



West Fork High School Course Descriptions 2024-2025

Course Descriptions for Family Consumer Science

Course:	FCS Fundamentals
Course Length:	One Semester (fall or spring)
Course Type:	Elective
Prerequisites:	None
Grade Availability:	9, 10, 11 and 12

Course Description: The FCS Fundamentals course is an overview of Family and Consumer Science topics. It will cover home and family issues such as adult living, child development, family and individual health, foods and nutrition, housing and home management, textiles and clothing, and consumer and resource management. All of the topic areas are an introduction to the more in-depth classes offered at West Fork. Family and Consumer Science prepares you for paid employment in such home economics-related occupations such as child care aide/assistant, food production management and services, and homemaker/health aide.

Course:	Foods 1
Course Length:	One Semester (fall or spring)
Course Type:	Elective
Prerequisites:	FCS Fundamentals
Grade Availability:	10, 11 and 12

Course Description: This course will emphasize the basic nutrition and food preparation of the various food groups. You will plan, prepare and serve nutritious dishes while also gaining an understanding of the scientific principles of food preparation.

Course:	Child Development
Course Length:	One Semester (fall)
Course Type:	Elective
Prerequisites:	FCS Fundamentals
Grade Availability:	10, 11 and 12

Course Description: Child Development is a course outlining the aspects of child development and parenting from conception through preschool age. Erik Erikson's stages of development will be used as we discuss and complete hands-on activities through the stages of a child's growth.

Course: Intro to Human Services
Course Length: One Semester (fall)
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: FCS Fundamentals
Grade Availability: 10,11 and 12

Introduction to Human Services explores the different types of Human Services as well as focuses on careers in Human Services. The course allows students to identify and compare their personal attributes with careers in this field. It will also explore the professional behaviors, skills and abilities necessary for human services careers.

Course: Foods 2
Course Length: One Semester (fall or spring)
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: FCS Fundamentals and Food and Nutrition (Foods 1)
Grade Availability: 10, 11 and 12

Course Description: This Course is designed as a continuation of Food and Nutrition. Students will explore international foods and learn food customs from other countries. Meal planning, menu design and etiquette will be explored. Careers in the food industry will be explored. Students will have hands-on experience with a take and bake business.

Course: Textile Design
Course Length: One Semester (spring)
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: FCS Fundamentals
Grade Availability: 10, 11 and 12

Course Description: Textile Design is a project based course focusing on designing with fabric and other types of textiles. You will complete at least 4 projects while learning the differences in textiles and how they are constructed, how the elements and principles of design are used, careers in the textile industry and vocabulary and tools involved in designing and constructing textile projects.

Course: Housing & Interior Design
Course Length: One Semester (spring)
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: FCS Fundamentals
Grade Availability: 10, 11 and 12

Course Description: Housing & Interior Design emphasizes the selection of housing choices and designing living areas. This course includes financing a home or apartment, architecture, furnishings & appliances, window treatments, floor coverings, and accessories. We will also explore and analyze design trends.

Course Descriptions for Agriculture

Freshman/Intro

-Intro to Ag (Fall semester): This course is designed for those who are beginning their adventure and interest in agriculture. This course covers basic topics such as FFA, Leadership and Communications, and a general overview of Agriculture, Foods, and Natural Resources. This is a prerequisite to enroll in future agriculture courses.

-Intro to Animal Science (Spring semester): This course covers a plethora of animal species from swine to bovine and small animal care. Students enrolled in this course will study animal breeds, vocabulary, nutrition, and anatomy. This is a prerequisite to enroll in future agriculture courses.

Soph-Senior

-Intro to Plant Science (Fall Semester): Students will cover many topics in this semester course including soil science, basic plant and flower anatomy, greenhouse management, and basic agricultural crops.

-Advanced Plant Science (Spring Semester): Students in this advanced course will encounter topics such as turf management, floriculture, crop production, and landscape design.

Junior/Senior

--Survey of the Animal Industry* (Fall): Ways domestic animals serve the basic needs of humans for food, shelter, protection, fuel, and emotional well-being. Terminology, basic structures of the industries surrounding the production, care, and marketing of domestic animals in the U.S

-Introduction to Agronomy (Spring): Basic structure and function of plants, origin and classification, growth and development. Fundamentals of photosynthesis, plant water use, plant nutrition and genetics that regulate plant growth, development and responses to the environment.

-Vet Science (Veterinary Medical Terminology) (Fall): This course offers a rigorous approach to medical terminology in the veterinary field. Students will learn different terminology associated with anatomy and physiology of animals, along with different terms used in the veterinary field.

-Natural Resources and Ecology Management (Fall): Students will explore topics that include conservation, wildlife management, soil science, and natural resources.

-Agriculture Business (Spring): This course will cover different topics including budgeting, marketing, record keeping and goal setting, along with other items that will make your future business or farm successful.

-Food Science/Processing (Spring): This new course is designed around food safety and processing. Students will get to experience different techniques such as canning, butchering, food preservation, packaging, and much more.

-Ag Leadership (Spring): Do you wish you could be more productive, successful, and admired? Do you want to become a more successful leader, a better person, and a stronger student? Do you hope to connect with industry leaders and further your career in agriculture? Ag Leadership is a course based on the bestseller, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Students discover their personality traits, reflect on their relationships with others, and perfect their ability to prioritize and accomplish goals. Students in this course plan their own field trip and design their own final exam.

Floriculture (fall): Through this course, students will be able to further their studies in plant science while learning useful skills that can be used throughout their life. Students will be exposed to the principles of floral design while they are creating their own floral masterpieces including boutonnieres, corsages, table arrangements, and holiday decorations. In addition, students will learn how to create a bill of materials, a business plan, and create floral arrangements for sale.

*Indicates Dual Enrollment through NIACC

Course Description for English

Course: English 9
Course Length: Full Year
Course Type: Required
Prerequisites: None
Grade Availability: 9th

English 9 is a comprehensive language arts course that builds upon previously introduced areas of English. The course examines various types of fiction and non-fiction genres (poems, short stories, essays, novels, drama, personal narrative) as well as grammar and composition. Cornerstone texts may include “The Most Dangerous Game” short story, “The First Day of School” short story, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Lord of the Flies*, *Shane*, and *The Odyssey*. Writing goals focus on personal narratives and expository, argumentative, and literary analysis essays. Formulating sound opinions and expressing them with textual evidence are introduced. A formal research paper and speeches will be completed in class. Grammar work and vocabulary study are interspersed throughout the year.

The overall goal of the grade 9 English course is to create learning opportunities for all students to **use** (create: write, speak) and **understand** (comprehend: read, listen) English and thus improve their communication skills. One important byproduct of this is to help develop a shared linguistic and cultural understanding among students.

Course: English 10

Course Length: Full Year
Course Type: Required
Prerequisites: English 9
Grade Availability: 10th

English 10 is a comprehensive course that builds upon previously introduced areas of English. The course examines various types of literature (poems, short stories, essays and drama) as well as grammar and composition. Learning targets focus on comprehending both fiction and non-fiction text. Cornerstone texts are Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. Writing goals focus on expository and argumentative compositions using elements of the writer's workshop. Formulating sound opinions and expressing them with textual evidence is emphasized in all aspects of the course. A formal research paper and speeches will be completed in class. Vocabulary units are interspersed throughout the year.

Course: English 11
Course Length: One Year
Course Type: Required
Prerequisites: English 9 and 10
Grade Availability: 11

English 11 is an American literature and language arts course that builds upon previously introduced areas of English. The course examines various types of fiction and non-fiction genres (poems, short stories, essays, novels, drama, personal narrative) as well as grammar and composition. Cornerstone texts may include "The Declaration of Independence," the "Bill of Rights," the "I Have a Dream" speech, excerpts from *Self-Reliance* and *Civil Disobedience*, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man" short story, the plays *Twelve Angry Men* and *A Raisin in the Sun* and *The Crucible*, and the novels *True Grit* and *Of Mice and Men*. Writing goals focus on personal narratives and expository, argumentative, and literary analysis essays. Formulating sound opinions and expressing them with textual evidence are practiced. A formal research paper and speeches will be completed in class. Grammar work and vocabulary study are interspersed throughout the year.

The overall goal of the grade 11 English course is to create learning opportunities for all students to **use** (create: write, speak) and **understand** (comprehend: read, listen) English and thus improve their communication skills. One important byproduct of this is to help develop a shared linguistic and cultural understanding among students.

Course: Novels and Literature
Course Length: Full Year
Course Type: Required if not enrolling in English 11
Prerequisites: English 9 and English 10
Grade Availability: 11th

Novels and Literature analyzes literature using feminist/gender criticism, Marxist criticism, psychoanalytic criticism, formalism (aka New Criticism) Narratology/Archetypes and Modernism/Post Modernism. Students will read numerous stories from the mid-19th century to modern day and may include: *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Our Town* (plays); *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *A Separate Peace*, *1984*, *Animal Farm*, *Red Badge of Courage*, *The Things They Carried*, *The Curious Case of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Heart of Darkness* (novels) various poems and numerous short stories with an emphasis in feminist authors. The course requires extensive reading and writing and is designed to assist the college bound student.

Course: English 12

Course Length: Full Year

Course Type: Required unless enrolling in NIACC Composition

Prerequisites: English 9, 10 and 11

Grade Availability: 12th

The first semester is designed to develop communication and research skills. Students will interpret bias in writing, analyze ethos, logos and pathos, write solid argument papers and learn to enhance oral communication skills.

The second semester develops media literacy skills. Students will understand how media impacts society, analyze propaganda techniques, create public service announcements, film a television commercial for a fictional product, and analyze film through dramatic, cinematic and literary aspects.

Course: NIACC Composition

Course Length: Full Year

Course Type: Required if not enrolled in English 12

Prerequisites: English 9, 10, 11 and must meet NIACC prerequisites as well

Grade Availability: 12th

Course: Second Chance Reading

Course Length: Full Year

Grade Availability: 9th

Second Chance Reading (SCR) uses multiple research-supported strategies to help students improve reading fluency, reading comprehension, and vocabulary development. Students read a variety of fiction and non-fiction pieces, including articles, short stories, plays, and novels. This class is open to all students, but grade nine students who are reading below grade level may receive a teacher recommendation.

Course Description for Study Skills

Course: Study Skills

Course Length: Year

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Students that receive special education services

Grade: 9th-12th Grade

Course Description: The Study Skills class is tailored to the student's IEP. In the Study Skills classroom, students work on various skill-building activities that are tailored to their academic and/or behavior goals. Some of these skill-building activities include writing prompts, developing various skills in literacy, math, career-based where students on IEPs can get involved in job shadowing/work experience, and social skill building where students can build their soft skills in the school and in their post-secondary expectations. Based upon the student's IEP, students can also get linked up with various agencies and linkages in order to meet their Living, Learning, and Working needs in their post-secondary expectations. Students in the Study Skills program also get tutoring opportunities and the appropriate accommodations and modifications necessary in order for them to be successful in the general education curriculum.

Course Description for Social Sciences

Course: Geography

Course Length: Year

Course Type: Required

Prerequisites: None

Grade Availability: 9

In Geography the goal for students is to gain a working knowledge of the physical environment and its impact on the history and lifestyles of people around the world. The material is presented in units, with a test at the end of each unit. Students, through individual and group effort, demonstrate their knowledge through a variety of activities including reports, tests, projects and review of current issues. The class is broken down into semesters (though two semesters are required). The first semester units covered include: the World (general overview), the United States and Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Russia. This is followed by a first semester test. The second semester units covered include: Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia and Australia. This is followed by a second semester individual project. The information in this course is aligned with the Iowa Core Standards for Geography.

Course: US History

Course Length: Year

Course Type: Required

Prerequisites: None

Grade Availability: 10

In U.S. History the students examine major themes/issues in American History. The material is presented in units, with a test at the end of each unit. Students, through individual and group effort, demonstrate their knowledge through a variety of activities including reports, tests, projects, and primary/secondary document reading and analysis. The class is broken down into semesters (though two semesters are required). The first semester topics include: an overview of the country from colonial period to the Civil War, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution at the turn of the century, American Imperialism, World War I, and the 1920s. This is followed by a first semester test. The second semester topics include: the Great Depression, World War II, the 1950s, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movements, Korea and Vietnam, the ending of the Cold War, and 9-11. This is followed by a second semester test. The information in this course is aligned with the Iowa Core Standards for History.

Course: American Government

Course Length: Semester

Course Type: Required

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 12th Grade

Course Description: In American Government, students will be learning the Constitution and how it applies to their daily lives. Students will also be exploring various elements of how American Government works, including the three branches of government, separation of powers including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of American Government, the election process and how it works, special interest groups, bureaucracies, and the media play a role in shaping our government and its society, and how local, state, and federal governments impact our society on the local, state, regional, national, and international stages. Per the literacy district standards set forth by West Fork High School, students will be reading, analyzing, and incorporating their critical thinking skills by examining primary and secondary sources, as well as incorporating their critical thinking skills over various issues and incorporate their own higher-order thinking skills into their assigned work.

Course: Economics

Course Length: Semester

Course Type: Required

Prerequisites: None

Grade: 12th Grade or could take 11th Grade if they plan on taking Micro/Macroeconomics via NIACC their senior year

Course Description: In Economics, they will examine the understanding of Economics at the Macro level(big picture) including: how governments play a role in the economy in terms of taxes, investing, and trade, the different types of trading and economies that there are, and how humans are influenced by the role of the economy. We also look at economic cycles on the macroeconomics level. At the microeconomics level, it is based upon consumer behavior in terms of advertising and finances, how businesses are successful, and "how to adult" in terms of taxes, budgeting, and investing. We also look at economic cycles on the microeconomics level.

Course: World History
Course Length: One Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: None
Grade Availability: 9, 10, 11 and 12

First semester covers Prehistory to the Middle Ages.
Second semester covers the Renaissance to the Cold War.

Course Description: This course will focus on the many civilizations that have existed in history. We will be looking at who they were, where they lived, and most importantly what were their contributions to the world. While talking about these great civilizations we will also be discussing the various events that shaped all sorts of things in our lives today such as politics, government, culture, customs, and borders. By discussing these topics students will develop a better understanding of how the world around them was shaped. Assessments in the course will be research based projects, and will require students to present their topics to the class.

Course: Contemporary World Issues
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: None
Grades: 9th-12th Grade

Course Description: In Contemporary World Issues, we explore events that are currently happening around the world and how they impact our society and communities. Students complete current event activities ranging from people in history, public figures, and pop culture, and events that are currently shaping the world. Students also look at problems and examine root causes on issues such as violence, discrimination, racism, environmental, social, and political in order to obtain a better understanding of the world around them.

Course: Psychology
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: None
Grade Availability: 11-12

In Psychology students study human behavior. Students try to gain an understanding of why people act as they do, and examine various ways behavior can change. The students are provided with detailed information, and use articles and outside resources to gain a better understanding of the concepts highlighted in the class. The course is broken down into units, with a test at the end of each unit. Throughout the course we will examine: the approaches to Psychology, the life span (students interact with young children and elderly individuals to observe the concept), consciousness, sensations and perceptions, memory and thought, personality and individuality, and Psychological disorders. Included in this course is a research project where

students research and create a presentation about a Psychological disorder that they then present to the rest of the class. This course also includes a semester test over the information covered throughout the semester. The information in this course is aligned with the Iowa Core Standards for Behavioral Science:

Course: Sociology
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: None
Grade Availability: 11-12

In Sociology students study how human beings live in groups and interact with each other. The textbook is one source of information, along with a variety of articles and additional documents to help explain the concepts. The course is broken down into units, with a test at the end of each unit. Throughout the course we examine: the development of Sociology as a social science, key figures and theories in the field, personality development, culture, deviance, social inequality, education and religious systems, and social movements. Included in this course is a research paper that the students have to write about an issue related to Sociology. This course also includes a semester test over the information covered throughout the semester. The information in this course is aligned with the Iowa Core Standards for Behavioral Science:

Course Description for Industrial Technology

Course: Exploring Tech
Course Length: Semester (Fall)
Prerequisite: None
Grades: 9th - 12th

This class is intended to introduce students to Industrial Education. Students in this course will work on concepts that encompass several different areas, using a range of equipment and resources suited to the various areas. At a minimum, the following topics will be covered: basic drafting, general shop safety, woodworking and metalworking. This class is perfect for anyone who wants to learn more about tool operations or personal use related to the shop. This class also serves as a prerequisite for all Industrial Education courses.

Course: Woods I
Course Length: 1 semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: Exploring Tech
Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: A course in Woods I. is designed to assist the student in learning the fundamentals of working safely and efficiently with hand and power tools. In addition, the student will learn about: various

types of woods and their uses, fasteners, how to figure board feet, and proper techniques to finish a wood project. The student will also spend time in the shop making three to four projects that will be assigned.

Course: Woods II

Course Length: 1 semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Exploring Tech & Woods I

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: The student will learn about wood turning and various types of joinery. Methods of work, material used for projects, and tools are areas of study that will be emphasized. Three to four projects will be done during this class.

Course: CAD

Course Length: 1 semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Exploring Tech

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: In CAD, the students will be engaged in learning the basic functions of SolidWorks through guided instructions. Through these instructions the students are able to design various components in 3D imaging and format drawings. The student will also learn how to create various components and assemble these parts in an assembly drawing.

Course: Metals I

Course Length: 1 semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Exploring Tech

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: This class provides a comprehensive introduction to: metalworking technology, its theory and practices, setup and operations of oxyacetylene, arc welding, mig welding, metal lathe, and various types of welding joints. This class exposes and prepares the students for careers with the fields related to metals

Course: Metals II

Course Length: 1 semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Exploring Tech & Metals I

Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description: Metals II is a continuation from Metals I. The student will learn how to operate the milling machine, tig welder, how to braze with heating the rod and dipping it into flux while brazing, tap and die, fabricate a shoe scraper & tool pin, oxyacetylene torch to cut various shapes, and a higher level of welding/

positions/ while standing instead of sitting down. Through these processes, the student will still practice safe and efficient operation of these machines.

Course: Carpentry

Course Length: 1 Semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Exploring Tech and Woods I & II

Grade Availability: 11-12

Carpentry courses provide information related to the building of wooden structures, enabling students to gain an understanding of wood grades and construction methods and to learn skills such as laying sills and joists; erecting sills and rafters; applying sheathing, siding, and shingles; setting door jambs; and hanging doors. Carpentry courses may teach skills for rough construction, finish work, or both. Students learn to read blueprints, draft, use tools and machines properly and safely, erect buildings from construction lumber, perform finish work inside of buildings, and do limited cabinet work. Carpentry courses may also include career exploration, good work habits, and employability skills.

Course: Intro to Automobiles

Course Length: 1 semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Exploring Tech

Grade Availability: 11-12

Primarily intended as a personal automobile mechanics course, but also useful for students exploring future careers in automotive technologies, Introduction to Automobiles courses expose students to the various mechanical systems in automobiles and provide basic experience in maintenance tasks. The course may also cover career opportunities in the automotive and/or transportation fields.

Course Description for Creative and Fine Arts

Course: Essentials of Art

Course Length: One Semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: None

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: An introductory art class with an emphasis placed on understanding the Elements of Art and Principles of Design as a basis for composition. Students will explore a variety of artists, art processes and materials such as drawing, painting, 3D art and much more. Student artwork will reflect aesthetics & cultural and historical contexts. Willingness to get involved in the creative process is a more important requirement than the student's talent or previous experience.

Course: Drawing
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: Essentials of Art
Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description: This is a class which will expose the student to a number of traditional skills and ideas that have occupied artists throughout history. The class involves drawing from direct observation with an emphasis on space, volume, linear and free hand perspective, and other basic techniques and concepts. In drawing there is an emphasis on line as the principal method of creating form. There will be regular class critiques and a required sketchbook. This creative class incorporates curiosity and innovation to generate new or original thoughts, interpretations, products, works, or techniques. Creativity is nurtured, advanced, and modeled through numerous approaches, including inquiry-based learning, abstract thinking, and student-focused learning.

Course: Painting
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: Essentials of Art
Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: Painting is a semester course where students will explore and experience a variety of painting techniques, media, and historical approaches to art. Painting is a problem-solving course dealing with form, color, line, and texture (figurative and abstract). Through the use of the world outside the classroom, models, drawings, photographs, and imagination, students interpret and express the painter's world in a variety of materials including acrylic and tempera paint, watercolor, ink, paper and canvas as well as a variety of experimental media. Painting can be the means to successful sharing of information through multiple means, including visual, digital, verbal, and nonverbal interactions. The message is purposeful, clear and concise leading to an accurate exchange of information and ideas.

Course: Pottery
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: Essentials of Art
Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: This class will introduce students to building with clay. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements; line, shape, texture, and color. Focus will be on the hand building techniques; pinch, coil and slabs. Functional as well as sculptural construction will be explored. Introduction to traditional and historical ceramic arts will be incorporated into the hands-on experiences. Students will be introduced to the craft of wheel thrown pottery on a limited basis. Various glaze and decoration techniques for finishing work will be used in this class. Accountability will be demonstrated by efficient time management, appropriate resource

allocation, personal integrity, and self-monitoring to meet the demands of productivity. Individuals and teams will recognize the interconnectedness of their actions at all levels.

Course: Art Studio

Course Length: Semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Essentials of Art, Painting or Drawing and Pottery

Grade Availability: 10 - 12

Course Description: The program will enhance each student's arts experience and provide opportunities for growth by connecting their individual experiences to the larger role that the arts play in our world. While working on their own independent projects, students are provided a forum for dialogue between their fellow participants, thus increasing the support and opportunities for each student. Students will create an original body of work in which they can work in any medium in which they have developed a high degree of proficiency. In addition, students will explore art and artists through readings, films and much more. The program is open to students in their junior and senior years, who are actively enrolled in arts classes.

Course Description for Mathematics

Course: Pre-Algebra

Course Length: Year-long

Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation

Grade Availability: 9

Course: Algebra 1

Course Length: Year-long

Course Type: Required

Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation

Grade Availability: 9-10

Course Description: Algebra 1 is the foundation of higher level courses in mathematics, science and computers. In our technological society many vocations and careers require a basic knowledge of Algebra. The course will cover language and structure of algebra, algebraic expressions, solutions and applications of equations and inequalities, graphing, rational expressions, polynomials and factoring. A strong emphasis will be placed on work problems. Students will learn the skills through daily oral drills, discussion in class and regular assignments. Success in this course comes from concentrated daily effort. Algebra 1 is targeted for the student possessing above average math skills.

Course: Algebra 2

Course Length: Year-long
Course Type: Required
Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry
Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description: Algebra 2 stresses both the structure of algebra and the development of computational skills. Problem solving techniques are emphasized and refined through practical applications. The course content will consist of a rapid review at a more in-depth level of the concepts studied in Algebra 1 followed by new topics of radicals and irrational numbers, complex numbers, functions, logarithms and higher degree equations and functions. Students will be expected to complete regular assignments consisting of problems with a range of difficulty that will provide a challenge for the most able students. This is a college-prep class.

Course: Geometry
Course Length: 1 year
Course Type: Required
Prerequisites: Algebra I
Grade Availability: 9-12

Geometry is a required course for all students to meet the graduation requirement of 6 math credits. Some of the course content includes lines in a plane, properties of congruent triangles, properties of polygons and circles, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, and transformations. Logical reasoning skills will be strengthened through the process of proving theorems and congruent figures.

Course: Intermediate Algebra
Course Length: 1 Year
Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry
Grade Availability: 11-12

Intermediate Algebra courses review and extend algebra and geometry concepts for students who have already taken Algebra I and Geometry. Intermediate Algebra courses include a review of such topics as properties and operations of real numbers; evaluation of rational algebraic expressions; solutions and graphs of first-degree equations and inequalities; translation of word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; quadratics; properties of plane and solid figures; rules of congruence and similarity; coordinate geometry including lines, segments, and circles in the coordinate plane; and angle measurement in triangles including trigonometric ratios.

Course: Pre-Calculus
Course Length: 1 year
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: Algebra I/II & Geometry
Grade Availability: 9-12

Pre- Calculus is a course designed for students who intend to take Calculus in college. The concepts of Algebra II are studied in depth with the aid of a graphing device. Some topics covered are functions, sequences, probability, statistics, logarithms, trigonometric ratios and identities, and limits. Special emphasis is given to skills that are needed in calculus.

Course: Consumer Math
Course Length: One semester
Course Type: Elective
Grade Availability: 12

Course Description: In this one semester class students will be exposed to topics on financial literacy. Daily assignments will allow students to use mathematical skills in consumer situations. The students will study “real-life” math topics such as savings, wealth building, college savings, dangers of debt, consumer awareness, and taxes. This course may not fulfill requirements for entrance into a four-year institution.

Course: Statistics
Course Length: Half-year (1 semester)
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisite: Algebra I/II and Geometry
Grade Availability: 11-12

Course Description: Statistics is a one semester course designed for students who want to pursue higher level math courses and plan to attend college. Most business degrees and master’s programs require a statistics course. This would help prepare students interested in these fields.

Course Descriptions for Health and Physical Education

Course: Physical Education
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Required
Prerequisites: None
Grade Availability: 9-12

Each student will complete six semesters of Physical Education during their high school years. Physical Education courses provide students with knowledge, experience, and an opportunity to develop skills in more than one of the following sports or activities: team sports, individual/dual sports, recreational sports, and fitness/conditioning activities. It is the intent of the course to give knowledge on the rules and skills of various activities, as well as a better understanding of their own fitness level.

Course: Performance Physical Education
Course Length: Semester
Grade Availability: 9-12

Performance PE is an alternative to the Physical Education course. The Performance PE curriculum includes Speed and Agility, Functional Strength Training program which includes various Olympic and Power lifts, Flexibility, Injury Prevention, Character Development, and Proper Nutrition. Students will be taught CPR during this class.

Course: Personal Fitness
Course Length: Semester
Grade Availability: 9-12

This course is designed to help students create lifelong fitness habits. Students will participate in weight lifting and cardiovascular training each class, followed by cool down stretches and exercises. Students will set individual fitness goals and formulate a fitness plan to follow throughout the end of the semester. This class counts as 1-semester credit for PE.

Course: Health I
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Required
Prerequisites: None
Grade Availability: 9-12
Instructor: Mrs. Sears

This course is designed to help students examine their lifestyles, select goals, and create plans to achieve good health. Health I will explore topics such as wellness, nutrition, physical fitness, and hazardous substances. During this course students will also learn about diseases, mental, emotional, and social health, and the human life cycle.

Course: Nutrition & Lifetime Wellness
Course Length: Semester
Course Type: Elective
Prerequisites: None
Grade Availability: 9-12
Instructor: Mrs. Sears

This course is designed to outline the importance of healthful eating and physical activity across the lifespan. Nutrition & Lifetime Wellness will explore topics such as food habits, nutrition guidelines, nutrition for athletes, eating disorders, weight management, and meal planning and preparation. Certain days of the class will be in the FCS room so students can learn how to cook and season nutritious foods and snacks. During this course, students will also learn how physical activity, mental and social health, and stress management play an important role in lifelong wellness.

Course: Early Bird PE
Course Length: Semester
Grade Availability: 9 - 12

Course Description: This course meets in the morning on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Wellness Center. The class concentrates on weight training and is similar to the performance PE class.

Course Description for Music

Instrumental Music (Eight Semesters)

This is a program designed to provide students with the opportunity of musical growth, appreciation and understanding. It also provides personal growth and the opportunity for teamwork/cooperation. Students will

- Continue to develop an understanding and appreciation for the elements of music and the mechanics of their personal instrument.
- Express creativity and expression through performing.
- Increase awareness of listening within an ensemble.
- Evaluate both individual and group performances using musical vocabulary.

All Instrumental Music members will participate in: marching band, concert band, pep band, large group contest, public performances and private lessons. Members will have the opportunity to participate/perform in jazz band, small group contest and music festivals.

Course: Concert Choir

Course Length: Year-long

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: None

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: The Concert Choir, a mixed vocal ensemble is open to grades 9-12. In this choir, students will learn about posture, breathing, tone production, expression, and many other foundational aspects of choral music. Members of this choir may also prepare separate men's and women's choir pieces. High school choir students are provided with the opportunity to have voice lessons during the school day. There will be several opportunities for students to attend honor choirs throughout the year. The Concert Choir performs in at least five concerts a year.

Course: Functional Guitar

Course Length: One Semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisite: None

Grade Availability: 10-12

Course: Functional Guitar II

Course Length: One Semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisite: None

Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description for Business Education

Course: Accounting

Course Length: 1 year or per semester

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 11-12

Course Description: This course gives students real-life experience with accounting simulations that will prepare them for basic bookkeeping positions. An understanding of such terms and knowledge will be very valuable as the student continues through high school and as well as post high school education.

Course: AP Computer Science Principles

Course Length: 1-year

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 11-12

Introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. Advanced Javascript programming will be covered. An AP exam will be administered in the spring.

Course: Business Concepts

Course Length: 1-Semester

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course description:

This course is for all students and is designed to improve economic citizenship and understanding through the study of the business and economic environment in which we live. This course will cover the basis of advertising and marketing, forms of business ownership, human resources, management and leadership, and production operations, as well as understanding the process of the stock market.

Course: Business Law

Course Length: 1-Semester

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: This course gives an in-depth look at social and legal environments in a business setting. The course will explore the regulatory environment of businesses to understand the diversity of regulations, in addition to coverage of personal law.

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description: This course introduces the concept of Entrepreneurship beginning with identifying characteristics of the Entrepreneur, evaluating opportunities, feasibility, financing, and planning for success. Students will also understand the need for a contingency plan as well as an exit strategy.

Course: NIACC BCA-215 Computer Business Applications

Course Length: 1-Semester

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to Microsoft Office. Students will learn about Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. An understanding of these programs will be very valuable as the student continues through high school and as well as post high school, whether it be college or the world of work.

Course: NIACC WBL-100 Exploring Careers

Course Length: 1-Semester

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description: To assist students in exploring, narrowing down, and selecting both an academic major and an overall career direction that reflects their personality, interests, motivated skills, and passions by learning a process of career/life planning which will be applicable throughout their lives.

Course: Marketing

Course Length: 1-Semester

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 11-12

Course Description: Students will explore the seven functions of marketing with emphasis on advertising.

Course: Business Management

Course Length: 1 Semester

Course Type: Elective

Grade Availability: 11-12

Course Description: Students will explore management functions and leadership.

Course Description for Technology

Course: Tech Pathways

Course Length: Semester

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: None

Grade Availability: 9-12

Seat limit: 10

Tech Pathways is designed for high school students to understand, communicate, and adapt to a digital world as it impacts their personal life, society, and the business world. Students will develop foundational knowledge in hardware, software, coding, web design, IT support, and digital imaging all taught in a computer lab with hands-on activities and project focused tasks. Students will not only understand the concepts but apply their knowledge to situations. Various forms of technologies will be highlighted to expose students to emerging technologies impacting the digital world. Students will be able to choose their "Pathway", deciding which area to focus on each quarter. Communication skills and practices, problem-solving, ethical and legal issues are taught in this course as a foundational knowledge to prepare students to be college and career ready. The knowledge and skills taught in this course build upon each other to form a comprehensive introduction to the digital world. This course can be taken multiple semesters.

Course: Yearbook

Course Length: Full-year

Course Type:

Grade Availability:

Course Description: Yearbook allows students to participate in the production of the school yearbook. Students in this course are required to learn layout design; write and fit copy, captions, and headlines; sell advertisements; learn basic photography skills, and should be proficient on a computer. Individual responsibility is essential toward completion of assignments for deadlines. Students will also have the opportunity to accept leadership positions and develop new skills as they build the yearbook.

Course Description for Science

General Science

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Length: 1 full school calendar if meet every other day, or 1 semester if meet everyday

Consideration: A student must take General Science before graduating West Fork. This is one of the three science credits a student must earn

Required: Middle school math, calculator, and Chromebook

Course Description:

The course will cover three main topics of Science. The first topic of the course will include units in Earth Science, followed by units in chemistry, and ending the school year with units in physics. All three topics are introductory. Earth Science will include topics such as Earth history, space systems, and weather. Chemistry will include topics such as states of matter, classification of matter, atomic structure, elements, compounds, chemical bonds, and reactions. Physics topics will include how objects interact with each other in terms of force, gravitation, energy, motion, and measurement. This class will have weekly hands-on activities throughout all topics and units.

Core Physics

Grade Level: 11, 12

Credit: 1

Length: 1 full school calendar if meet every other day, or 1 semester if meet everyday

Consideration: Students can take this course after Chemistry as a senior. Being enrolled in Algebra 2, or Trigonometry is very helpful. This could be a student's 4th science credit. A student could be enrolled in both Core Chem and Core Physics upon approval from the instructor.

Required: Student must be enrolled in an algebra class or have taken at least a full year of Algebra, if not 2 full years of Algebra and Geometry.

Course Description:

The course will follow Next Generation Science Standards using STEMScopes Curriculum. Topics covered include: Newton's 2nd Law, Momentum, Interaction of Forces, Gravitational and ElectroStatic Forces, Conservation of Energy, Nuclear Chemistry, Waves in Matter, Wave Models, and Waves in Technology. The course will include labs and other hands-on activities.

Core Chemistry

Grade Level: 11, or 12

Credit: 1

Length: 1 full school calendar if meet every other day, or 1 semester if meet everyday

Consideration: Students can take this course after Biology as a junior or senior. Being enrolled in Algebra 1 or 2 is very helpful. This could be a student's 3rd science credit. A student could be enrolled in both Core Chem, and Anatomy and Physiology upon instructor approval.

Required: Student must be enrolled in an algebra class or have taken at least a full year of Algebra

Course Description:

The course will follow the Next Generations Standards using STEMScopes as the curriculum. We will cover topics such as the Periodic Table and Element Structure, Elements, Compounds, and Reactions, Structure and Properties of Matter, Reaction Equilibrium, Reaction and Energy, Molecules of Life, Cellular Energy, Energy Applications, Thermodynamics. The course will have labs and hands-on activities throughout each unit.

Course: Biology

Course Length: Full-year (2 semesters)

Course Type: Required

Grade Availability: 9th or 10th Grade

Course Description: Students in this course will study features and processes of life. Units covered include: Life Processes, Cells, Mitosis, Meiosis, Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration, Genetics, and Biodiversity. There will be opportunities for students to work with others in research, dissections, and other collaborative projects. National Science Standards were used in unit development.

Course: Anatomy/Physiology

Course Length: Full-year (2 semesters)

Grade Availability: 11th/12th

Course Description: The human anatomy and physiology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations that began in grades K – 8 and high school biology. This curriculum is extensively performance and laboratory based. It integrates the study of the structures and functions of the human body. Areas of study include organization of the body; protection, support, and movement; providing internal coordination and regulation; processing and transporting; and reproduction, growth and development. Chemistry should be integrated throughout anatomy and not necessarily taught as a stand- alone unit. Whenever possible, careers related to medicine, research, health – care and modern medical technology should be emphasized throughout the curriculum. Case studies concerning diseases, disorders, and ailments (i.e., real – life applications) will be emphasized.

Course: Environmental Science

Course Length: 1 year

Grade Availability: 11/12

Foreign Language Course Descriptions

Course: Spanish I

Course Length: 1 year

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: None

Grade Availability: 9-12

Course Description: Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course: Spanish II

Course Length: 1 year

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Grade Availability: 10-12

Course Description: Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. By second semester, the course is conducted more in Spanish. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course: Spanish III

Course Length: 1 year

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Spanish II

Grade Availability: 11-12

Course Description: Students further deepen their understanding of Spanish by focusing on the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Each unit consists of a variety of activities which teach the students how to understand more difficult written and spoken passages, to communicate with others through informal speaking and writing interactions, and to express their thoughts and opinions in both formal and informal spoken and written contexts. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, use correct vocabulary terms and phrases naturally, incorporate a wide range of grammar concepts consistently and correctly while speaking and writing, participate in conversations covering a wide range of topics, respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, read and analyze important pieces of Hispanic literature, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course: Spanish IV

Course Length: 1 year

Course Type: Elective

Prerequisites: Spanish III

Grade Availability: 12

Course Description: Students continue to sharpen listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They learn to express themselves using an ever-increasing vocabulary. During the course of the year, every verb tense and

mood will be discussed along with commands and participles, past and present. Students are encouraged to speak more on a daily basis. An abridged novel in Spanish will also be read this year. In addition, a research paper will be written on a topic chosen by the student. Throughout the course, students experience the culture, people, geographical locations, and histories of the Spanish-speaking world.