



# 2012-2013 Curriculum Guide

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This guide is published to acquaint students and parents with scheduling requirements, course offerings, and course descriptions at Greer Middle College Charter High School.

The following applies to all students:

1. Students are encouraged to review this curriculum guide carefully in order to make optimum choices for their course of study in grades 9-12. Teachers and counselors can be of invaluable assistance in directing students toward courses of study that will enable them to address their in-terests and abilities with regard to post-secondary education and/or career choices. Please review the program of studies with your parents and make thoughtful decisions prior to registering for specific courses each year.
2. Students earn units of credit upon successful completion of approved school courses. Students earn credit for each course if a minimum grade of **80** is achieved and the student is in attendance a minimum of 170 days. The exceptions to this are semester courses that will be offered for one half unit cred its with required minimum attendance of 85 days.
3. To qualify for a state high school diploma, a student must meet minimum standards on the Exit Exam and earn unit credits distributed as follows:

### SC DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS—GMC Diploma Requirements

**English** – 4 Units

**Math** – 4 Units

**Science** – 3 Units

**US History** – 1 Unit

**Economics** – ½ Unit

**Government** – ½ Unit

**Other Social Studies** – 1 Unit

**Physical Education or ROTC** – 1 Unit

**Computer Science** – 1 Unit

**Foreign Language or Occupational Specialty** – 1 Unit-- *\*\*2 Units are required to receive a diploma from GMC*

**Electives** – 7 Units--*\*\* 6 units are required at GMC (one of these units must be Senior Project)*

### HSAP EXAM

Students must also pass the South Carolina adopted High School Assessment Program test which is administered in the spring of their second year in high school.

4. The state of South Carolina offers tuition assistance in the form of scholarships for South Carolina students. In order to receive the aid, the student must graduate from a high school in the state of South Carolina and must attend college or technical school in the state. Three different scholarships are offered. A student will be awarded the highest amount that he/she qualifies for. The criteria are as follows:

**Palmetto Fellows - (\$7000)** student must meet all 3 of the following: 1200 SAT or 27 ACT, 3.5 GPA, top 6% of class during 10th or 11th grade

**Life Scholarship - (\$5000)** student must meet 2 out of the following three: 1100 SAT or 24 ACT, 3.00 GPA, top 30% of graduating class

**Hope Scholarship - (\$2650)** one time only scholarship for students who have 3.00 GPA and a. Have no felony convictions.

Students receiving any of the scholarships listed above can have no drug or alcohol convictions.

5. In addition to the regular SC diploma, a student may qualify for the Academic Achievement Honors Award. Of the 24 units earned for the diploma, 18 must be college preparatory units, 4 may be electives, and 2 additional units must be earned in English, science, social studies, or mathematics. College preparatory units are defined as English I or above (4 units), Algebra I and above (4 units), lab sciences (3 units), social studies (3 units) chosen from US history, economics, government, world history, world geography, or western civilization, computer science (1 unit), PE (1 unit), and foreign language (2 units). In addition to these requirements, a student must receive a minimum final grade of —B in all coursework and achieve a score of 710 on SAT verbal/30 on ACT English OR a score of 690 on SAT Math/33 on ACT math. A student receiving a combined score of 1400 on the SAT or 31 on the ACT automatically qualifies for this award with no other criteria.

## 6. Unit Requirements for Grade Advancement

24 Units of Credit are required to obtain a SC High School Diploma.

### Grade 9

Successful completion of eighth grade

### Grade 10

5 units (must include English 1, one unit of mathematics and three other units)

### Grade 11

11 units (must include English 1 and 2, two units of mathematics, one science, and six other units)

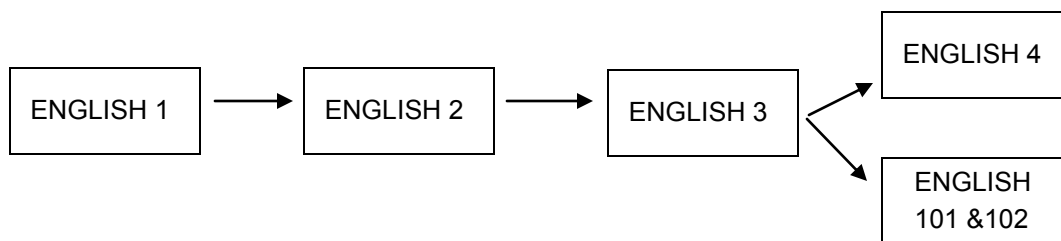
### Grade 12

17 units (must include English 1, 2, and 3, three units of mathematics, two units of science, and nine other units)

7. The courses listed in the curriculum guide will be offered only if a sufficient number of students register for these courses. New courses may be added provided there is adequate student demand and there are adequate resources available to teach these courses.

## 8. College Admission Requirements

Students who plan to attend college should consult catalogs of colleges to assure that they are choosing the right courses. Colleges also look at the GPA and class rank as well as College Entrance Exam scores such as the SAT or ACT for admission. Public colleges and universities in South Carolina require that applicants for freshmen admission must complete certain high school courses before being admitted. Typically, colleges expect students to take as many academic courses in English, social studies, mathematics, and science as possible.



# ENGLISH

## **Title: English 1 Advanced**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

For the equivalent of one semester, the student reviews grammatical concepts and learns to write effective sentences and paragraphs. The student is introduced to the three-paragraph essay. During the remainder of the year, the student concentrates on the characteristics of the following literary types: short story, novel, poetry, epic, drama, and non-fiction. Also included is a unit on mythology and the Odyssey. The student learns to appreciate the structure, language, and rhetoric of different types of literature; in addition, the student completes an in-depth study of vocabulary. This course is designed for the college-bound student who is proficient in the language arts/verbal skills.

## **Title: English 2 Advanced**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** English 1

This course continues the detailed study of mechanics, sentence structure, and standard usage. Students concentrate on the four basic forms of writing: narration, description, exposition, and persuasion. They are also introduced to the five paragraph essay. Students study different literary types by reading major works that include short stories, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and novels of established literary excellence. The students practice library skills needed for research and complete an extensive study of vocabulary.

## **Title: English 3 Advanced**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** English 2

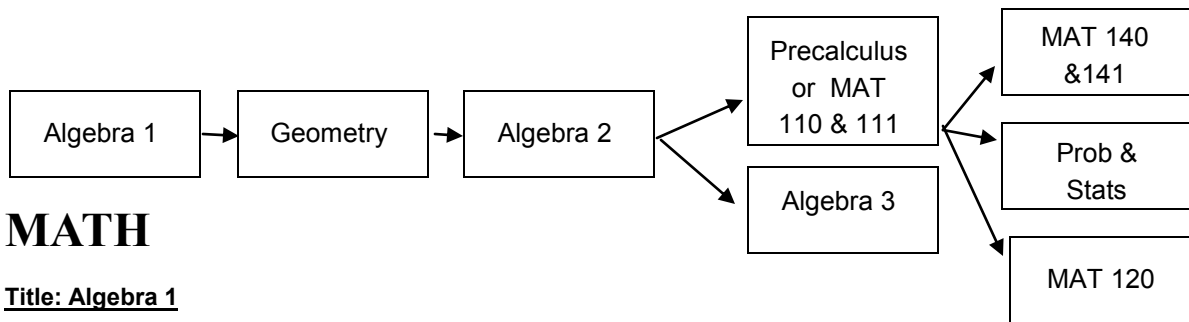
This course combines the chronological study of American literature with advanced elements of grammar, composition, and vocabulary. The student concentrates on the multi-paragraph expository and literary essays. The student reads major American authors, investigates literary analysis and techniques, and studies recurring themes. Parallel reading, research, and oral reports provide opportunities to study and apply composition skills. A research paper is required.

## **Title: English 4 Advanced**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** English 3

This course combines a study of composition elements with a survey of English literature. It stresses the principles of unity, coherence, and rhetorical effectiveness in writing various organizational patterns. It focuses on correct stylistic devices in prose as exemplified by authoritative writers. The student pursues a chronological analysis of established British authors. The student is also introduced to selections of world literature of recognized merit. A research paper on a literary topic is required.



# MATH

## **Title: Algebra 1**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Pre Algebra or Equivalent

This course offers elementary algebraic content to students preparing for four-year or technical college experiences and others desiring a formal background in mathematics. It is intended for motivated students of average or above average skills in mathematics.

## **Title: Geometry Advanced**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 1

This course utilizes mathematical proof in the development of two and three-dimensional geometric concepts and properties for students preparing for academic or technical college experiences and others desiring a formal back-ground in mathematics. Other topics include angle measurements and relationships, line relationships, properties of polygons and solids, similarity and congruence, the Pythagorean relationship, circles and constructions.

## **Title: Algebra 2 Advanced**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 1

This course continues the formal rigorous teaching of algebraic concepts. The content includes structure and properties of real and complex number systems and relations and functions with a geometric approach of these topics. Students will need a TI82 or 83 graphing calculator for this course.

## **Title: Algebra 3 CP**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2

Algebra 3 focuses on the development of the student's ability to understand and apply the study of functions and advanced mathematics concepts to solve problems. The course will include a study of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Emphasis is on active participation through modeling, technology, group activities, and communication in math. This course is designed for the students who have taken Algebra 2 but who do not have a strong enough background to go directly into Precalculus.

## **Title: Pre Calculus Advanced**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Geometry & Algebra 2 Adv

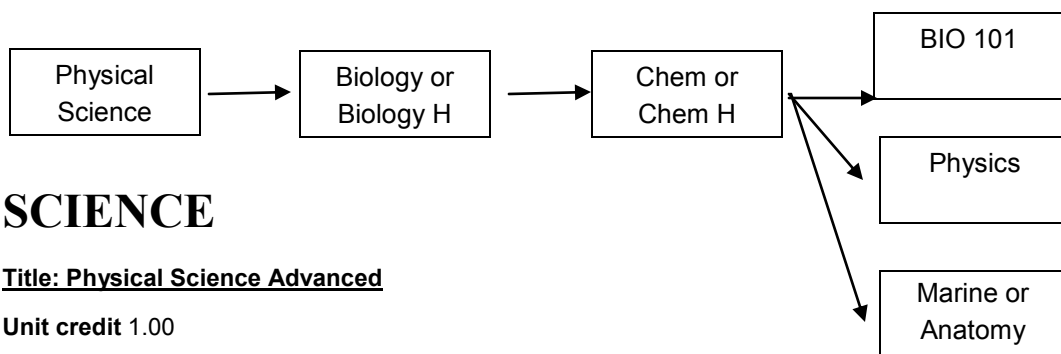
Pre calculus is a program of mathematical studies focusing on the development of the student's ability to understand and apply the study of functions and advanced mathematics concepts to solve problems. The course will include an in-depth study of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Other topics studied are sequences, series, vectors, conic sections, parametric equations, polar curves, and an introduction to calculus.

## **Title: Prob and Stats CP**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Geometry and Algebra 2

This course is a broad introduction to the concepts of probability and statistics. Topics will include probability; collection display, and analysis of data; permutations and combinations; binomial normal and t-distributions.



## SCIENCE

### Title: Physical Science Advanced

**Unit credit** 1.00

**Prerequisite** Teacher recommendation

This course will serve as a foundation for students wishing to study chemistry or physics.

Concepts include measurements, matter, simple forms of energy, magnetism, light, sound, heat and electricity. This course is heavily oriented towards laboratory investigations.

**The course is not accepted as a laboratory science by South Carolina public colleges and universities.**

### Title: Biology 1Advanced

**Unit credit** 1.00

This course is designed for students desiring a formal background in biology. It includes laboratory work and extensive study of specimens. Course content encompasses interrelationships of living things, levels of biological organization, human biology, social implications, biochemistry, and genetics.

### Title: Biology 1 H

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Application and science teacher recommendation

This honors-level course encompasses interrelationships of living things, levels of biological organization, human biology, social implications, biochemistry, and genetics. Extensive laboratory work and problem-solving are essential components.

### Title: Chemistry 1 CP

**Unit credit** 1.00

**Prerequisite** 1 unit of science, concurrent Algebra 2 and/or teacher recommendation

This course is rigorous and demands a high level of abstract thinking, memorization, working with symbols, and application of knowledge to problem-solving. Student participation in laboratory activities is essential for success in this course. The course content includes organization of matter, chemical bonding, atomic structure, gases, states of matter, nomenclature, and skill development.

### Title: Chemistry 1 H

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Grade Level:** 10-12

**Prerequisite:** Science teacher recommendation

This honors-level course is a prerequisite for Advanced Placement Chemistry. After a short review of fundamental topics covered in Physical Science Honors, students will study atomic structure, quantum mechanical theory, bonding, shapes of molecules, gases, thermochemistry, electrochemistry, oxidation reduction, nuclear chemistry, acids and bases. The course contains a major laboratory component.

**Title: Anatomy and Physiology CP**

**Unit credit** 1.00

**Prerequisite** Biology 1 and Chemistry 1

This course is designed for those students interested in pursuing a career in a health field. Students will learn about human cells, tissue, organs and systems.

**Title: Marine Science**

**Unit Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 10-12

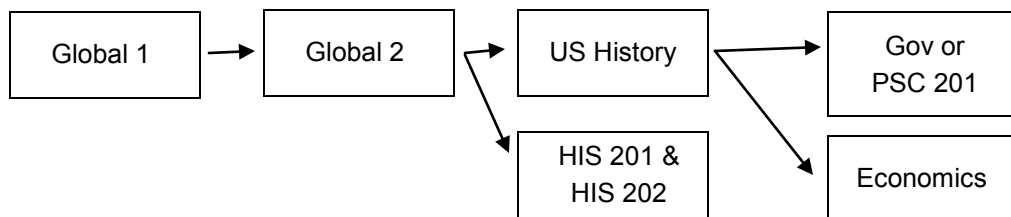
This course promotes an awareness of coastal and marine systems. This includes the physical and chemical properties living systems and interrelationships. This course provides opportunities for student participation in research, experimentation, dissection, field studies and decision-making. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education accepts this course as a science course for college admission with the prerequisites of Biology 1 CP and Chemistry 1 CP.

**Title: Physics 1**

**Unit Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 10-1

This course familiarizes students with fundamental principles of physics and their applications. The course includes topics on mechanics, electricity, magnetism, thermodynamics, optics, sound and an introduction to quantum physics. Math, graphing, and problem-solving skills will comprise the basis of instruction. Advanced courses are appropriate for students who are prepared to move through the CP curriculum at an accelerated pace.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Title: Global Studies 1 Advanced

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

Global Studies 1 CP is a chronological study of the world from the development of civilization through the late Middle Ages. This course focuses on the history of early civilizations empires of the ancient world and classical civilizations and changes and developments in civilizations around the world to c. 1500. Geography skills and connections to the present are strong components of the course with relevant economic political cultural and geographical content interwoven in the curriculum. Students will apply higher order thinking skills as they consider content throughout the course.

### Title: Global Studies 2 Advanced

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

Global Studies 2 is a chronological and standards-study of the world from the Renaissance to the present with an emphasis on using, refining, applying and enhancing social studies skills and concepts. These skills and concepts include the Social Studies Literacy Elements and the Knowledge and Cognitive Process Dimensions of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy. Geography skills and connections to the present are strong components of the course.

### Title: United States History Advanced

**Unit Credit** 1.00

United States History is a survey course providing a review of the following topics: the Colonial era, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, the rise of Nationalism and Sectionalism, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. This is followed by an in-depth study of the rise of Industrial America, Progressivism, America as a world power, the New Deal, World War II, and domestic and international policies since 1945. **U.S. History is required for graduation.**

### Title: US Government Advanced

**Unit Credit** 0.5

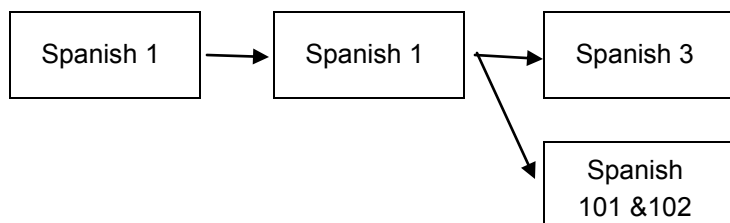
U.S. Government incorporates the structure, organization, and function of the American political system. Topics studied include: foundations of U.S. government, the three major branches of government, and the Constitution. Students will study the details of the political system at the national, state, and local levels. Comparisons will be made between American government and other political systems. **U.S. Government is required for graduation.**

### Title: Economics Advanced

**Unit Credit** 0.5

Economics is the study of the overall economy including both macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Students will focus on topics such as money and banking, competition, supply and demand, factors of production, and consumer rights and responsibilities. **Economics is required for graduation.**



## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

**1. Students at GMC are required to earn 2 units of foreign language.**

2. Public universities and colleges in South Carolina require at least two units of credit in a single foreign language for admission. Students need to check with individual colleges for specific requirements.

### **Title: Spanish 1**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

This course begins to develop the skills of understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. Students will learn to pronounce and use the basic sounds and intonation patterns of the language. They will master a limited set of structural and lexical objectives to be used in common daily conversational situations. They will also gain a basic knowledge of contemporary Spanish culture as they participate in language activities to develop competence.

Reading will be limited primarily to short passages of materials covered orally and texts on culture or direct reading in Spanish.

### **Title: Spanish 2 Adv**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Spanish 1

In this course students will continue to expand their knowledge of the language and culture.

The development of understanding, speaking, reading, and writing continues to be the major objective of the course. Students will expand their vocabulary as well as use new grammatical structures.

### **Title: Spanish 3 Adv**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Prerequisite:** Spanish 2

In this course students will begin to expand considerably the learning of the language and culture. They will complete the study of the basic grammatical structure and will continue to develop the four skills. Reading and language activities will provide experiences in the areas of everyday needs, language careers, fine arts, and contemporary culture.

# **BUSINESS/COMPUTER**

## **Title: Computer Apps 1**

**Unit Credit:** 0.50

**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to introduce students to software applications that are necessary to live and work in a technological society. The applications covered include word processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation. Other content areas may include computer hardware, terminology and concepts.

## **Title: Digital Literacy**

**Unit Credit:** 0.5

**Prerequisite:** None

This course is designed to equip students with many of the needed computer skills to excel in a digital world. The student will be exposed to a broad range of computer technology from basic hardware/software to applications and the internet. Digital Literacy will support the student with the concepts in the 8th grade technology proficiency assessment as required by NCLB.

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## **Title: Physical Education 1**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

Physical Education 1 provides opportunities for students to become competent and proficient in two movement forms selected from a variety of choices (selected from: net/racket, target, team, outdoor pursuits, individual, and dance). Students will also be able to design and develop a personalized physical fitness program, participate regularly in health-enhancing physical activity beyond the physical education class, and meet the gender and age group health-related physical fitness standards.

# ELECTIVES

## **Title: Accounting**

**Unit Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

This course is designed to help the student develop the skills necessary for the highly technical interaction between accounting and business, to develop an understanding of the steps of the accounting cycle as applied to several different kinds of business operations, and to develop an understanding of accounting concepts, principles and practices. Use of the computer in simulated activities gives the student an opportunity to see the advantages of technology in accounting procedures.

## **Title: Accounting 2**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Grade Level:** 11-12

**\*\*Prerequisite:** Accounting 1

This course expands the student's understanding of accounting subsystems and develops an understanding of various methods of internal control procedures. The student develops competence in using subsidiary ledgers, in preparing financial statements, and in performing end-of-period procedures. The student will demonstrate the use of accounting principles through the use of computer software and simulated activities.

## **Title: Advertising**

**Unit Credit:** .5

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

This course is designed to introduce the concepts of advertising, planning strategies, communication skills, and professional development. Course content includes budget development, media selection, design, and the preparation of ads for various media

## **Title: American Wars**

**Unit Credit:** 0.50

This elective course explores the causes, events, and results of the United States' involvement in World War I, World War II, The Korean War, and the Vietnam Conflict. Students will compare motives, strategies, and consequences of each conflict.

## **Title: Contemporary Literature**

**Unit Credit:** .5

**Grade Levels:** 10-12

The selections for this elective course, designed for the mature reader, come from today's best-seller list of various genres. Students will be exposed to a variety of authors and ideas. Oral and written response to reading selections will be used to evaluate students' understanding of the material. This course does not take the place of any required English course.

## **Title: Creative Writing**

**Unit Credit:** 0.5

**Grade Levels:** 9-12

This elective course, designed for students interested in written and multimedia expression, includes a study of the various forms of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and multimedia technology. Students will create portfolios of their own creative writing and experiment with various forms of expression. The course may culminate in the publication of a school-wide literary magazine. **This course does not take the place of any required English course.**

**Title: Film Criticism**

**Unit Credit:** .5

**Grade Level:** 10-12

This elective course will expose students to film and cinematography. Students will become active, critical viewers of various film genre by discussing and critiquing acting, directing and production techniques. Students will be required to write various compositions related to the films. This course does not take the place of any required English course.

**Title: Film/Video**

**Unit Credit:** 0.50

**Grade Level:** 9-12

This intensive elective allows students to learn the process of creating a film from scratch to reel. The curriculum will tackle every major facet of filmmaking: producing, screenwriting, directing, cinematography, production design, and picture / sound editing. Students experience each stage first-hand, producing several projects throughout the semester as if they were the next inspirational screenwriter, visionary director, or even the crazed cameraman. Everything from Hollywood practices and terminology to the tips and tricks of independent filmmakers will become second nature to those enrolled. Students taking this class should exemplify a strong passion for storytelling, curiosity for the industry, and possess high standards of achievement. **Students wanting to enroll in this elective must submit a sample story (less than 5 pages) or video (less than 5 minutes) to Mr. Brilliantd for consideration.**

**Title: Journalism 1**

**Unit Credit:** 0.50

**Grade Level:** 10-12

This elective gives students the unique opportunity to have an insider's perspective on the incredible and influential beast that is *media*. This course's primary objective is to familiarize students to all aspects of a journalist's method. This includes but is not limited to: practices of gathering information, principles of journalistic writing, ethics in reporting, and even the moralistic decisions that need to be made during the editing phase of journalism. For instruction, this class stresses the importance of accuracy, awareness, brevity, clarity, and reportorial responsibility. Students will exercise their newly acquired knowledge and skills to create articles and write-ups for GMC's website; furthermore, students will be constantly involved with projects that revolve around current event media dissection, video broadcasting, as well as written reporting. Students taking this class should have high interest in this field and possess high standards of achievement. **Students wanting to enroll in this elective must submit a sample academic essay to Mr. Brilliantd for consideration.**

**Title: Leadership**

**Unit Credit:** .5

**Grade Level:** 10-12

This elective course deals with developing skills in effective communication, identifying the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and learning the information necessary to organize, conduct, and participate in meetings. In addition, the characteristics of effective leadership will be studied and developed by participation in educational, civic, and social activities. Student leaders, as well as those interested in becoming leaders, are encouraged to enroll in this course

**Title: Leisure Sports/Act 1**

**Unit Credit:** 0.50

**Prerequisite:** Physical Education 1A

This elective is designed to teach skills necessary to enjoy a lifetime of activity in sports that will enhance the student's health and personal fitness. This course does not take the place of the required PE 1 for graduation.

**Title: Marketing**

**Unit Credit:** .5

**Grade Level:** 10-12

This course introduces marketing concepts and examines the economic, marketing, and business fundamentals, in addition to the marketing functions of selling, promotion, and distribution. The standards listed are core standards and those standards reflecting the needs of the local business community. This is the basic course in the marketing curriculum and should be taken before the specialized courses.

**Title: Personal Finance**

**Unit Credit:** .5

**Grade Level:** 9-12

This course is designed to introduce the student to basic financial literacy skills which includes budgeting, obtaining credit, maintaining checking accounts, analyzing the basic elements of finance, computing payroll, recording business transactions, and applying computer operations to financial management.

**Title: Senior Project**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

This required course provides assistance to students in developing their senior project. Assignments and class activities will help direct the students as they develop the essential question, research, create a product and a project portfolio.

**Title: Service Learning**

**Unit Credit:** 1.0

**Grade Level:** 11-12

Service Learning is a course designed for participants to learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service experiences that meet community needs through a collaboration between the school and community. It provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations in their own communities. The course emphasizes essential life skills such as effective communication, problem solving, goal setting, and teamwork. Students will address real-life problems and make meaningful contributions to the school and community. The emphasis will be on planning, serving, and evaluating. Time will be spent in class and at service sites. **Students wanting to enroll in this elective must submit an application to Mrs. Bishop for consideration.**

**Title: Teacher Cadet H**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Grade Level:** 11-12

**Prerequisite:** Application and Teacher recommendation

This course is supervised by the South Carolina Center for Teacher Recruitment. This program is considered an introduction to the teaching profession. Its main purpose is to encourage students who possess a high level of academic achievement and the personality traits found in good teachers to consider teaching as a career. The course is taught at a college freshman level and the curriculum includes activities designed to excite students about teaching. Students are introduced to the teaching profession and the educational field through class discussions, observation and participation in public school classrooms, and interactions with successful professional educators. Whether or not a student is interested in teaching, this program will provide talented future community leaders with insights into public education. This course carries honors-level weighting. **Students wanting to enroll in this elective must submit an application to Ms. Oslager for consideration.**

**Title: World War II**

**Unit Credit:** 0.50

**Grade Level:** 11-12

This elective course examines the causes and effects of the largest war in human history. Students will discuss historical decisions of this war such as the dropping of the atomic bomb. Special attention will be paid to both the important world leaders and the ordinary servicemen and servicewomen of World War II.

**Title: Yearbook Production**

**Unit Credit:** 1.00

**Grade Level:** 10-12

This is an elective course for students who have completed Journalism 2 Yearbook and who show outstanding skills in writing, design, or photography. The program includes staff organization, ad sales, and business management, feature writing, layout and design, photography, and the publication process. Students will refine skills as they produce a school yearbook. This course does not take the place of any required English course. **Students wanting to enroll in this elective must submit an application to Mrs. Moore for consideration.**