

Millcreek Junior High

2020 - 2021

9th Grade Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

English 9 (4055) Year

This is a required course, which focuses on literary and informational reading, writing, speaking/listening, language, and research skills. English 9 students develop understanding and demonstrate competency on a variety of informational texts and literary works, including drama and poetry.

English 9 Honors (4060) Year

This accelerated English course has an emphasis on depth, complexity, rigor, and higher-order thinking skills as students develop understanding and demonstrate competency in reading, writing, speaking/listening, language, and research skills.

MATHEMATICS

Secondary Math I (5200) Year

This course is the first in the high school math sequence. It covers the Utah core standards for ninth graders. Honors students in this course will receive differentiated instruction and be required to complete an additional unit each term to qualify for AP calculus in high school.

- Secondary Mathematics I (5200) Year
- Secondary Mathematics I Honors (5205) Year

Secondary Mathematics II Honors (5305) Year

***Prerequisites: Secondary Mathematics I Honors proficiency. Secondary II Honors is for students who enjoy math and plan on a career in a math-related field such as engineering. The purpose of this course is to continue preparing students to take calculus during their junior year of high school. For this reason, this class moves at a quick and rigorous pace in order to cover the six honors units, in addition to the other Secondary II material.

SCIENCE

Earth Science (6300) Year

Earth science includes many different disciplines that come together to explain the ways in which the world operates around us. In Earth science, students study astronomy, geology, oceanography, meteorology and environmental science. Students learn skills in this class that equip them with an understanding for a world filled with natural disasters, changing climate, and new discoveries. In Earth Science, students learn to conduct internet research on topics such as global warming, water shortages, earthquakes, ozone depletion, and natural disasters which are pertinent to the world in which they live.

Biology (6200) Year

Biology is designed to help us understand and appreciate the human body and the living world around us. Biology follows a 10th grade curriculum and is a challenge for the 9th grade student. Topics of study include cells, genetics, evolution, body systems, and how living organisms interact with other organisms and their environment. Learning will focus on inquiry, labs, demonstrations, research, and discussion. Space is limited for this class. It is recommended students have A's and B's in math and science, end of level test scores of 3 or 4 and enrolled in Secondary Math I Honors. Students must turn in an honors application request form to enroll in this class.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Geography (4520) Year

This course helps students better understand the world by the study of physical and human characteristics of the Earth's people, places, and environments. While contrasting themes and regions of the world, students will develop geographic thinking skills in order to answer the "why of where." Students will examine the interactions, interconnections, and implications of forces shaping our world today.

AP Human Geography (4590) Year

This is a college level course for the motivated and accelerated student to introduce the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, interactions, and alteration of Earth's surface. It requires additional reading, writing and study time outside of the classroom. Students are expected to prepare for and take the AP Human Geography test in May, potentially earning them college credit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. Skills & Technique 9 (1022) Semester

In this course, students create and implement the multifaceted benefits of physical activity including enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and interaction. Although it is not required that students take a PE class in ninth grade, a total of three semesters of 9th-12th grade PE credit is required for graduation. It is highly recommended that students earn their PE credit as soon as possible, to make room in their 11th and 12th grade schedules for more elective opportunities that are offered in high school.

Basketball 9 (1022) Semester

This class is for the ultimate basketball fan! The course is for all levels of basketball players, from novice to advanced, who want to improve their skills. Students master essential skills through a variety of advanced drills used at the college and professional levels. Students play in a variety of tournament style basketball games (1:1, 2:2, 3:3, 5:5). Students also create their own competition shooting games for the class to compete in. Both boys and girls in 7th, 8th and 9th grades are encouraged to enroll.

Fitness 9 (1022) Semester

This class is for all those who are looking for a fun class. This class will focus on various fitness activities such as yoga, circuit training, kick boxing, Zumba, and step aerobics! Students will have a 70's dress-up day at the end of the step aerobics routing (for all those who wish to participate). The class will be videotaped and everyone will have a great time watching the culmination of our efforts. The class will focus on the body, strengthening muscles (including the most important one – your heart!), getting toned, and having fun doing it. This course is open to everyone grades 7-9.

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION - CTE

Engineering Principles 1 (7815) & 2 (7816) Year

The curriculum for this class is rigorous and includes advanced math and science concepts. Students will be expected to do regular homework assignments. This course may also be taken to fulfill a third science credit requirement. (Third science means that the other science classes must be foundation science classes. For Example: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics). Engineering Principles is a project and experience-based course designed to introduce students to the various fields of engineering. Students will gain an understanding of what engineers do and how their courses in high school are important preparation for entering the field of engineering. Students will be introduced to the engineering design cycle, as well as each of the seven fields of engineering (Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Computer Science, Electrical, Materials, and Mechanical). Within each field of study students will explore career opportunities, how the field of engineering affects and benefits daily life, and complete projects/activities that will solidify the students understanding of the field, as well as the underlying math and science involved. Emphasis is placed on the need for engineers to have good written and oral communication skills. There is a class lab fee.

- If students take Engineering Principles 1 and 2 for the full year, they can earn 1.0 science credit. This class could be taken in place of Earth Science.
- This class can also be taken for Career and Technical Education (CTE) credit. This class can be taken for one semester or a full year depending on their graduation credit needs. Students may earn 0.5 (semester) or 1.0 (year) CTE credit.
- This is not a pre-requisite class for other engineering classes taught in the high school. However, it is a great opportunity for students to explore the engineering field by taking this introductory course.

Exploring Technology 2 (7811) Semester

This course follows Exploring Technology 1 and is available to 8th and 9th grade students. This class also incorporates STEM principles, and the engineering design process. In this class students learn about communication through activities in screen printing, computer programming. Students learn about manufacturing through several wood working projects, and they learn about transportation through an activity in rocketry. **Prerequisite is Exploring Technology 1.** There is a lab fee for this class.

Food & Nutrition I (7460) Semester

This exciting course is designed for students who are interested in understanding the principles of nutrition and ways the body uses food. Attention is given to the selection and preparation of food as well as personal health and well-being. Lab work offers students hands-on experience in food safety, and in the preparation of a variety of recipes and techniques. Learning is enhanced through an optional activity (i.e. testing manners at an exclusive restaurant). This course strengthens comprehension of concepts and standards outlined in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Photography
(7812) Semester**

Students learn the basics of communication technology with a heavy emphasis on digital photography. The class includes units in basic camera theory and optics, digital photography, photo editing using Photoshop, web page development, animation, video production, and graphic design. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Manufacturing Tech Pinterest to Projects
(7825) Semester**

This is a hands-on, activity-based course that introduces students to the research, design, documentation, and production of various types of projects found on *Pinterest*. The course exposes students to various manufacturing processes in wood, plastic, metals, and other raw materials. There is a lab fee for this class. This course may require additional project fees

**Sewing Construction & Textiles 1
(7433) Semester**

This course introduces students to basic apparel design and construction skills. These skills prepare students for the exciting global apparel industry and entrepreneurial opportunities. Students sew apparel and accessory projects like pajamas, quilts, wallets, aprons, and projects of their own choice. This course strengthens comprehension of concepts and standards outlined in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. There is a lab fee for this class.

FINE ARTS

MUSIC

**Band 1 Brass
(2204) Year**

The following instruments are played in this class: tuba, trombone, French horn, baritone & trumpet. Students learn basic musicianship skills and theory concepts, such as major scales, basic notes, and rest values. All students participate in the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Tubas, baritones & French horns are available to rent from the school for a fee. This fee is to be paid during registration in the fall. All students participate in Summer Band from late July - mid August. There is a lab fee for this class. This is a full year course.

**Band 1 Flute/Oboe/Clarinet
(2205) Year**

Students choose from the following woodwind instruments: oboe, bassoon, clarinet & flute. Students who desire to play the saxophone begin on a clarinet; then auditions are held in January for a few to switch to saxophone & bass clarinet. Students learn basic musicianship skills & theory concepts such as major scales & basic note & rest values. All beginning students participate in the Christmas & Spring Concerts. Oboe, bassoon & bass clarinets are available to rent from the school. The rental fee is paid during registration in the fall. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Band 2 Concert
(2210) Year**

In this course, students continue to master basic musicianship skills. Concert band students are split into two bands that combine for concerts. The students participate in four concerts during the year. All students participate in Summer Band from late July - mid August. There is a lab fee for this class. This is a full year course.

**Band 3 Symphonic
(2220) Year**

Students work on advanced rhythm skills and develop quality ensemble skills. This is the top band at MJH. There are many performances throughout the year which provide opportunities for students to showcase their talents & abilities. All students participate in Summer Band from late July - mid August. There is a lab fee for this class. This is a full year course.

**Band 3 Jazz
(2225) Year**

Auditions for Jazz Band are held in May. All students are invited to audition, but one pre-requisite is a year-long commitment to the class. In addition, students must also be enrolled in band or orchestra. A participation fee is assessed by the district each term. The student also receives a grade and fine arts credit for Jazz Band.

Jazz Band 1	9th grade	M, W, F	7:10-7:55 a.m.
Jazz Band 2	8th grade	T, TH	7:10-7:55 a.m.

**Boys' Choir Level 1
(2301) Semester or Year**

This course is a mixed men's choir. In this class, students will develop their singing voice, extend their range, and become more musically literate. Students sing music from a variety of musical styles and perform in at least two concerts per semester. No prior experience is required, but this course is a prerequisite for Mustang Choir in 9th grade. There is a lab fee for the class.

**Girls' Choir Level 1
(2301) Semester or Year**

This course is a mixed women's choir. In this class, students will develop their singing voice, extend their range, and become more musically literate. Students sing music from a variety of musical styles and perform in at least two concerts per semester. No prior experience is required, but this course is a prerequisite for Mustang Choir in 9th grade. There is a lab fee for the class.

**Mustang Choir Level 2
(2307) Year**

Students interested in being in Mustang Choir must have been previously enrolled in choir, orchestra, or band. If a student has not been in any of the above courses but would like to be in this class, they must set up a time to audition with Mrs. Baer. Students learn to sing in preparation for concerts, district festivals, and other performances. The focus is on advanced vocal skills, sight reading, and development of a quality ensemble. There is a performance uniform fee and a lab fee for this class.

**Orchestra 1
(2405) Year**

This course is designed to give students the skills to perform music levels 1-2 including basic musicianship and theory. All Beginning Orchestra students participate in Fall, Christmas, and Spring concerts. The following instruments are played in this class: violin, viola, cello, and bass. Cellos and basses are available to rent from the school. This fee should be paid during registration in the fall. Students should have previous experience with their instrument prior to enrolling for Beginning Orchestra (6th grade orchestra or private lessons). Students with no prior experience may enroll but will need private lessons or extra practice outside of class to catch up. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Orchestra 2
(2406) Year**

This class is designed as a continuation of Beginning Orchestra. Students will develop more advanced skills through performance of orchestral literature. Students should have completed Beginning Orchestra or should speak with the instructor to see what skill level is adequate for Orchestra 2. There will be many performance opportunities in this class. There is a lab fee for this class.

VISUAL ARTS

**Art Foundations 1
(2101) Semester**

Students will have experiences creating art in a variety of media. They will become more fluent with the principles and elements of art. Students will grow in their abilities to create and appreciate art. This class is required before students take other art classes. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Art Foundations 2
(2105) Semester**

This course builds on the concepts taught in Art Foundations. Art projects focus on media such as charcoal, graphite, scratchboard, oil pastels, watercolors and more. Each year this semester-long course is taught, the projects are different. This enables students to take Drawing 1 as an 8th grader and again as a 9th grader, if they wish. There is a lab fee for this class.

**3-D Design 1
(2118) Semester**

This course builds on the concepts taught in Art Foundations. Art projects focus on creating three-dimensional works of art using a variety of media such as sculptures, ceramics, jewelry, wire sculpture and more. Each year this semester-long course is taught, the projects are different. This enables students to take 3-D Art as an 8th grader and again as a 9th grader, if they wish. There is a lab fee for this class.

**Advanced Art Foundation 2
(2106) Semester**

This course is designed for students to build a portfolio of their own artwork and individual style. Exercises will include both 2-D and 3-D projects such as figure drawing and figurative sculpture, drawing techniques to further the student's personal drawing style, illustrations, art critique sessions to expose students to vocabulary used in college art courses, and more. Prerequisites to this course are successful completion of a 2-D or 3-D Art course with a citizenship grade of an "H" (Honors). There is a lab fee for this class.

ELECTIVE

**Civics
(4532) Semester**

This course is an introduction to the basic principles of government and leadership. Students prepare for future government and citizen classes by exploring different types of government, economies, branches of government, political systems, elections, as well as current local and world events. The class is discussion and lecture based, with occasional guest speakers and activities.

**Creative Writing
(4335) Semester**

Students will have the chance to flex their creative muscle as they discover, develop, and demonstrate skills related to writing. The attention is focused on different writing strategies, while writing everything from short stories to poetry. Near the end, students will experiment with a wide variety of genres to showcase students' own writing styles.

Film History (4255)

Students will explore the history of moving pictures and cinema from the emergence of cinema to the immergence of actualities, fiction-stories, silent films, and talking pictures. This course will focus on film from the 1890s to the 1960s and will cover various genres of film, technological devices, and cinema personalities. Lessons will include documentary excerpts, short films, and clips from full-length films that are rated G, PG, or Not rated in compliance with district policies. There will be research, presentation, and discussion components within this course.

Released Time (Seminary) (850) Year

Students are released for a course taught by teachers employed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Spanish 1 (3110) Year

This course introduces the Spanish language and the many cultures in which Spanish is spoken. The students will participate in activities and do work in order to be at the Novice-Mid Level of Proficiency, which is measured by ACTFL. There is a lab fee for this class. *No state college in Utah requires a world language for entrance. However, The University of Utah highly encourages students to enter the university with 2 years of a foreign language. The state sponsored Regents' Scholarship requires two years of a foreign language in grades 9–12.*

Spanish 2 (3120) Year

The students will participate in activities and do work in order to be at the Novice-High Level of Proficiency, which is measured by ACTFL. There is a lab fee for this class.

Spanish 3 (3182) Year

The students will participate in activities and do work in order to be at the Intermediate-Low Level of Proficiency, which is measured by ACTFL. There is a lab fee for this class.

Theater (2316) Semester

Students in this course will study basic theater skills including understanding stage directions, developing acting techniques through vocal and physical warm-ups, improvisation, memorized scenes and monologues, vocal techniques, and audition prep. Theater history and the basics of playwriting will also be covered. The main focus of this course is on musical theatre and the production process. The final assessment for this course is a mandatory performance at a musical theater review at the end of the semester. There is lab fee for this course.

The following courses require students to complete an application. These are available in the counseling center. (These classes MUST be listed as alternate classes.) 9th graders have preferred status for these classes. If there is a need for more students, the classes are then open to 8th graders.

Copy Assistant (211) Semester

Students assist the office in running a copy center for teachers. They prioritize, complete, and deliver paper copies for teachers. Student application required.

Counselor Assistant (212) Semester

Students work in the counseling center. They are required to assist the counseling center with projects and delivering student notes. Students must have good attendance and grades to be a counseling assistant. Student application required.

Library Assistant (215) Semester

Students learn basic media skills by assisting in the day-to-day operation of the MJH media center. Students must have a 3.0 GPA to apply. Student application required.

Office Assistant (210) Semester

Students work in the main office, assisting the secretaries. They are required to answer incoming phone calls. Students must have good attendance and grades to be an office assistant. Student application required.

Peer Tutoring (213) Semester

Students help other students by assisting them with their schoolwork. Peer tutors are expected to be role models, trainers, and advocates for the students they tutor. Student application, satisfactory citizenship, and counselor approval required.

Peer Tutoring – Special Needs Students (213) Semester

Students help other students who have special needs. Responsibilities may include accompanying them to general education classes such as art and PE, working in a small group setting, or helping a student one-on-one with individual academic goals. Students who know they will be missing classes frequently due to responsibilities with extra-curricular activities, should make arrangements to not be a tutor 4th or 8th periods. Student application, satisfactory citizenship, and counselor approval required.

**Teacher Assistant
(211) Semester**

Students assist teachers in typing, filing, bulletin boards, tutoring, etc. Student application required.

**Yearbook
(4365) Year**

Yearbook class work is focused on projects that support growth in visual design and layout skills. Students design the school's yearbook. This class is held during RAP for the full year. Student application required.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Resource

Only those students who qualify for Special Education Resource services take Resource classes. Resource classes are offered in the areas of Language Arts and Math. Students with IEP goals for social skills and/or study skills will have these services addressed during the school day but it is not necessary to register for a specific class for these services. Both Language Arts and Math offer an applied class which mimics general education, teaching all the grade level standards but with smaller class sizes and additional support in order to prepare them for a more inclusive educational setting. In addition, students with IEPs will be enrolled in a lab class associated with the academic core goals on their IEP. All students on an IEP will be enrolled in a lab class that pertains to their academic goals; however, enrollment in an applied class or the corresponding general education class will be determined by the IEP team and school counselors per the student's current academic scores and IEP goal achievement.

Intervention Classes

**Enriched Reading 9
(4235) Semester**

This is an intervention reading class for students to improve their reading comprehension skills of functional, informational, and literary texts. Students read some works as a class as well as reading independently, outside of class. There is an emphasis on nonfiction text and understanding reading strategies. Students are selected for placement in this class by counselors.

**Read 180
(4215) Year**

This course is designed to strengthen reading skills. Read 180 is a research-based reading intervention program designed to raise the reading levels and test scores of struggling readers. While emphasizing the improvement of reading skills, the English core is also taught. The class is divided into sections: whole group instruction, small group/individualized instruction, independent and modeled reading, and content-based reading. Students are selected for placement in this class by the counselors.