphasizes both practical knowledge and creative problem-solving, preparing students for careers in business, technology, and related fields. Whether learning about financial literacy, mastering software tools, or building programming skills, students will be well-prepared for future academic and career opportunities.

^Fine Art credit is available for specific courses with a prerequisite of Fundamentals of Art.

Computer Applications

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

In Computer Applications, you'll explore key computer tools, past, present, and future, through discussions, projects, and hands-on learning. Topics include operating systems (Windows), Google Suite (Docs, Sheets, etc.), Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Animator, Acrobat, Audition, etc.), and communication tools like Microsoft Outlook and Gmail. Upon successful completion of the identified course competencies with a grade of 'B' (3.0) and the high school teacher's endorsement that the competency requirements have been met, articulated credit may be granted.

Digital Photography

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE or Fine Art^

This class will teach you how to take better photos and use Photoshop to create a variety of exciting projects that you can take home. You'll have the opportunity to choose several assignments based on your personal interests, allowing for creativity and self-expression. No previous experience is needed—just a passion for being creative and learning new skills. Join the class and gain valuable, employable skills while having fun!

Leadership

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong, Repeatable

Credit:
CTE or Elective

This year-long class is designed to help students identify and develop key leadership skills essential for their role in school and beyond. Students will engage in a variety of activities, including assembly planning, community service, goal setting, problem-solving, group dynamics, and stress management. Other focus areas include student and staff recognition, project and fundraiser planning, time management, communication skills, managerial skills, public speaking, and self-awareness as a leader. All of these activities align with the mission of serving the school and supporting students in their leadership roles. This course is required for ASB officers. Application process required to enroll, see course instructor for details.

Personal Finance



Prerequisites:
Algebra 1, Geometry

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
CTE or Math

In this course, students will apply math concepts to real-world business scenarios, gaining practical skills essential for financial literacy and workplace success. Topics include financial institutions, business statistics, pricing and sales strategies, payroll calculations, debt management, investment planning, and insurance policies. Students will analyze data, solve problems, and make informed decisions related to personal and business finances. Emphasis is placed on understanding mathematical applications in budgeting, financial planning, and the economic principles that drive business operations. Upon successful completion of the identified course competencies with a grade of 'B' (3.0) and the high school teacher's endorsement that the competency requirements have been met, articulated credit may be granted. This course does not meet college preparatory or NCAA requirements for mathematics.

Computer Science A - Introduction to Programming

Prerequisites:
None

CSA is an engaging course that introduces students to fundamental computational thinking and programming concepts through a project-based learning approach. About 75% of the course time is dedicated to hands-on projects, where students actively apply the skills they are learning. This course emphasizes creativity and problem-solving as students work to build and refine their own projects, preparing them for more advanced coding and technology-related endeavors.

Computer Science B - Introduction to Text-Based Programming

Prerequisites:
Computer Science A

Grade Level:
9th- 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

CSB is an engaging course that introduces students to basic computational thinking and programming concepts, specifically using the Python programming language. Through a project-based learning environment, students will spend approximately 75% of their time building hands-on projects, allowing them to apply the skills they are learning in real-world scenarios. This course provides a strong foundation in programming and problem-solving, making it ideal for students interested in pursuing further study in computer science and technology.

Video Production

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

Video Production is an entry-level course that introduces students to basic video, film, and audio production using the Adobe Suite of software. The goal of the course is to equip students with the skills needed to capture high-quality video and audio, and to edit these elements together to create a compelling story. Students will learn how to operate a video camera, capture great video and audio with external sources, edit these elements into creative and entertaining content, and plan, shoot, and edit stories for both personal and commercial purposes.

Yearbook

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
CTE or Fine Art^

This year-long course involves creating the Meridian High School yearbook, the Zenith. Students will be introduced to and work with industry-standard software including Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, and InDesign. A strong interest in digital photography is essential, as students will contribute to capturing images for the yearbook. Application process required to enroll, see counselor or course instructor for details. Upon successful completion of the identified course competencies with a grade of 'B' (3.0) and the high school teacher's endorsement that the competency requirements have been met, articulated credit may be granted. This course does not meet college preparatory or NCAA requirements for mathematics.

Family and Consumer Science Department

The Family and Consumer Science Department offers a wide range of courses designed to equip students with essential life skills and practical knowledge they can use now and in the future. Students will engage in hands-on learning opportunities, including food preparation, family and consumer sciences principles, and career exploration. Courses also emphasize critical skills such as time management, communication, and decision-making, preparing students for both professional and personal success. While exploring culinary arts, students will gain valuable experience for life beyond high school.

Baking and Pastry

Prerequisites:
Introduction to Foods & Nutrition

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

Do you have dreams of opening your own cafe, bakery, or cupcake shop? Or maybe you just enjoy baking fabulously delicious creations for family and friends at home? Either way, Baking and Pastry is a chance to get the experience you need. In this course, students build on their learning from Foods & Nutrition furthering their knowledge and skills baking quick breads, yeast breads, cookies, puddings, sauces, and so much more. Scones, crepes, sourdough bread, and French baguettes are all included here, along with pies, pastries, and a chance to improve your piping skills to decorate amazing cookies and cakes.

Culinary Arts & Catering

Prerequisites:
Introduction to Foods & Nutrition

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

Culinary Arts takes students on a tasting tour of North America! Students build on their learning from Foods & Nutrition with additional cooking methods, more knife skills development, and a key sampling of recipes featuring regional ingredients from across the United States and beyond. A key component of the course includes a food truck unit where student teams develop a business concept, create a menu, and prepare their recipes for a consumer audience (usually our MHS staff). Students demonstrate competency in the course by participating in catered events outside of regular school hours. Culinary Arts includes safety and sanitation principles from the nationally recognized *ServSafe* coursebook. Upon successful completion of the identified course competencies with a grade of 'B' (3.0) and the high school teacher's endorsement that the competency requirements have been met, articulated credit may be granted.

Food Science

Prerequisites:
Biology

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
CTE or Science

Food Science explores the nature of food, causes of spoilage, food processing, and ways to improve food for consumers. Students will work in teams to conduct food experiments, predict outcomes, and analyze results. Topics include food microbiology, chemistry, technology, and nutrition. Science is integrated through experiments like caramelizing sugars, yeast growth, and chemical leavening. Students also explore careers in food science. This course does not meet college preparatory or NCAA requirements for science but provides valuable hands-on learning.

International Cuisine

Prerequisites:
Introduction to Foods & Nutrition

Grade Level:
10th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

Whether you favor classical French cooking, hearty Italian pastas or Asian stir fry, the International Cuisine will have you preparing and tasting a variety of cuisines from around the world! Using basic skills you gained in the Introduction to Foods & Nutrition course, you will be introduced to herbs & spices that create the regional flavor profiles of South America, the Caribbean Islands, Europe, the Mediterranean and Middle East, Africa and Asia. We may even dip 'down under' for a traditional recipe or two from Australia. Hungry for some German schnitzel or Polish pierogi? Maybe arepas or empanadas are more your style. This class will stretch your culinary skills incorporating a variety of food preparation and cooking methods to prepare street food appetizers, main dishes and a few desserts from around the globe. Take off on a culinary adventure and sample Caribbean jerk and Moroccan tagine, skewer some Greek kefta and roll your own sushi!

Introduction to Foods & Nutrition

Prerequisites:
None

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
CTE

This course lays the groundwork of basic culinary skills – food safety and sanitation, basic knife skills, and cooking and food preparation methods – all aligned with the six food groups. After passing the Washington State Food Workers Card exam and completing fire and safety training, students participate in nutritional learning and food preparation activities focused on the six food groups as well as measuring techniques, fundamental knife skills, and food safety principles. Working in small groups, students gain hands-on experience preparing at least two recipes from each food group: muffins and meatballs, fruit smoothies and cobbler, pasta and other cooked grains, vegetable dishes, cookies, and more!

Latinos in Action (LIA)			
Prerequisites: None	Grade Level: 9th - 12th	Length: Yearlong	Credit: CTE/Elective
LIA is a leadership elective that empowers students to build confidence, develop professional skills, and make a positive impact in their school and community. Students engage in leadership training, college and career readiness activities, and meaningful service learning, including mentoring and tutoring younger students. The course emphasizes cultural strengths, academic excellence, and teamwork while preparing students to be leaders in school and beyond.			

Special Programs Department

EL (English Learner) ML (Multilingual) Services:

Meridian High School is dedicated to offering English classes that meet the needs of all learners, including those new to the country. The ML program provides a welcoming environment where students can learn English at their own level. Students who score at levels 1-3 on the WIDA assessment are eligible for services until they "test out" of the program. The program focuses on both spoken and academic English to help students transition into regular English classes. Any student who speaks a language other than English at home may qualify for EL/ML services. The length of time in the program depends on the student's prior education and experience with English.

Special Education Services:

Meridian High School is committed to providing various support levels for students with disabilities. Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), all students with disabilities are entitled to a free, appropriate public education. Our program offers both special education classes and general education classes with special education assistance and modifications. We aim to help students reach their highest academic and vocational potential and prepare them for an independent adult life. To enroll in Special Education courses, students must be eligible for services and have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP). For more information, contact your student's case manager.

Functional English

Prerequisites:
IEP Goals

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong, Repeatable

Credit:
English

Functional English is designed to teach essential reading, writing, and communication skills for success in adulthood. Students will engage in activities that focus on professional communication, staying informed through current events, reading for comprehension, and mastering grammar, spelling, and capitalization. The course aims to build and strengthen functional to fundamental English concepts, equipping students with practical skills needed throughout their lifetime.

Learning Strategies

Prerequisites:
IEP Goals

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
Elective

This class is designed to provide additional support for students who need help developing organizational, time management, and note-taking skills. Classroom teachers collaborate regularly to ensure students' success in their content education curriculum. The course also focuses on post-high school planning, including High School and Beyond plans, to prepare students for future goals. In addition, the class offers assistance with class assignments, research, studying, and projects to ensure students stay on track and are fully supported in their academic journey.

ML English I/II

Prerequisites:
Counselor Approval, WIDA Score

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
English or Elective

This course is designed for beginning or intermediate Multilingual Learners who are new to the country or English language. It focuses on developing essential vocabulary, grammar, speaking, and basic writing skills. Activities and assignments will align with WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment) Standards, ensuring students receive targeted language support. Emphasis is also placed on understanding school and community routines to help students navigate their new environment. To earn an English credit, students must achieve an 80% or higher in the class. Students earning between 60-80% will receive an elective credit.

ML English III/IV

Prerequisites:
Counselor Approval, WIDA Score

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
English

This course is designed for intermediate English Learners and focuses on advancing reading vocabulary, high-level grammar, note-taking, and essay writing skills. Students will engage in activities that strengthen their ability to read, comprehend, and analyze texts, as well as develop effective writing techniques. Enrollment is based on ML testing results or successful completion of ML I/II. This course aims to build proficiency in both academic and practical language use, preparing students for higher-level English courses.

ML Study Support

Prerequisites:
Counselor Approval

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Elective

ML Study Support is a course designed to provide additional academic support for Multilingual Learners (ML) in need of strengthening their organizational, time management, and study skills. This course focuses on helping students navigate content across all subjects by offering personalized assistance with assignments, note-taking, and research strategies. Teachers collaborate closely to support students in meeting the expectations of their core courses while integrating language development strategies. Emphasis is placed on developing effective study habits and improving academic performance.

Pre Algebra

Prerequisites:
IEP Goals

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Elective

This course helps students prepare for Algebra and future math classes. It focuses on strengthening arithmetic skills like fractions, decimals, and percents two days a week, while the other two days are dedicated to building a strong foundation in Algebra concepts, including graphing, expressions, and equations.

Real World Math

Prerequisites:
IEP Goals

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Yearlong

Credit:
Math

Real World Math helps students develop essential math skills for adulthood, including time telling, money management, budgeting, shopping, and banking. This course strengthens functional and fundamental math concepts needed throughout life, providing practical applications to build confidence and independence in life.

Vocational Training

Prerequisites:
IEP Goals

Grade Level:
9th - 12th

Length:
Semester, Repeatable

Credit:
Elective

This course offers students valuable opportunities to learn essential skills for independent living, such as using public transportation, basic cooking, making professional phone calls, managing money, budgeting, and shopping. As students advance, they will explore various job options based on their interests, while also developing crucial employability skills. In the third year, students will collaborate with Whatcom County DD and/or the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to finalize their job preferences. Additionally, students will work on enhancing their independent learning skills, preparing them for future employment and successful independent living.

Other Opportunities

Students may take no more than one class per semester and a total of 1.0 credit of assistant classes. All assistant grades are pass/fail.

Assistant - Office

Prerequisites:
Principal Approval

Grade Level:
11th - 12th

Length:
Semester

Credit:
Elective

This course offers students the opportunity to develop valuable skills in customer service, business machine operation, and telephone etiquette. As an Office Assistant, students will learn how to operate office equipment such as copy machines and multi-line phone systems, as well as how to effectively assist customers and manage tasks in a busy office or classroom environment. This hands-on experience not only provides practical skills but also strengthens a resume for future job opportunities. Students will earn an elective credit while gaining essential workplace skills.