

Oak Grove High School



9th Grade
Course Description Guide
2011-2012

OAK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL 2011-2012
COURSE DESCRIPTION
9th GRADE

English:

***All Year English I**– This is a two semester (all year) course. Reviews reading, writing, and listening skills. Concentrates on developing the writing process, grammar, appreciating, and interpreting literature. Students who meet the following criteria will be placed in this course. **Placement Criteria:** **1)** Proficient for 2 years on the MCT 2 in Language Arts with a score of 150-158 (grades 6-8); **2)** Score of 13-16 (50-73%) or better on the English section of the EXPLORE test; **3)** Grade of 80 or better in the 8th grade English course. (2 credits)

***Honors English I** – This is a one semester course. Concentrates on developing the writing process, grammar, appreciating and interpreting literature, requires more in depth reading and critical analysis, and outside reading. **Placement Criteria:** **1)** Proficient for 2 years on the MCT 2 in Language Arts with a score of 159-166 (grades 6-8); **2)** Score of 17-20 (78-90%) or better on the English section of the EXPLORE test; **3)** Grade of 85 or better in the 8th grade English course. (Honors Weight with grade of 84 or better.) (1 credit)

***Accelerated English I** – This is a one semester course. Expands the power and flexibility of student use of the language art skills. **Placement Criteria:** **1)** Advanced for 2 years on the MCT 2 in Language Arts with a score of 167 or better (grades 6-8); **2)** Score of 21 or better (93%<) on the English section of the EXPLORE test; **3)** Grade of 90 or better in the 8th grade English course. (Honors Weight with grade of 84 or better.) (1 credit)

***Public Speaking** – A general overview of all aspects of speech preparation and delivery. *Must be taken by or before end of junior year in preparation for Sr. Project presentation.* (1/2 credit)

***Oral Communications I** – Develops student awareness as a communicator with emphasis on all aspects of public address, including preparation, presentation and analysis of speech. (1 credit)

Mathematics:

***All Year 9th Grade Math** – This is a two semester (all year) course. These two classes must be taken consecutively in the fall and spring terms. Initially this class will serve as a review of basic math skills and then gradually lead into Transition to Algebra. It bridges the gap between Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra. This course will explore algebraic concepts in an informal way to build a foundation for the subsequent formal study of Algebra. Problem solving, reasoning, communication and building connections among mathematics topics will be taught. **Placement Criteria: Less than the all year Algebra I criteria.** (2 credits)

***All Year Algebra I** – This is a two semester (all year) course. These two classes must be taken consecutively in the fall and spring terms. This class is intended to be a bridge between the concrete concepts of Pre-Algebra and the abstract concepts of Algebra I and Geometry. Students will explore and investigate algebraic and geometric concepts to build a stronger foundation of basic skills. Students will also begin building basic algebraic concepts for a foundation in Algebra II and Geometry utilizing real-world applications. **Placement Criteria:** **1)** 50-79% on the Algebra I Readiness Exam; **2)** Proficient or better for 2 years on the MCT 2 in Mathematics (grades 6-8); **3)** Score of 15-19 (67-86%) or better on the Mathematics section of the EXPLORE test; **4)** Grade of 85 or better in Pre-Algebra. (2 credits) **ALGEBRA I IS A STATE TESTED SUBJECT AREA (students in this course will test during the spring semester).**

***Algebra I** – This is a one semester course. The course will be taken in either the fall or spring term. This class is intended to be a bridge between the concrete concepts of Pre-Algebra and the abstract concepts of Algebra I and Geometry. Students will explore and investigate algebraic and geometric concepts to build a stronger foundation of basic skills. Students will also begin building basic algebraic concepts for a foundation in Algebra II and Geometry utilizing real-world applications. **Placement Criteria:** **1)** 80% or better on the Algebra I Readiness Exam; **2)** Advanced for the last two 2 years (7th & 8th grade) on the MCT 2 in Mathematics; **3)** Score of 20 (90% <) or better on the Mathematics section of the EXPLORE test; **4)** Grade of 90 or better in Pre-Algebra. (1 credit) **ALGEBRA I IS A STATE TESTED SUBJECT AREA (students will test during the semester in which they are enrolled in the course).**

***Geometry** – Designed to promote critical thinking skills, problem solving, reading comprehension and an appreciation for the usefulness of mathematics in today’s technology-oriented society. Students should enter Geometry with an understanding and the ability to solve and interpret linear equations and associated graphs, be familiar with quadratic equations, understand the Pythagorean Theorem, be able to identify two- and three-dimensional shapes, and be familiar with the basic geometric (measurement) formulas. Geometry provides a graphical and visual representation of the mathematical world around us. **Prerequisite: Algebra I** (1 credit)

Science:

***Introduction To Biology** – This course will provide students with an overview of basic Biology with an emphasis on organizational skills, critical thinking, reasoning skills, and methods of science. Students will be introduced to the laboratory and scientific literature as investigative tools of science with an emphasis on critical analysis and concept comprehension. Students will learn to effectively interpret and communicate results of experiments and research. Concepts covered in this course include scientific problem solving, research, experimental design, laboratory safety, measurement, graphing, characteristics of life, cell structure and function, energy transfer in biological systems, genetics, and diversity of life. **Placement Criteria: Less than the Biology I criteria.** (1 credit)

***Biology I** – This is a laboratory-based course designed to study living organisms and their physical environments. Students should apply scientific methods of inquiry and research in the examination of the chemical basis of life, cell structure, function and reproduction, energy, natural selection and diversity, and ecology. Laboratory activities, the use of technology, and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course. **Placement Criteria: 1)** Proficient or better on the Mississippi Science Test; **2)** Score of 16 or better on the science section of the EXPLORE test; **3)** Grade of 85 or better in the 8th grade science course. (1 credit) **BIOLOGY IS A STATE TESTED SUBJECT AREA (students will test during the semester in which they are enrolled in the course).**

Social Studies:

***Mississippi Studies** – This course is designed to foster appreciation for the state and its culture. The content will include the geographic, historic, economic, political, and social events that have contributed to the state’s development. (1/2 credit)

***World Geography** – This class is designed to provide students with the skills to ask geographical questions, acquire geographical information, arrange geographical information, analyze geographical information, and answer geographical questions. Students will master these skills by studying the six (6) essential elements of geographical content: (1) the world in spatial terms, (2) places and regions, (3) physical systems, (4) human systems, (5) environment and society, and (6) the uses of geography. The course of study will address the skills and elements by examining Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia and Oceania, Europe, Middle America, North America, and South America. (1/2 credit)

Health:

***Family & Individual Health or Comprehensive Health** – This course includes all dimensions of health, including, but not limited to, community/environmental health, consumer health, disease prevention and control, human growth and development, nutrition, family life, safety and first aid, personal health, mental health, and drug abuse prevention. Students will also be provided an opportunity to understand the importance of participation in physical activity. 9th – 12th (1/2 credit each)

Technical:

***STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics)** – This is a **required** course for all 9th grade students. It explores technology resources, processes, and systems. It also utilizes research, visualization, modeling, design, simulation, prototyping, journalizing, presentations, demonstrations, problem- solving techniques, role-playing, and testing. (1 credit)

Foreign Language:

***Spanish II** – Involves more in-depth study of Spanish with greater emphasis on reading, writing and conversing. This course is only offered to students who took and earned a high school credit for Spanish I in the 8th grade. (1 credit)

Vocational/Technical Electives:

***Family Dynamics** – This is a course which develops skills related to personal, family, and parenting decisions. It includes instruction in the dimensions of adolescent development, managing family systems in today's society, and parenting decisions and responsibilities. Grades 9th-12th (1/2 credit)

***Child Development** – This is a course which develops skills related to physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development of the child. It includes instruction on considerations for parenthood, prenatal care, child growth and development, behavior management, needs of exceptional children, and career opportunities. Grades 9th-12th (1/2 credit)

***Personal Development** – This is a course which develops skills related to positive interpersonal relationships within the family, peer groups, the work place, and the community. It includes instruction on self discovery, relationships with others, establishing goals, and career survival skills. Grades 9th-12th (1/2 credit)

***Nutrition & Wellness** – This is a course which develops skills related to proper nutrition and overall wellness. It includes the impact of dieting on well-being and food and behavior management for a healthy lifestyle. 9th – 12th (1/2 credit)

***Resource Management** – This course focuses on decision making, problem solving, using resources to successfully achieve individual, family, and community goals. It also focuses on consumer purchases, money management skills, budgeting and spending plans, use of credit, savings, investment and taxes. 9th – 12th (1/2 credit)

Physical Education (1 credit each):

***9th Grade PE/Football** – Prepares students for participation in football. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Boy's Basketball** – Prepares students for participation in boy's basketball. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Girl's Basketball** – Prepares students for participation in girl's basketball. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Baseball** – Prepares students for participation in baseball. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/ Boy's Soccer** – Prepares students for participation in boy's soccer. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Girl's Soccer** – Prepares students for participation in girl's soccer. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Cheerleading** – Prepares students for participation in cheerleading. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Dance** – Prepares students for participation in dance. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Tennis** – Prepares students for participation in tennis. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in summer practices.

***PE/Golf** – Prepares students for participation in golf. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in all practices.

***PE/Track** – Prepares students for participation in track. Taken with PE. Requires a tryout and coach's recommendation. Student must participate in all practices.

***PE/Weightlifting for Football Players & Baseball Players**

***PE/Weightlifting for Boys or Girls**

***PE/Fitness for Girls**

After School Sports not receiving credit are: Swimming, Cross Country (fall only), Softball, Powerlifting, & Volleyball

Fine Arts:

***Band/Instrumental Music** – Affords students the opportunity to study a musical instrument and be a member of a performing organization. Beginning band experience required. Required participation during spring and fall semesters for marching & concert band. Students must pay all applicable fees and participate in summer band camp. (2 credits)

***9th Grade Choir (Choral Ensemble)** – This choir is for any upcoming 9th grade female. This group performs throughout the year (Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, and Spring Concert). They also perform at various choral festivals to receive ratings from judges. There is a \$20.00 choral fee for each participant. Each participant will also be responsible for purchasing his/her uniform or concert attire. No audition required. (1 credit)

***Concert Choir** – This choir is open mainly to students in grades 10-12, but 9th graders may audition for this group. This group performs throughout the year for concerts at various choral festivals and competitions. There is a \$20.00 choral fee for each participant. Each participant will also be responsible for purchasing his/her uniform or concert attire. The following costs are approximate: Males - \$110.00 tux package with choral fee. Females – \$110.00 dress with choral fee. Audition in required. (1 credit)

***Show Choir** – This choir is open to males and females in grades 9-12. This is a song and dance group that performs at concerts and competitions throughout the year. They practice after school on Monday and Thursday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.. When they are preparing for a competition, practice is sometimes longer. There is a \$20.00 choral fee for each participant. Each participant will also be responsible for purchasing his/her uniform or concert attire. The following costs are approximate: Males - \$600.00 tux package with choral fee. Females – \$600.00 dress with choral fee. Audition in required. (1 credit)

***Theatre III** – Introduces students to general knowledge, history of drama, techniques of acting, play and production and appreciation of theatrical arts. 9th – 12th (1 credit)

***General Music** – Students enrolled in this course may pursue music learning through a variety of means. This course includes lecture, choral and/or instrumental performance, cooperative learning group activities, interdisciplinary or thematic studies, and use of technology applications to create, perform, or research music as an art form. This class will introduce students to music appreciation, music literature, and music in relation to other arts disciplines. Grades 9th-12th (1 credit)