**AGRICULTURE**

**Agriculture Education Program Outline:**

Agriculture offerings at the Mt. Ayr High School include two paths of learning, one in Crop Production and one in Livestock Production. The courses are designed so students can complete the learning path of their choice and, if desired, move into the same sequence of study at our local community college. The Total Ag Education program includes FFA and SAE along with the course offerings. Students serious about Crop Production and/or Livestock Production will be members of FFA and will develop an SAE project during their freshman year for eligibility in FFA events such as Proficiency Awards, Advanced Degrees like the Iowa Degree, and Chapter Academic recognitions. The recordkeeping program for SAE projects is an excel document program called Dollars and Hours. Students learn how to navigate the Dollars and Hours program during Intro to Agriculture.

**Livestock Production Pathway:**

**Intro to Agriculture – Livestock Production Pathway (both semesters)**

 (2 Semesters) Elective: Grade 9-10

Introduction to Agriculture introduces students to the range of agricultural opportunities and the pathways of study they may pursue. Science, mathematics, reading, and writing components are woven in the context of agriculture and students will use the introductory skills and knowledge developed in this course in following Ag courses. Woven throughout the course are activities to develop and improve employability skills of students through practical applications. Students will explore career and post-secondary opportunities in each area of the course.

Students participating in the Introduction to Agriculture course will experience hands-on activities, projects, and problems. Student experiences will involve the study of communication, the science of agriculture, plants, animals, natural resources, and agricultural mechanics. While surveying the opportunities available in agriculture and natural resources, students will learn to solve problems, conduct research, analyze data, work in teams, and take responsibility for their work, actions, and learning.

**Animal Science – Livestock Production Pathway (both semesters)**

 (2 Semesters) Elective: Grade 10-12

The major focus of Animal Science course is to expose students to the world of agriculture, animal science, and career options. Students participating in the Animal Science course will have experiences in various animal science concepts with exciting hands-on activities, projects, and problems. Students’ experiences will involve the study of animal anatomy, physiology, behavior, nutrition, reproduction, health, selection, and marketing. For example, students will acquire skills in meeting the nutritional needs of animals while developing balanced, economical rations. Throughout the course, students will consider the perceptions and preferences of individuals within local, regional, and world markets.

Students will explore hands-on projects and activities to learn the characteristics of animal science and work on major projects and problems similar to those that animal science specialists, such as veterinarians, zoologists, livestock producers, and industry personnel, face in their respective careers.

In addition, students will understand specific connections between animal science lessons and Supervised Agricultural Experience and FFA components that are important for the development of an informed agricultural education student. Students will investigate, experiment, and learn about documenting a project, solving problems, and communicating their solutions to their peers and members of the professional community. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Ag Business – Livestock Production Pathway (1 semester)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 11-12

Students will learn fundamentals of agricultural business management. Basic accounting principles will be taught during the semester. The John Deere Farm and Ranch Management curriculum and other resources are used. Instructional units include: Principles of agricultural decision-making, record keeping, financial statements, budgeting, cash flows, marketing agricultural products, advertising, business organizations, taxes, and agricultural sales. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Ag Mechanics – Livestock Production Pathway (offered only 5B & 5C)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 10-12

Students will develop skill in identification and use of hand and power tools. They will be taught to weld and use the cutting torch. They will be taught basic tractor mechanics. This class is mostly “hands on” learning by participation in restoring a small tractor. This class is team taught by the Ag instructor and a certified tractor mechanic. Students participating in this class will be in FFA and required to show this restoration project at the Iowa State Fair in August. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Advanced Ag Mechanics – Livestock Production Pathway (offered only 5B & 5C)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 11-12; Prerequisite: Ag Mechanics

This class is a continuation of Ag Mechanics. Students will have the opportunity to learn additional tractor mechanics by restoring a large tractor. This class is team taught by the Ag instructor and a certified tractor mechanic. Students participating in this class will be in FFA and required to show this restoration project at the Iowa State Fair in August. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Crop Production Pathway:**

**Intro to Agriculture – Livestock Production Pathway (both semesters)**

 (2 Semesters) Elective: Grade 9-10

Introduction to Agriculture introduces students to the range of agricultural opportunities and the pathways of study they may pursue. Science, mathematics, reading, and writing components are woven in the context of agriculture and students will use the introductory skills and knowledge developed in this course in following Ag courses. Woven throughout the course are activities to develop and improve employability skills of students through practical applications. Students will explore career and post-secondary opportunities in each area of the course.

Students participating in the Introduction to Agriculture course will experience hands-on activities, projects, and problems. Student experiences will involve the study of communication, the science of agriculture, plants, animals, natural resources, and agricultural mechanics. While surveying the opportunities available in agriculture and natural resources, students will learn to solve problems, conduct research, analyze data, work in teams, and take responsibility for their work, actions, and learning.

**Horticulture – Crop Production Pathway (Second Semester)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 10-12

Students will explore the areas of horticulture to include 1) Pomology, 2) Olericulture,

3) Ornamental floriculture, and 3) Landscaping. Identifying areas of interest within horticulture can lead to fulfilling careers in this industry. A strong component will also include greenhouse management. The school greenhouse will be used for this class and much of the learning will be “hands on” project based. This class will be responsible for planting the garden beds at the elementary with the help of the 5th and 6th grades students. This class will also be responsible for much of the greenhouse plantings. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Ag Business – Livestock Production Pathway (1 semester)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 11-12

Students will learn fundamentals of agricultural business management. Basic accounting principles will be taught during the semester. The John Deere Farm and Ranch Management curriculum and other resources are used. Instructional units include: Principles of agricultural decision-making, record keeping, financial statements, budgeting, cash flows, marketing agricultural products, advertising, business organizations, taxes, and agricultural sales. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Ag Mechanics – Livestock Production Pathway (offered only 5B & 5C)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 10-12

Students will develop skill in identification and use of hand and power tools. They will be taught to weld and use the cutting torch. They will be taught basic tractor mechanics. This class is mostly “hands on” learning by participation in restoring a small tractor. This class is team taught by the Ag instructor and a certified tractor mechanic. Students participating in this class will be in FFA and required to show this restoration project at the Iowa State Fair in August. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Advanced Ag Mechanics – Livestock Production Pathway (offered only 5B & 5C)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 11-12; Prerequisite: Ag Mechanics

This class is a continuation of Ag Mechanics. Students will have the opportunity to learn additional tractor mechanics by restoring a large tractor. This class is team taught by the Ag instructor and a certified tractor mechanic. Students participating in this class will be in FFA and required to show this restoration project at the Iowa State Fair in August. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Agronomy – Crop Production Pathway (first semester)**

 (1 Semester) Elective: Grade 10-12

During the first nine weeks of this course students learn soil science. They are able to identify the different particles in soil, horizons of the soil, and land where specific soils are found. They learn how to navigate the NRCS soil web-master program to find Corn Suitability Rates and other important information regarding past production records on specific types of crop ground. They learn how to take a soil sample and test the soil’s PH. Students who participate in this class attend the FFA CDE soil competition in Knoxville each October. Crop Science is studied the second nine weeks of this course. Students learn about the value and importance of agricultural plants to society. The also learn plant anatomy and physiology, plant growth, plant reproduction, plant identification, use of fertilizer, pest management (IPM), genetically modified organisms, and planting to include practices such as no-till and the use of cover crops. FFA and SAE are intra-curricular components of this class.

**Food Science and Safety - Crop Production Pathway (both semesters)**

 (2 Semesters) Elective: Grade 11-12

In Food Science and Safety students will complete hands-on activities, projects, and problems that simulate actual concepts and situations found in the food science and safety industry, allowing students to build content knowledge and technical skills. Students will investigate areas of food science including food safety, food chemistry, food processing, food product development, and marketing.

Students will maintain a research level Laboratory Notebook throughout the course documenting their experiences in the laboratory. Research and experimental design will be highlighted as students develop and conduct industry appropriate investigations.

In addition, students will explore connections between the Food Science and Safety lessons, Supervised Agricultural Experience, and FFA components that are important for the development of an informed agricultural education student. Students will investigate, experiment, and learn about documenting a project, solving problems, and communicating solutions to their peers and members of the professional community. Food Science and Safety includes the following units of study: Introduction to Food Science, Chemistry of Food, Safety of Our Food, Food Processing Preservation and Packaging, Food Health and Security, Preference and Product Availability, and Food Product Development.

Due to the pace and rigor of the course, certain prerequisites are necessary for student success. Students should take Intro to Ag followed by either Animal Science or Agronomy/Horticulture prior to registering for this course. An alternative route could be Biology, Chemistry, foundational agricultural science for plants and animals and a strong background in student-directed, project-, and inquiry-based learning. \*\*Do **not** take this course to “eat all of the time”. This course is about the science and safety behind food production and processing.

**ART**

**Art I**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 9-12 (Basic)

This course places an emphasis on the basics of design and composition and the techniques involved in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and commercial art. This course must be taken as a prerequisite to all advanced art courses.

**Art II**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 10-12 Prerequisite: Art I

This class is designed for the student who wishes to continue work in a variety of media. Each area of Art I will be covered in further depth in Art II. Students will work more independently in Art II.

**Art III**

(1 year) Elective Grades 11-12 Prerequisite: Art II

This class is designed for the student who wishes to continue work in a variety of media. Each area will be covered in further depth in Art III. Students will work more independently in Art III.

**Art IV**

(1 year) Elective Grades 12 Prerequisite: Art III

This class is designed for the student who wishes to continue work in a variety of media and in greater depth or to prepare for college work. Students will work independently in Art IV.

**Art Appreciation**

 (1 semester) Elective Dual Credit Grades 11-12

This course is a study of the elements, principles, and forms of expression from the major periods of Western Art. Although the works will be studied in the context of history, this is not a chronological survey of art. A variety of approaches to learning will be used, including films, hands-on experiences, possible field trips, and slides.

**Ceramics 1**

A beginning course in studio ceramics. Basic methods of hand building and processes for functional and sculptural products are learned through studio experiences.

**Painting**

Elective (1 semester)

This is a studio course in beginning painting that explores the various elements of painting from color, composition, and technique, to creative invention and expression. Different painting media and techniques will be discovered along with painting on a variety of grounds.

**Purpose of the Course/Course Rationale**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic ceramic techniques. Pinch, coil, slab, and hand building techniques will be practiced, along with the possibility of raku, and use of the potters wheel.

**Ceramics 2** Prerequisite: Ceramics 1.

An advanced course in studio pottery, including firing techniques, special clay bodies, forming problems, and glaze calculations.

**Purpose of the Course/Course Rationale**

The purpose of this course is for students to develop more advanced ceramic building skills. Students will create a series of ceramic works and will be critiqued at both the midterm and final class periods. By the beginning of the 2nd class period, each student will write up a one page or more artist proposal, stating a description of the series intended to be produced. Included within the proposal: number of pieces, type of clay body used, possible glaze configurations, inspiration behind the series, message or idea expressed or conveyed, overall reason for creating the series.

**Creative Digital Imaging**

(1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

This semester class is designed for students who wish to learn how to create and alter digital images artistically. The curriculum will move students beyond simple snapshots of friends and force them to explore the world of digital art and manipulation. Adobe Photoshop Elements, digital cameras, flatbed scanners, and possibly digital camcorders will be the tools used in this class. Must have completed Art 1 and be an 11th or 12th grader.

**Independent Study**

 (1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

This course is for the advanced art student wanting to work toward a special interest or preparing a portfolio for college. The course of study will be approved by the instructor. Self-initiative and discipline will be necessary.

**BUSINESS EDUCATION**

**Accounting I**

(1 year) Elective 9-12

The accounting cycle for a proprietorship and partnership are explored. An accounting simulation gives the student a realistic view of how businesses make financial decisions and how source documents are used. The course shows accounting principles for a service business and merchandising business. This is a practical course for students wanting to know how businesses keep track of their money.

**Accounting II**

 (1 year) Elective 10-12 Prerequisite: Accounting 1

This course is an extensive continuation of Accounting I. Departmentalized, managerial, and cost accounting are discussed along with corporate accounting procedures. This course is recommended for students planning to go into the field of accounting or business.

**Financial Literacy**

(1 Semester) 9th Grade Required for Graduation

Financial Literacy is designed to help students learn and apply valuable financial skills needed in everyday life. Topics covered include: needs vs. wants, financial goal setting, interest inventory, comparing job offers, spending plans, saving and investing, the stock market, identity theft, credit, renting vs. owning, shopping for loans, types of insurance and transportation.

**Introduction to Computers** (1 Semester) Elective 9-12 Dual Enrollment 3 College Credits

**Course Description**: This is an introductory course that surveys a variety of topics to include history, hardware, software, terminology, communications, computer ethics and societal impact of computers. In addition to computer literacy, students will complete hands on modules for Microsoft Office programs.

**Course Outcomes**:

 -Knowledge of the history and progress of information technology will provide a better understanding of the future of technology.

-Basic understanding of software and hardware is essential to aid in identifying personal and small business needs relating to computers.

-Realizing that new technology is developed every day, understanding information systems is essential to success for personal and business uses.

**Computer Business Applications**

(1 Semester) Elective 9-12 Dual Enrollment 3 College Credits

Prerequisite: CSC 110 Introduction to Computers or equivalent or instructor approval.

**Course Description**

This is a course for experienced computer users. This is an upper level applications course utilizing Microsoft Office programs. Special attention will be given to program integration and applying skills to business situations.

**Course Outcomes**

Learner Outcomes Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

-Demonstrate proper software skill to business projects.

-Demonstrate organization and maintaining of electronic files.

-Demonstrate interpretation and communication of data and information .

-Demonstrate the ability to apply technology, critical thinking, and problem solving skill to specific tasks.

-Demonstrate the ability to understand oral and written instructions to analyze and solve problems successfully.

**Personal Finance**

(1 Semester) 3 College Credit Hours (Dual Enrollment Course)

Grade Level (11th-12th or 9th-10th grade students enrolled in TAG)

 The class involves how to establish money management skills, explore financial planning, identify different types of investment strategies, evaluate the factors that affect consumer credit, look at consumer purchasing strategies, how to select and finance housing, identify the usefulness of various types of insurance (home, auto, health, disability, life), explore investing basics, why saving for retirement is important and the benefits of estate planning.

**Course Outcomes**

-Develop money management skills.

-Explore taxes in your financial planning

-Evaluate savings plans and the advantages and disadvantages of consumer credit.

-Explore implications of major expenditures like housing and automobiles.

-Understand the different types of insurance like auto, health life and disability.

-Evaluate the different types of investment strategies.

**International Business**

(1 Semester) 3 College Credit Hours (Dual Enrollment Course)

Grade Level (11th-12th or 9th-10th grade students enrolled in TAG)

The class explores many aspects of international business. The topics covered include the impact of globalization, how national differences impact international businesses, the impact of trade in the world economy, how various monetary systems affect trade, the role of competition in the global market and the impact exporting and importing on foreign markets.

**Course Outcomes**

-Develop an understanding and appreciation of the differences in culture, traditions, laws and business practices in different countries.

-Learn flexibility and originality in conducting business with or in other countries.

-Understand the importance of Globalization is designing any new business venture.

-Learn and implement the important elements in an International Business Plan.

-Gain a broader perspective of world business and trade and become a better informed, educated, and participative World Citizen.

**Career Readiness**

 (1 Semester) Elective 10-12 (Required for those students interested in taking the Internship Program)

This course must be taken prior to or concurrently with the Internship Program. This course is designed to introduce students to job getting and keeping skills, employee/employer relations, dealing with coworker, effective work habits, resume writing, taxes, computer skills, contracts and consumer skills.

**Internship Program (**Elective) 11-12 Semester or Year and 1, 2 or 3 Periods

Prerequisites: The Career Readiness class must be taken prior to, or concurrently with the Internship Program. The program coordinator must approve all placements and participants must meet the requirements listed below to be admitted into the program.

1. Participants must be either a Junior or a Senior.

2. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

3. Applicants may not have been absent for more than 72 class periods

 the prior year in school. Students with excessive tardies will not be admitted.

4. Applicant’s coursework prior to placement should be in line with their

 career goals.

5. Working for parents or immediate family members is not allowed.

 This course is an on-the-job training program where the student is placed in a mutually

 agreed upon training site. The purpose of the program is to expose students to possible

 career choices and gain employment skills. The student will receive credit equal to the

 number of class periods they are employed during the school day. Payment for the

placement is optional for the employer. Students will be evaluated by the employer and coordinator on a regular basis to measure progress and determine their grade for the course. A maximum enrollment of 20 students has been established for this program.

**DRIVER'S EDUCATION**

**Driver's Education**

 (summer) Elective Grade 9-10 -Prerequisite: Student must possess a valid learner’s permit. (20 hours driving time with parents are required by the state of Iowa)

To develop the proper attitude toward driving, the proper habits, and the proper driving skills. Objectives are:

To make the student aware of the laws of driving and law enforcement.

To make the student familiar with the automobile and understand the vehicle operation.

To meet all of the state requirements.

The Board of Directors determines the fee each year for this class.

**ENGLISH**

**American Literature 1**

 (1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

The class attempts to stimulate student interest in classical literature. It is designed to introduce students to higher order thinking skills through literature. Symbolism, plot, foreshadowing, and theory are studied. The class also includes critical analysis writing pertaining to the literature studied. Literature titles include The Scarlet Letter, The Jungle, The Great Gatsby, Old Man and the Sea, Ethan Frome, and The Awakening. Selected titles from the American Literature text will also be studied. Titles may vary at the discretion of the instructor.

**American Literature 2**

 (1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

The class format is similar to American Literature 1, but the course focuses on contemporary literature (modern day authors). Critical analysis writing is included, and will weigh heavily on the student’s overall grade. Literature titles include In Cold Blood, In Broad Daylight, The Handmaid’s Tale, and Of Mice and Men. Selected titles from the American Literature text will also be studied. Titles may vary at the discretion of the instructor.

**English I**

 (1 year) Required Grade 9

English I is a basic freshman English course designed to provide a good English foundation needed throughout high school. The class will focus on literature and our responses to it. We will explore many facets of English literature including novels, fantasy, poetry, drama and short stories. Writing assignments will deal with material covered.

**English II**

(1 year) Required Grade 10

This course is designed to reinforce and advance skills in the areas of grammar, composition, and literary techniques. Students will study short stories, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and the novel, and increase composition skills through vocabulary building, sentence structure and grammar usage exercises, and other practical applications.

 **English III**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 11-12

This course is designed to inspire the students interest in reading and writing. We will read several novels and work on comprehension skills. Novel titles include Fallen Angels, Of Mice and Men, Lonely Men, Athletic Shorts, and Animal Farm. We will also write several essays pertaining to the themes of the novels. Titles of selected novels may vary at the discretion of the instructor.

**English Composition I - 400:110**

3 Semester Hours Credit - Seniors Only (This is a dual credit class with SWCC)

Any student planning to attend a two or four year college should take this class. Required of all first year college students, this course is a program in intensive writing, designed to develop skill in the uses of language, clear thinking, critical reading, effective writing, and practice in writing information and persuasive prose. This course is intensive and all papers will be written in MLA format. Fundamentals of writing encouraged before taking this course.

**English Composition II - 400:111**

3 Semester Hours Credit - Seniors Only (This is a dual credit class with SWCC)

Prerequisite: 400:110 English Composition I. This one semester advanced composition class is a continuation of English Composition I, offering a full year of composition for transfer to four-year institutions. Intensive writing practice will be stressed with an argumentative approach to nearly every paper and with a move from MLA format to APA formats. This is a research intensive course.

**Communications I & II**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 11-12

Communications I & II develop skills in all areas of journalism and publishing - digital photography and desktop publishing. Writing will be for the newspaper . Students are required to work independently on assigned projects, both in and out of class, and must be self-motivated. Some evening and weekend work will be required in order to cover school events. Enrollment may be limited to 10-15. Instructor approval required. Students are required to do all work assigned for yearbook and newspaper.

**LA Lab**

 (Full Year) 2 credits (semester credits) Prerequisite-Qualifying Reading scores on the Iowa Tests and Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test Grades 9-12

This class is designed to increase reading fluency, comprehension and vocabulary through a prescribed and researched set of strategies. Students qualify to take this course by scoring at or below the 42nd percentile in the Reading Comprehension portion of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, the Iowa Tests of Educational Development, MAP test and/or the Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test.

**Speech**

 (1 semester) Required Grade 12

This communication course explores the developmental process of speaking through careful study of communication. Included in this course, but not limited to, are speech-creating skills, small group communication, effective listening techniques, acting and writing. In addition, the student will be required to successfully deliver a minimum of seven speeches throughout the semester.

**Fundamentals of Writing**

 (1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

This course is designed as a prerequisite to College Composition. It is highly recommended that students intending to take College Composition as seniors, take Fundamentals of Writing first. The course includes in depth studies in grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, and writing practices. Various essay assignments will be included. Students taking this class will be better prepared for both ACT testing and college writing.

**Functional Writing**

 (1 semester) Elective 11-12

This course is designed to prepare the student for the world of work. Job interviews, resumes, business letters, job applications, etc., will be discussed and worked on. With this course the students will be well versed in job preparation. A content research paper will also be required for this course.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

 **Foods (Not offered 2015-16)**

(1 semester) Elective Grades 10-12

This is a semester course in food nutrition and food preparation. Emphasis is on nutritious meals management, and food labs for: yeast and quick breads, pastas, pastries, care and uses of fruits and vegetables, meat selection and cooking methods. A section of various foreign food will also introduce students to regional, cultural and ethnic food found among the food industry. There will be food preparation labs, tasting labs, food comparison in relation to cost, time and taste.

**Child Development I**

(1 semester) Elective Grades 9-12

This semester course is important for any person planning to be a parent or work with children in an employment situation. It emphasizes the area of development physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially with children from conception through adolescence. It includes prenatal care and development as well as the birthing process. Students will have an opportunity to use the "empathy belly" and the "Ready or Not Tot".

**Child Development II**

 (1 semester) Grades 9-12

Child Development II is a sequential course that follows Child Development I. This class emphasizes the area of physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of toddlers from ages 3 to adolescence. Throughout this course, students will evaluate various family support systems and participate in child-care opportunities.

**Culinary Foods (not offered 2015-16)**

(1 semester) Grades 10-12

Culinary Foods is a sequential course that prepares students for occupations and higher educational programs relate to the food industry field. Students will apply technical skills covered in the Foods class which is needed in the restaurant and hospitality professions. Labs and assignments will also reflect higher level of thinking and application of knowledge. Foods is a pre-requirement. Lab Fee

**Family and Consumer Science**

(1 year) Elective Grades 9-10

A year long course this is comprehensive in the areas of personal grooming, decision making, relationships, wardrobe planning, clothing care, clothing construction, basic nutrition and meal management, money management and career exploration. This class will construct a project or participate in labs within all content areas of FACS.

**HEALTH**

**Health**

 (1 semester) Required Grade 9-10

This course is a comprehensive study that will allow the student to gain an appreciation of total health--physical, mental, and social well-being. Our focus is on preventive health and safety measures. The student is encouraged to choose responsible health habits early in life to improve quality care and safeguard their health.

**Health and Fitness**

(1 year)

Health and Fitness courses combine the topics of Health Education courses (nutrition, stress management, substance abuse prevention, disease prevention, first aid, and so on) with an active

Fitness component (typically including aerobic activity and fitness circuits) with the intention of conveying the importance of life-long wellness habits.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

**Mechanical/Architectural Drafting**

General Elective, Drafting Requirement, Grades 10-12

Architectural drafting is a companion course for Introduction to Technology The student will learn how to draw and design buildings especially residential structures using Chief Architectural Software. Some basic mechanical drafting will be exposed using Solid Works Software. Students interested in careers in construction, home decoration or being an architect should enroll in this course. 1 semester of Mechanical Drafting / 1 semester of Architectural Drafting

**Independent Studies**

(1 year or semester) Elective Grade 12 Prerequisite: Intro to Technology, all available course work in chosen area

This course is designed to provide the student who wishes to pursue additional studies in an area in which he has taken all available courses or in which a course is not normally offered. Requires an interview and instructor approval.

**Intro to Construction and Home Repair**

 (1 year)

This course is an introductory level, one year course covering the basic areas of construction and home repair. Areas of construction include: safety, construction math, hand tools, power tools, construction drawings, basic rigging, communication skills and employability skills. Students will study and learn how to: do general construction practices, build walls, minor electrical applications, hand drywall mud and tape drywall, minor plumbing applications, general concrete projects if time permits.

**Intro to Engineering Design**

 (1year) –Algebra 1 Prerequisite

This course uses a design development process while enriching problem solving skills; students create

and analyze models using specialized computer software.

**Intro to Technology**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 9-10

This course is an introductory level, one year course covering the basic areas of modern technology; manufacturing, construction, communication, aviation, and transportation. Students will design and build projects such as: CO2 car, tower/bridges, gliders, small engines, airplanes and rockets. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of drafting. Students will learn to draw 3 view drawings, 3-D drawings and design and draw a floor plan. Students will learn basic automotive maintenance. Students will learn how to change oil, check fluids, change tires and other general maintenance items associated with owning a vehicle. Students will also be introduced to small engines where they have to disassemble and reassemble a small gas engine. This course is open to all students but is especially designed for the 9th and 10th grade students. This course is a prerequisite for all other industrial technology course work

**Metals Technology and Metal Fabrication**

 (1 year) General Elective, Grade 10-12

 prerequisite: Intro to Technology

Metals Technology is the study of metals, tools, and processes used in the manufacture of metal products. Students will also get the opportunity to design and fabricate metal projects through the use of the Torchmate CNC Plasma Cutter. The class participates in a business like opportunity designing and fabricating signs for customers. Areas of study may include welding, machining, foundry and sheet metal metal work. A large portion of this course is devoted to "hands on" activities. The student will be expected to purchase materials used for projects.

**Principals of Engineering (POE)**

(see math)

**LANGUAGE**

**Spanish I**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 9-12 (with some exceptions)

 Prerequisites: Spanish I is open to all 9th graders and to 8th graders who have both the recommendation of the TAG coordinator and the permission of the Spanish instructor.

Many colleges require at least two years of study in one foreign language for admission, and three to four years of a foreign language for graduation at the bachelor's level. Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish-speaking world. Students will speak, write, and listen to native speakers in order to help them to learn more about the Spanish language. Subject matter pertains to school, home, family, foods, past times, & sports, etc. It is recommended for all college bound and business students.

 In order to better meet the needs of gifted languages learners, qualified students will be given the option to jump from Spanish I to Spanish II following the first quarter of the academic year. The Spanish teacher will be primarily responsible for identifying the qualified students. The decision to make the switch will be involve consultations with the students, the students’ parents/guardians, the guidance counselor, and the coordinator for Talented and Gifted education.

 Materials: The student book will be "Juntos".

**Spanish II**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 10-12

 Prerequisites: To enter Spanish II, students must have passed Spanish I and have scored at least 80% on the 2nd Semester Cumulative Test. Students may also enter Spanish II with the special permission of the instructor.

 Many colleges require at least two years of study of a foreign language for admission, and three to four years of a foreign language for graduation at the bachelor's level. Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I. It reviews the basics of Spanish I and continues on with present tense, the simple past tense and familiar command forms and culture. There will be a continued conversational approach with an emphasis on written expression and oral dialogues. It is highly recommended for Level I to continue to Level II, as many colleges recommend 2 years in one foreign language.

 Materials: The student book will be "Juntos".

**Spanish III**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 10-12

 Prerequisites: To enter Spanish III, students must have passed Spanish II and have scored at least 80% on the 2nd Semester Spanish II Cumulative Test. Students may also enter Spanish III with the special permission of the instructor.

 Many colleges require at least two years of study of a foreign language for admission, and three to four years of a foreign language for graduation at the bachelor's level. Spanish III will review the present tense, the past tense, and the future will cover the remaining tenses and moods in Spanish grammar. There will be a continued conversational and written approach. To increase the students Spanish vocabulary cassettes, tapes, computers, and video tapes will be used.

 Materials: The student book will be "Juntos II". Students may also be required to purchase a grammar guide and practice book.

**Spanish IV**

 (1 year) Elective Grade 11- 12

 Prerequisites: To enter Spanish IV, students must have passed Spanish III and have scored at least 80% on the 2nd Semester Spanish III Cumulative Test. Students may also enter Spanish IV with the special permission of the instructor.

 Many colleges require at least two years of foreign language study for admission, and three to four years of a foreign language for graduation at the bachelor's level. Spanish IV will review the tenses. There will be a continued conversational approach and a variety of topics covered. A communication emphasis increases the practicality of a Spanish language instruction. Spanish literature will be introduced and discussed. Video tapes, films, cassette tapes, and computers will be used to increase Spanish vocabulary.

 Materials: The student textbook will be "Juntos II & III". Students may also be required to purchase a grammar guide and practice book.

**MATHEMATICS**

**Algebra I**

 (1 year) Elective/Required Grade 9

Algebra I is the study of solving algebraic equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations, factoring, and solving quadratic equations.

**Algebra II**

 (1 year) Elective generally taken in Grade 11 or 12.

Algebra II is a two-semester study in logical thinking about the relationship of equality between two quantities, at least one having variables in it. Linear algebra is reviewed at the outset. Algebra II students solve linear and higher degree polynomial equations in both real and complex (imaginary) environments. Functions, which are special algebraic relationships, are studied using graphs, factoring, and synthetic division. Matrix algebra techniques are introduced for solving systems of equations. Following polynomials and conic sections, the course extends to logarithmic, trigonometric and exponential relationships. For success in Algebra II, each student should have access to a graphing calculator.

**Applied Algebra**

 (1 year) Elective/Required

This course meets for the entire year. It consists of 12 units of study covering such topics as statistics and probability, solving and graphing quadratic equations and inequalities, right triangle relationships and trigonometric functions, geometry, computer spreadsheets and graphics, and quality assurance. The mathematics will be made relevant by showing how it is used in the world of work and by using problem solving through application activities. The applications will be obtained from these major occupational areas: agriculture, business, health field, home economics and industrial technology. Students will complete problem solving exercises and lab activities, discuss the results with each other, and then with the instructor during each unit. In order to have success in Applied Algebra, each student should have access to a calculator every day.

**Euclidean Geometry**

 (1 year) Elective Grade 10 Prerequisite: Alg. I

Geometry is an elective course usually offered for second year high school students. Geometry is a study of theorems, properties, and measurement of solids and angles. In geometry a student will spend most of his/her time learning theorems and proving them. In Euclidean geometry, a student will study and apply many theorems about triangles and other geometric figures.

**Geometry**

 (1 year) Elective Grade 10 Prerequisite - Alg. I

This course will develop geometric concepts and relationships such as congruence, similarity, symmetry, etc. The course will begin using very concrete methods and become more abstract. Students will apply skills learned in Algebra I to solve problems in this course.

**Pre-calculus**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 11-12 Prerequisites : Algebra II

This is a preparatory mathematics course for those students who plan to go into a field which will require the study of Calculus. These fields are not limited to just Math and Science as more and more majors including Business require the study of Calculus. A large portion of this course will be devoted to the study of polynomial, trigonometric, logarithmic, and exponential functions . Students will also study analytic geometry and sequences and series. (TI-83 calculator or higher is required.)

**Principals of Engineering (POE)**

 (1 year) – Algebra II Prerequisite (math or general elective credit)

This course is designed to help students understand the field of engineering and engineering technology. Exploring various technology systems and manufacturing processes help students learn how engineers and technicians use math, science and technology in an engineering problem solving process to benefit people. It is highly recommended before you take this class that you have a good background in Algebra II, and geometry.

**Statistics**

 (Semester) Elective Grades 11-12 Prerequisites : Algebra II

This course is intended to introduce students to the study of statistics. Students will learn to compute and interpret statistical measurements and graphs for a set of data. These measurements will include those of central tendency,dispersion, and reliability. An emphasis will be placed on students collecting and analyzing data they have found or collected on their own, and on the use of technology including graphing calculators and computers.

**MUSIC**

**Instrumental Music**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 9-12

Each student is expected to attend all required performances of the primary ensembles. The group will also take periodic trips to Florida over spring break to Orlando Florida. The next trip is scheduled for March 2018. Covered in this course will be musical terms, increase sight reading skills, scales, and historical information which is directly related to musical compositions performed by the primary ensembles. The students knowledge of the above items will be determined through the aid of both quarter and semester tests which will include both playing and written sections. The student is also expected to act responsible as an individual and cooperate with the instructor and other band members.

The primary performance ensembles are marching band, jazz band, and concert band. Secondary performance ensembles are pep band, jazz band, jazz combos, small wind or percussion ensembles. In individual study private lessons are given as well as solo performances. (There may be changes that take place in this course at a later date.)

**Vocal Music**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 9 - 12

The Concert Choir is the primary performance ensemble. Concert Choir members perform a minimum of four concerts a year, and sing for events such as graduation, and various festivals. If attending, choir members are required to attend Large Group Contest in the spring. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest. Each student is expected to attend all required performances and extra rehearsals. Choir members will learn basic theory fundamentals, musical terms, the history of the pieces performed, and increase their sight-singing and performance skills. The students knowledge will be determined through singing and written tests given at the end of the quarter and the semester.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Physical Education**

 (1 year) Required Grades 9-12

All students are required to participate in physical education. Only students with a doctor's written statement will be excused from participation and will receive no credit for physical education. Grades in physical education are based on participation and attitude. Activities offered in physical education are aimed at recreational skills that tend to last the participants a lifetime.

**Strength & Conditioning**

(Semester) Elective Grades 9-12

This course is designed for student/athletes looking for an opportunity to improve their overall strength, agility, speed and flexibility. Students who take this course should prepare for weight training workouts, intense speed and agility workouts as well as flexibility training with the jump-stretch bands. There will be periodic testing of strength, speed and agility throughout the semester in order to check progress. This course should only be taken if you are serious about lifting weights and becoming a more fit individual.

**SCIENCE**

 **Anatomy and Physiology**

 (1 year) Elective Grade 11-12

This is an introductory course in anatomy and physiology. This course is geared to students in biological, medical, and health oriented college prep programs. Among the students specifically served by this course are those aiming for careers as nurses, medical assistants, medical laboratory technologists, radiologic technologists, athletic trainers, physical therapists, morticians, and medical records keeper. Because of our in depth study, this course will be useful to students in the biological sciences, science technology, liberal arts, physical education, and in premedical, and pre-chiropractic programs. A unification of concepts critical to a basic understanding and working knowledge of the human body will be included.

**Biology**

 (1 year) Required Grade 10

This course is designed to accumulate biological facts, concepts, principles and theories and place them in a format that can be conceptualized. Ideas are presented and developed on the basis of the experimental evidence supporting them. Thus, the student gains an insight into, and an appreciation for, the way scientific knowledge is produced. This course will stress the interrelationships and differences among observations, interpretation and experimentation. This course will place focus on scientific theories for revision in the light of new evidence. Evolution, for example, is treated as a theory rather than fact.

**Chemistry I**

 (1 year) Elective Grades 11-12

 Prerequisites: Physical Science, Biology, Algebra I

The central theme of this course is that the properties of matter are a consequence of its structure. The class will focus on the learning of the International System of measurement, the nomenclature of chemistry, and the quantitative and qualitative relationships between substances in our world. The periodic table is covered extensively as well as the atom, bonding, gas laws, acids, bases, salts, and chemical solutions. Also included is applicable laboratory experience.

**Environmental Science**

 (1 year) Elective/Required Grade 10 - 12

Environmental Science examines the mutual relationships between organisms and their environment. In studying the interrelationships among plants, animals, and humans, we will cover the following subjects: Ecosystems, Pollution, Energy, Water, Land, Air and Waste.

 **Physical Science**

 (1 year) Elective/Required Grade 9

This is the beginning science class, which introduces students to Physics, Chemistry and Earth science concepts. The course is a study of matter and energy which emphasizes everyday applications and questions future applications of physical laws. Topics include classification, structure, and changes of matter, laws of motion, simple machines, light, sound, and energy resources, along with an initiation to high school laboratory procedures and safety. Students will find that most technological advances we have taken for granted are in fact applications of basic physical science principles.

**Physics**

 (1 year) Elective Grade 12

 Prerequisites: Physical Science, Biology, Alg. I, Geometry, Algebra II

The content of this course is geared to produce understanding of the physical laws fundamental to all sciences. The process used extensively in class is problem-solving along with applicable lab work. Topics included are mathematical relationships, forces, motion, work and simple machines, energy, waves, sound, light, electricity, and nuclear physics.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**American Government**

 (1 semester) Required Grade 12

American Government is a study of all facets of the United States Government. The course will examine United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It will also discuss the significance of various Supreme Court cases and their relevance to American Government. Other topics covered during the semester will include: executive, legislative and judicial branches, state and local government, political parties, the media, voting and responsibilities of being a good citizen.

**American History**

 (2 semesters) Required Grade 11

The course examines the history of the United States from the conclusion of the Civil War through WW II. We will cover a variety of topics, including but not limited to: Review of Early American History (Beginnings-1865), Post Civil War Reconstruction, Settling the West, Industrial Growth, Progressive Reform, Becoming a World Power, World War I, Post-War Prosperity & The Roaring 20’s, Great Depression & New Deal, and World War II.

**Current Events**

(1 semester) Elective Grades 10-12This class will focus on those current events that are changing our social, political and economic life on local, state and national levels.

The course will cover recent happenings that are shaping our world today. Daily news sources, such as newspapers, television news shows, magazines and the internet will be used in this class. Every student will be expected to complete the reading and written assignments, construct a student portfolio, complete assigned projects and activities, and participate in class activities.

**Economics**

 (1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

This class will present a basic introduction to economics. Concepts covered will be economic systems, demand and supply, ,business organizations, competition and monopolies, marketing and distribution, money and banking and the stock market.

**Human Relations**

 (1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

Human Relations is a course which concentrates on the study of psychology. The basic objective of this course is to provide the student with a background for an elementary college psychology course. The areas covered are as follows: personality theories, psychology testing, measuring personality, biological and psychological behaviors, personality disturbances--personality treatments. The student will also participate in elementary psychology experiments and prepare library/technology research work in areas assigned by the instructor.

**Sociology**

 (1 semester) Elective Grades 11-12

The course of Sociology is a study of groups and their effect on society. The course begins with a study of terms and definitions relevant to Sociology. Topics studied are as follows: World Cultures, Civil Rights, Crime in America, War and its effects on society, Role of women throughout history, and Drugs in America. The student will also evaluate media material and complete assigned research projects.

**Geography**

(1 semester) Required Grade 9

Students will study the basic themes of geography including location place, regions, movement and human environment interactions. They will learn about maps, continents, various cultures of the world including , Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Students will learn how to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

 **World History**

 (1 year) Required Grade 10

The course is designed to give an overview of World History from prehistoric time to the present. Some of the areas covered are as follows: Ancient Civilizations, (Egypt, Greece, Rome, Byzantine, And Russia, China, India) Medieval Europe, Renaissance, Reformation, French and Industrial Revolutions, World Wars, Cold War to the present. The student will also study current events and evaluate a variety of media material. The class will consist of project based learning, integrated technology, research papers and class discussions over the various units.

**Other**

**AP Chemistry**

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Algebra II

Length: Two semesters

AP\* Chemistry builds students’ understanding of the nature and reactivity of matter. After studying the structure of atoms, molecules, and ions, students move on to solve quantitative chemical problems and explore how molecular structure relates to chemical and physical properties. Students will examine the molecular composition of common substances and learn to predictably transform them through chemical reactions. The equivalent of an introductory college-level chemistry course, AP Chemistry prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in science, health sciences, or engineering.

This course requires students to complete hands-on lab activities that depend on access to supervised laboratory facilities.

Instructor: Mrs. Howie

\*AP is a registered trademark of the College Board.

**AP Psychology**

Prerequisites: Biology and enrollment in another AP course

Length: One semester

View Course Syllabus »

AP\* Psychology provides an overview of current psychological research methods and theories. Students will explore the therapies used by professional counselors and clinical psychologists and examine the reasons for normal human reactions: how people learn and think, the process of human development and human aggression, altruism, intimacy, and self-reflection. They’ll study core psychological concepts, such as the brain and sense functions, and learn to gauge human reactions, gather information, and form meaningful syntheses. Along the way, students will also investigate relevant concepts like study skills and information retention. The equivalent of a 100-level college survey course, AP Psychology prepares students for the AP Exam and for further studies in psychology and life sciences.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

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**AP English Language and Composition**

Prerequisites: At least a B-grade in most recent English course and enrollment in another AP course

Length: Two semesters

View Course Syllabus »

In AP\* English Language and Composition, students learn to understand and analyze complex styles of writing by reading works from a variety of authors. They’ll explore the richness of language, including syntax, imitation, word choice, and tone. They’ll also learn about their own composition style and process, starting with exploration, planning, and writing, and continuing through editing, peer review, rewriting, polishing, and applying what they learn to a breadth of academic, personal, and professional contexts. The equivalent of an introductory college-level survey class, this course prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in communications, creative writing, journalism, literature, and composition.

Instructor Provided by Belin Blank Iowa City, Iowa Hospitals

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**AP English Literature and Composition**

Prerequisites: At least a B-grade in most recent English course and enrollment in another AP course

Length: Two semesters

View Course Syllabus »

AP\* English Literature and Composition immerses students in novels, plays, poems, and short stories from various periods. Students will read and write daily, using a variety of multimedia and interactive activities, interpretive writing assignments, and class discussions to assess and improve their skills and knowledge. The course places special emphasis on reading comprehension, structural and critical analysis of written works, literary vocabulary, and recognizing and understanding literary devices. The equivalent of an introductory college-level survey class, this course prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in creative writing, communications, journalism, literature, and composition.

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**AP U.S. Government and Politics**

Prerequisites: U.S. History and enrollment in another AP course

Length: One semester

AP\* U.S. Government and Politics studies the operations and structure of the U.S. government and the behavior of the electorate and politicians. Students will gain the analytic perspective necessary to critically evaluate political data, hypotheses, concepts, opinions, and processes. Along the way, they’ll learn how to gather data about political behavior and develop their own theoretical analysis of American politics. They’ll also build the skills they need to examine general propositions about government and politics, and to analyze the specific relationships between political, social, and economic institutions. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. Government and Politics prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in political science, law, education, business, and history.

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**AP\* U.S. History**

Prerequisites: At least a B-grade in most recent social studies course and enrollment in another AP course

Length: Two semesters

View Course Syllabus »

AP\* U.S. History analyzes and explores the economic, political, and social changes in America since Columbus. Students master historical knowledge and critical analysis, build reading, writing, and communication skills, and discover how historical events have contributed to American culture. In the process, they’ll learn how decisions and events of the past continue to have profound effects on the world today and how knowledge of the causes behind past events can influence future decisions. By the end of the course, students will be ready to put their factual knowledge to work by weighing evidence and interpreting problems presented by historians. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. History prepares students for the AP Exam and for further study in history, political science, economics, sociology, and law.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

\*AP is a registered trademark of the College Board.

**AP Macroeconomics**

AP\* Macroeconomics students learn why and how the world economy change from month to month, how to identify trends in our economy and how to use those trends to develop performance measures and predictors for economic growth or decline. They’ll also examine how individuals, institutions, and influences affect people, and how those factors can impact everyone’s life through employment rates, government spending, inflation, taxes, and production. The equivalent of a 100-level college-level class, this course prepares students for the AP exam and for future study in business, political science and history.

Instructor: provided by Belin Bland Iowa City, Iowa University

**AP Microeconomics**

AP\* Microeconomics studies the behavior of individuals and businesses as they exchange goods and services in the marketplace. Students will learn why the same products costs different amounts at different stores, in different cities, at different times. They’ll also learn to spot patterns in economic behavior and how to use those patterns to explain buyer and seller behavior under various conditions. Microeconomics studies the economic way of thinking, understanding the nature and function of markets, the role of scarcity and competition, the influence of factors such as interest rates on business decisions, and the role of government in promoting a healthy economy. The equivalent of a 100-level college course, AP microeconomics prepares students for the AP exam and for future study in business, history, and political science.

Instructor: provided by Belin Bland Iowa City, Iowa University

**Health Career CNA** **(Certified Nurse Aide)**

(Second Semester only)

 This course meets the state training requirement for aides working in nursing facilities. Students learn basic caregiving skills and concepts to provide safe, effective patient care. Students will be eligible to take certification testing upon completion of the class. Must turn 16 years within 2 weeks following completing of course. Students will be responsible for some costs associated with the class, including cost of CNA test. Limited to 10 students.

**REGISTRATION PROCESS**

Registration will take place in the Spring of each school year. Students will have 3 days at the beginning of each semester to make necessary changes and adjustments to their schedule.

**Early Graduation**

**Board Policy and Administrative Rules**

Early graduation is possible for those students who meet the requirements of the Mount Ayr Community School Board. The principal makes the initial ruling and then submits the decision to the superintendent who in turn relays the request to the school board.

The graduation policy, 505.6, states that students may graduate prior to the completion of grade twelve (12) if the course work required for graduation under board policy 505.5 has been fulfilled. Application for early graduation must be made in writing, to the principal, by or on November 1 of the student's seventh semester.

The Board of Directors shall receive approved early graduation applications at their November meeting and determine upon recommendation from the superintendent to allow early graduation.

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

 The Mount Ayr Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnic origin, religion, sex or geographic location, in the education programs or activities which it operates. The Mount Ayr Community School District is required by Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations there under not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in education programs and activities extends to employment therein and to administration thereto.

 The Mount Ayr Community School Board of Education has consistently shown concern that all students in the District, regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, sex or geographic location, be exposed either directly or indirectly to the rich culture diversity of the population of Iowa and the nation. It is hoped that such exposure will be achieved through curriculum of this school and will result in a greater appreciation of the diversity in our society, as well as the recognition of diversity as a major strength and cornerstone upon which our country is built.

 Any complaints concerning the above must be filed in the principal's office.

**Scheduling Changes & Dropping Courses**

Students may make changes to their schedules during the first three days of each semester. Students may apply for a schedule change through the counseling office. Schedule changes made after the first three days of the semester must be approved by the principal. Approvals for schedule changes will be given on the merit of each case and will not be automatic.

All students will be required to take six academic courses plus physical education each semester. Classes outside of the regular academic day (8:30 - 3:30) will not be counted toward the 7 credit minimum. The deadline for dropping an eighth course is five school days following the 1st and 3rd quarter midterm. Dropping any course after the deadline will result in an "F" for that course. Before any student can drop an eighth course (after the deadline), the student must have the approval of parents, guidance counselor, the principal, and notification must be made to the specific instructor of that course.

**Middle School Students Taking Advanced Math Classes**

Eligible middle school students will have the opportunity to advance in the area of math at a pace more appropriate to their skills and development.

Criteria for eligibility:

1. Testing Assessment

 Students who rank at the 90th percentile or above on the Algebra Aptitude Test,

administered at the end of sixth grade, may advance to eighth grade math as a seventh

grader. As an eighth grader these students would advance to Algebra I.

 Students who rank at the 95th percentile or above on the Algebra Aptitude Test may be

accelerated at a faster pace, possibly taking Algebra I as a seventh grader, through the

talented and gifted (TAG) program.

2. Teacher Recommendation

 A recommendation from a sixth grade teacher identifying mathematical ability,

consistently dependable work habits, and positive social development.

3. Parent Approval

 Parents will be notified of student eligibility and their approval is required for advanced

math placement. Middle School Students taking Algebra I will receive high school elective credits toward graduation. Students will still be required to take 6 additional high school math credits while enrolled in grades 9 - 12 for graduation. Grades in Algebra I will count toward the student’s permanent high school Grade Point Average (G.P.A.).

**SENIOR YEAR PLUS**

**EARN COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL**

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT AND PSEO COURSES**

Students are required to meet all of the following conditions to be eligible to enroll in any concurrent enrollment or PSEO course through the Senior Year Plus program where postsecondary credit is available to the student.

• The student shall have demonstrated proficiency in all of the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science as evidenced by achievement scores on the most recent administration of the Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) for which scores are available for the student. The minimum proficiency standards are summarized in the chart below.

• The student shall meet the enrollment requirements established by the eligible postsecondary institution. The student shall meet or exceed minimum performance measures on any academic assessments that may be required by the eligible postsecondary institution.

• Student may not enroll for more than 23 hours of college credit under the Senior Year Plus program in the course of an academic year.

• The student shall have taken appropriate course prerequisites, if any, prior to enrollment in the eligible postsecondary course, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution delivering the course.

• Additional criteria exist for enrollment in AP or PSEO course . For the AP and PSEO Programs: only students in 11th and 12th grades are eligible to participate, as well as 9th and 10th graders identified as Gifted and Talented.

**CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**

The concurrent enrollment program promotes rigorous academic or career and technical pursuits by providing opportunities for students to enroll in community college courses taught by high school or community college instructors at the high school. Enrollment deadlines are posted in the school announcements. The deadlines for enrollment in fall and spring courses respectively are generally around May 1st and November 1st. Concurrent enrollment courses are available to any student in grades 9 -12 who meet the above criteria. Concurrent enrollment courses are limited to those that are designated by a contractual agreement between the Mt. Ayr Community School Board and the eligible postsecondary institution.

**POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS (PSEO) PROGRAM**

Students may enroll in a college or university course if the course is not offered at the high school. Completion of the course generates high school and college credit. Student who withdraw from or who fail a PSEO course will be required to reimburse the district up to $250 for the costs associated with the course. Currently the course most often taken by students of the district as a PSEO course is College Algebra via the ICN.

**CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PROGRAMS**

Career and technical education programs are available to Mt. Ayr High School students through Southwestern Community College. Some of the programs available are automotive repair, carpentry, welding, and computer information systems. Students are responsible for their own transportation for these programs. Since these programs can require up to 5 class periods of the school day, they are realistically only accessible to Juniors or Seniors. Students do not have to meet the proficiency standards of the ITED tests in order to participate in these programs. However, in cases where students are significantly lagging behind their peers academically, both the district and community college may advise against the student’s participation. Students may still be required by the community college to meet certain minimum academic performance standards.

**THINGS TO KNOW WHEN REGISTERING FOR COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL**

1. Students must complete and return by the deadline all the forms necessary for enrollment. All forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. These forms may be picked up in the high school guidance office. Notification of when students may begin the registration process along with the deadline date is always posted in the school announcements.

2. Students must take the ACT and receive a composite score of 19 or above or take the Compass test prior to enrollment in any course offered through SWCC. It is the recommendation of the district that students who are below the proficiency standards on the Compass test not take college level courses. Instead they should focus their energy on high school college preparatory classes.

3. Students will receive both high school and college credit upon passing the course. Student may choose whether or not they wish to include these grades in their HS GPA. Students who choose not to include the grade in their HS GPA will receive a P or an F on their HS report card and transcript. Otherwise, their grade on their transcript and report card will be the same as the college grade. Students must complete and sign a form in the guidance office by the midterm of the first quarter for fall classes and of the third quarter for spring classes indicating whether or not they plan to include the grade in their GPA. This date is always announced via the school announcements.

4. All grading for the class is through the college instructor. It is the responsibility of the student and the parent to communicate regarding the student’s status in the class. Students have access to their grades online so they should be able to clearly show their parent or guardian how they are doing. Students are expected to follow all policies of the course instructor. The only grade information provided to the district is the final grade in the course and sometimes a midterm grade.

5. If a course is taken as a PSEO course and a student fails the class or withdraws they will be required to reimburse the district for the cost of the course up to $250.

6. If the course is provided by Southwestern Community College, all first time enrollees are required to attend an orientation session.