Watervliet High School

Course Catalog 2026-2027

450 East Red Arrow Highway Watervliet, MI 49098

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Michigan Merit Curriculum Guidelines

4 Credits English:

- ➔ English 9, 10 (or AP Seminar), 11, (or AP Language), 12 (or AP Literature or English Comp 101 & 102)

4 Credits Mathematics:

- ➔ Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Personal Finance (required class of 2028 and beyond)
  - ◆ Other mathematics offerings include: Pre-Calculus, Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry (*student must take a mathematics course each school year)

3 Credits Science:

- ➔ Physical Science, Biology, Environmental Science

3 Credits Social Studies:

- ➔ World History, US History, Civics & Economics

1 Credit Physical Education & Health

1 Credit Visual Performing Arts:

- ➔ Can be earned through Art I, Band, Choir, Basic Woods, or Career and Technical Education Courses

2 Credits World Language:

- ➔ Spanish I and II (in-person offerings) or online offerings through Michigan Virtual (require a 3.0 GPA).

Michigan Merit Curriculum equals 18 credits worth of work, Watervliet Public Schools requires an additional 6 credits worth of elective work equaling the total of 24 credits needed to earn a Watervliet High School Diploma.

Course Maps:

English Courses:

- ➔ English 9, English 10 (or AP Seminar), English 11 (or AP Language), English 12 (or AP Literature or College Composition 101 & 102)

Mathematics Courses:

- ➔ Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Personal Finance (required class of 2028 and beyond), Functions, Statistics, & Trigonometry and/or dual enrollment math courses (a mathematics course must be taken each school year)

Science Courses:

- ➔ Physical Science, Biology, Environmental Science or Biology 2

Social Studies Courses:

- ➔ World History, US History, Civic (or AP Government or National Government) & Economics

World Language Courses:

- ➔ Spanish I and II or online coursework through Michigan Virtual (requires a 3.0 GPA)

Scheduling Process

Transcript Review & Four Year Planning:

Students are led through one review of their transcript each semester. During said review the graduation requirements are discussed and students are encouraged to take notice of coursework left in terms of graduation progress, credit recovery needed etc. During the 2nd semester transcript review (typically in early to mid March) students complete their individual four year plan (requires a parent signature) and consider course requests for the upcoming school year. Items such as course offerings for the new school year are also discussed at this time. Students are then given two school days to discuss these items with their parents/guardians before submitting their official requests within their PowerSchool portal.

Schedule Requests:

Take place in early to mid March for the upcoming school year. Students are given an individual graduation progress report (that indicates completion of graduation requirements and coursework that is still needs to be completed), a half sheet transcript review (that is color coded indicating coursework that has been completed, failed, or not yet taken) and a four year plan with a list of course offerings for the upcoming school year. During class these items are discussed along with a description of individual course offerings. Students are then given two school days

to take home and go over these items with a parent/guardian before submitting their official schedule requests within their student PowerSchool portal.

Parent Meetings:

Parents and/or students may request individual meetings with the school counselor via email, phone or on a pop in basis. Meetings can be held both virtually and in-person.

Promotion Scale:

0 - 4.5 credits freshmen status
5.0 - 10.50 credits sophomore status
11.0 - 16.5 credits junior status
17.0 credits and above senior status

Course Offerings:

All courses listed below are school board approved, not all courses are currently offered. Once a course is approved it remains as part of this living document that is updated annually.

English Courses:

English 9 (1 credit)

Required 9th Grade

The goal of English 9 is to build student knowledge by introducing them to new texts, skills, techniques, and strategies that will be used throughout their high school career. English 9 encourages students to ask the question “why am I reading this?” and discover the foundations of western literature. Ninth grade students will uncover the cornerstones of why we write and read stories, make textual connections to the human condition and their own lives, and examine the effects of censorship on a technologically-driven society. Freshmen will also learn how to craft a strong thesis statement, argue a position, and back their claims with evidence from both literature and informational texts. English 9 fosters critical thinking among students, which aids them in developing a strong foundation in reading and writing.

English 10 (1 credit)

Required 10th grade unless student takes AP Seminar

English 10 is a development of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Reading and responding to many genres of literature, writing effectively through different genres, and discussing important topics in a group setting are all important skills that will be taught in order to prepare students for their future.

English 11 (1 credit)

Required 11th grade unless student takes AP Language and Composition

The goal for English 11 is to continue to build a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and strategies that will be refined, applied, and extended as students engage in more complex ideas, texts, and tasks. In English 11, students will add to the list of various genres of classic and contemporary narrative and informational texts read and analyzed throughout high school. Eleventh graders will connect with and respond to texts through critical response and stance. Students will analyze texts rhetorically and use rhetoric effectively as they compose essay responses supported by evidence from text and the real world.

English 12 (1 credit)

Required 12th grade unless student takes AP Literature and Composition or College Composition 101 & 102

In English 12, students should expect practice in reading literature and informational texts, speaking and listening, writing, and college preparation. The main goal for the course is to encourage students to consider who they are, who they want to become, and how to get there. This is done through exploring themes like the American Dream, speaking up, and dehumanization. Students will research topics that involve world issues and personal goals while evaluating sources and analyzing the connection to themselves.

AP Seminar (1 Credit)

Can be taken instead of English 10, requires teacher approval and is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies and foundational, literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

AP Language and Composition (1 credit)

Can be taken instead of English 11, requires teacher approval and is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situations, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style. Students are required to take the AP Language and Composition Exam in May. A passing score typically can earn students college credit either as the freshman writing requirement or rhetoric. To be eligible to take this course here at Watervliet, a student must have earned at least a B in both semesters of English 10, and be recommended by

their current ELA teacher.

AP Literature and Composition (1 Credit)

Can be taken instead of English 12, requires teacher approval and is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works.

Speech and Debate (.5 or 1 Credit)

Elective 9-12

Speech and Debate seeks to aid students in their public speaking skills as well as the preparation behind different performances. We explore categories typically seen at state and national forensics competitions ranging from public address, interpretation, limited preparation, and debate. Through the practice of these skills, students will gain an understanding of rhetoric and persuasion, as well as newfound confidence and flexibility in their performing abilities.

Creative Writing (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12

Creative writing is designed to aid students in their creative expression, as well as delivery of one's writing. Using the writing process to create original pieces in different genres, for different purposes, and for real audiences. Through writing projects, students will gain a sound understanding of the elements and forms of writing to create their own written creations.

Yearbook (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12

In Yearbook class, students will develop skills in the areas of publishing techniques, caption writing, editing, photography, and graphic design while producing a unique, creative, and innovative yearbook. The goal of yearbook is to capture the memories and events of the year for all to enjoy. Students learn business skills of advertising and sales, while also growing real world skills like time management, marketing, teamwork, and collaboration. Yearbook students are held to a deadline and must commit to working outside of class to take photos and sell books.

Novels (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12

This class would help to shape culturally diverse viewpoints by reading novels by diverse authors. The class would offer student-centered discussions, critical thinking, speaking and listening through the use of a closely curated novel list. In addition, students will be introduced and expected to use resources found outside of the classroom.

Math Courses

Algebra I (1 Credit)

Required

Algebra 1 is a crucial course in order for success on the State-mandated achievement assessment. Reveal Math Algebra is a research-based program providing a rigorous, focused, and coherent curriculum. Within this course, students are encouraged to make conjectures while persevering through challenging problems and exercises. Students will be required to explain their thinking and analysis of problems. Active involvement in learning is required. Content will focus on exploring various topics including, but not limited to: Numbers, Solving Equations & Inequalities, Representations of Functions, Operations with Functions, Families of Functions, Bivariate Data and Scatter Plots.

Geometry (1 Credit)

Required, Prerequisite Algebra I

Geometry is a crucial course for success on the State-mandated achievement assessment. Reveal Math Geometry is a research-based program providing a rigorous, focused, and coherent curriculum. Geometry is the visual study of shapes, sizes, patterns and positions. We will utilize a variety of materials, problem solving methods and Algebra skills to solve challenging problems. Geometry will require one to think in a variety of contexts and to utilize and develop critical thinking skills. Active involvement in learning is required. Content will focus on exploring various topics including, but not limited to: Geometry Basics, Reasoning and Proof, Transformations, Relationships Within Triangles, Relationships Within Quadrilaterals, Similarity, Trigonometry, Relationships Within Circles, Three Dimensional Solids, and Probability.

Algebra II (1 Credit)

Required, Prerequisite Geometry

Algebra 2 is a crucial course in order for success on the State-mandated achievement assessment. Reveal Math Algebra 2 is a research-based program providing a rigorous, focused, and coherent curriculum. In Algebra 2, students will pick up where they finished in Algebra 1. Content will focus on exploring various Functions: Quadratic, Polynomial, Exponential, and Logarithm as well as Transformations on those functions, and an introduction to more Trigonometric Ratios and Functions. Within this course, students are encouraged to make conjectures while persevering through challenging problems and exercises. Students will be required to explain their thinking and analysis of problems. Active involvement in learning is required. Students will also utilize graphing calculators to enhance material learned.

Pre-Calculus (1 Credit)

Prerequisite Algebra II

This course is a continuation of Algebra 2 concepts. Pre-Calculus emphasizes a detailed analysis of mathematical concepts regarding the topics of functions, trigonometry, advanced functions

and graphing, discrete mathematics, and an introduction into Calculus concepts. A good understanding of Algebra 2 and Geometry concepts are required for success in the class, and upon successful completion, students will be prepared for State mandated achievement assessments and mathematics at the college level. This course is ideal for students planning to pursue STEM, engineering, or physical science in college.

Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry (1 Credit)

Prerequisite Algebra II

This year-long course will make students become investigators, problem solvers and decision makers. It will make math relevant using real life projects. Students will develop an understanding of data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, probability, modeling with data, making and evaluating data-based arguments, the power of data in society, and more. Students will study the unit circle, right triangle trigonometry, radian and degree measure. Upon successful completion, students will be better prepared for State mandated achievement assessments and mathematics at the college level. This course is ideal for students planning to pursue social sciences, business, public health, journalism and economics in college.

AP Calculus (1 Credit)

Prerequisite Pre-Calculus, requires teacher approval and is a weighted course (5.0 scale)

AP Calculus is a college level math class, equivalent to one semester of college calculus. Students in this class are expected to have a strong foundation in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Students will learn to approach calculus problems presented in a variety of contexts including graphically, numerically, analytically and verbally. Students should make connections among these representations and express their thoughts thoughtfully and thoroughly. This class prepares students for success on the AP Calculus Test. Topics include, but are not limited to: Limits and Continuity, The Derivative, Understanding the Derivative, Applications of the Derivative, Integration, and Integration Applications.

Pre-Calculus Trigonometry and Algebra

Prerequisite SAT score of 580 or Accuplacer score of 250 is a weighted course (5.0 scale)

This course is designed to provide the student with basic algebraic and trigonometric concepts necessary for calculus. Topics include: real numbers, inequalities, coordinate systems, functions, polynomials, solutions of polynomial equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry and trigonometric functions.

Calculus I

Prerequisite SAT score of 640, Accuplacer score of 275, or earn a C or better in Pre-Calculus Trig and Algebra. This is a weighted course (5.0 scale)

Study of calculus of single variables. Topics include limits, derivative and integral properties of algebraic and transcendental functions and elementary applications of derivatives and integrals.

Personal Finance (1 Credit)

Senior math related, required class of 2028 and beyond

This course is designed as an elective for seniors needing to meet their Math Requirement for graduation, however the course is open to any senior interested in becoming financially literate. Content will focus on exploring various topics including, but not limited to: Personal Retirement Planning, Investing, Auto Loans and Mortgages, Wealth Building, and Money Management Skills & Budgeting. Technology, such as spreadsheets and online loan calculators are used to enhance these concepts. Students will also use their financial skills to represent themselves as a financially savvy adult as a final project. Upon completion of both terms, students will be equipped with knowledge and skills to be confident in their own financial decision-making.

SAT Prep (1 Credit)

Elective 10-11

This SAT Math Prep course is designed to equip high school students with the skills, strategies, and confidence needed to succeed on the Math section of the SAT. The course focuses on the key content areas tested on the SAT, including algebra, problem-solving and data analysis, advanced math, and geometry. Students will learn how to approach multiple choice and grid-in questions, manage time effectively, and apply test-taking strategies to maximize their performance. We will be using materials from College Board, IXL, and Khan Academy.

Through targeted instruction, practice problems, full-length practice tests, and performance analysis, students will strengthen their foundational math skills while becoming familiar with the format and expectations of the SAT. Emphasis will be placed on understanding concepts, recognizing question types, and reducing errors through logical reasoning and process of elimination. Upon completion of this course, students will develop proficiency in core SAT math topics, improve accuracy and speed through guided practice, learn strategies for tackling difficult or unfamiliar questions, and increase their SAT math scores through structured preparation and feedback.

MTSS Math Skills (1 Credit)

Elective 9

MTSS is an elective credit course that will be used to help students who have gaps in their mathematical knowledge. It will be taken in conjunction with Algebra 1. Students will use a computer software program to target and work on missing skills.

AP Computer Science (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12 (10th w/teacher approval) is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

AP CSP is a college level computer science class; it introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology influences the world. With a unique focus on creative problem solving and real-world applications, AP CSP prepares students for college and career. This course will require a good mathematical background, strong problem solving skills and a greater time commitment than other classes. At the end of this course, students are expected to take the AP Computer Science Principles Exam in May – which has the potential to earn them college credit. This course will utilize Code.org; students must have their Chromebooks in class daily. Topics included, but not limited to: How the Internet works, Digital Information, Algorithms & Programming, Big Data &

Privacy, and Building Apps.

Science Courses

Physical Science (1 Credit)

Required 9

This year-long course introduces students to the fundamentals of chemistry and physics. In the first semester, students explore atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, reactions, and energy in chemical systems. The second semester focuses on motion, forces, energy, waves, and electricity. Hands-on labs, real-world applications, and problem-solving activities help students build a strong foundation in scientific concepts and critical thinking skills.

Biology (1 Credit)

Required 10, Prerequisite Physical Science

Students will investigate biological systems at the molecular, cellular, and macrobiological level. Laboratory exercises incorporating cellular biology, genetics, DNA, evolution, and ecology will be provided to assist students in their understanding of biological themes. Projects and reading assignments may be required with each unit of instruction. This course will help us all to better appreciate the creatures around us, understand the marvels of the human body, and realize the magnificent processes of life. This informed position will also provide a platform for decision-making that reflects a protection and stewardship of our natural environment.

Environmental Science (1 Credit)

Required 11, Prerequisite Biology

In this lab based course, students will investigate and analyze the interactions among Earth's four major spheres, the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. Students will investigate and explain the Earth’s formation, surface processes, landscapes, and long-term changes. Through the study of Earth’s systems and environmental science, students will explore how natural processes and human activities shape the planet both locally and globally. Topics include scientific measurement and mapping, Earth materials (fossil fuels), plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, weather and climate, the rock and water cycles, feedback systems, carbon cycling, geologic time, and environmental sustainability. Students will explore how Earth fits into broader geologic and climate systems. Emphasis is placed on the role of human actions in affecting Earth’s systems and the development of solutions to reduce environmental impact. The course emphasizes science and engineering practices, critical thinking, and real world application of earth and environmental science concepts.

Biology 2 (Anatomy and Physiology) (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12, Prerequisite Biology

Human anatomy and physiology is a college-prep course. It emphasizes the major body systems (skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary, digestive, and reproductive) while incorporating basic medical terminology. Many tests are lab practical examinations in which students identify structures and answer questions from x-rays and anatomical models.

Chemistry (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12

In accordance with Michigan course content expectations, Chemistry will include the study of the Properties of Matter, including kinetic molecular theory; elements, compounds, and mixtures; molecular and empirical formulas; nomenclature; properties of substances; state of matter; molecular polarity; gas laws; the mole concept; solutions; atomic structure; electronic structure; the periodic table; ions and isotopes. Changes in Matter will focus on conservation of mass, reaction rates, balancing chemical reactions, equilibrium, redox reactions, acid-base reactions, organic reactions, phase diagrams, and chemical bonds. Forms of Energy will include potential, chemical, nuclear, and bond energies. Energy Transformations will include energy conservation, Hess's Law, endothermic and exothermic reactions, enthalpy and entropy, and mass defect in nuclear changes. Students will explore the Social and Environmental Impact of chemistry as well as careers available through the mastery of chemistry.

Physics (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12

We live in a world that is full of motion and interactions. We encounter different physical situations every day, from throwing an object to a friend, to driving a car down the highway. Physics is the study of this physical world: energy, matter, and how they are related. In this course, we will investigate topics such as the forces that interact with us, the motion of a projectile, and the energy we use/convert every day.

Forensics (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12

In accordance with Michigan course content expectations, Forensic science will include the study of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Social Studies, Civic Law, Earth Science, and technology.

Marine and Freshwater Science (1 Credit)

Elective 9-12

Marine Science is the study of the oceans, great lakes, rivers, aquatic environments and its inhabitants. Investigations will surround hands-on lab and field investigations surrounding the concepts of biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. You'll learn about the many reasons why the sea is important to us, how it affects us, and what we can and should do to preserve it. You'll study pollution and other health issues. You'll learn about the many living things that inhabit the sea and the evolution, diversity, and importance of these inhabitants.

Astronomy (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12 Prerequisite Geometry

Astronomy studies all aspects of our known universe, an observational science that has transformed over human kind, as new models, ideas, instruments, and knowledge are introduced. This curriculum models an inquiry learning style which is encouraged to support students with multiple educational tools and allow them to develop their own scientific eyes. Students will have lectures with continual hands-on experiences. There will be day observations, as well as the

opportunity to do night viewing. The main topics of the course are: The solar system - history of understanding the solar system and universe, the planets and their moons, asteroids, and comets. Stars and stellar evolution - stellar birth and the formation of planets, stellar death, including neutron stars, black holes, and supernovae. Galaxies - galaxy classification, quasars, supermassive black holes, and dark matter. Cosmology - the expansion of the universe, its origin in the Big Bang, dark energy and the future of the universe. Current Explorations - recent missions that have explored many areas of the universe. The course emphasizes the physical processes at work in the universe and the methods we use to learn about the universe.

AP Environmental Science (1 Credit)

Elective 9-12 this is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

Explore and investigate the interrelationships of the natural world and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made. You'll take part in laboratory investigations and field work. This is an Advanced Placement Class. Students can earn college credit for successfully passing the national exam.

AP Biology (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12 Prerequisite Biology this is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

AP biology is the equivalent of a year-long college course in biology (BIO 101 typically) the curriculum is established by the College Board. AP Biology is a survey course and covers a broad range of biology topics – ecology, genetics, cell biology, etc. In May students take a three- hour long exam with both a multiple choice section and an essay component.

AP Chemistry (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12 Prerequisite B or better in Biology, Chemistry or Biology 2 this is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

AP Chemistry is a rigorous, college-level course designed for students who are passionate about chemistry and ready to explore the subject in greater depth. This course will challenge students to develop a strong understanding of chemical principles and apply them to real-world problems. Topics covered include atomic structure, chemical bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, and electrochemistry. Students will also engage in laboratory experiments to reinforce theoretical knowledge, honing their ability to analyze data, design experiments, and make predictions based on chemical principles. As an AP course, students will be expected to think critically, solve complex problems, and manage the demands of a fast-paced curriculum. Emphasis will be placed on inquiry based learning, problem-solving skills, and scientific reasoning.

Social Studies Courses

World History (1 Credit)

Required 9

World History and Geography is a survey style course which covers the Roman Empire to the present times. The course will focus on political, cultural, and technological areas of history. By

learning about events and developments from the past, students will gain a better understanding of the current issues and situations found in the world today. Students will also develop important critical thinking skills, such as the ability to evaluate historical evidence, do comparative analyses, and construct sound historical arguments.

US History (1 Credit)
Required 10

This course will cover the history of the United States from the 1800's-modern day. The course will focus on major political, social, and technological themes during this time period. In learning about our country's past, students will gain a better understanding of how we arrived at our present, past pitfalls and how to avoid them, and also where we have had success and how to follow those examples in modern times. Students will also develop important critical thinking skills, such as the ability to evaluate historical evidence, do comparative analyses, and construct sound historical arguments.

Economics (.5 Credit)

Required 11

This course will give the students a greater understanding of Economics and will help them gain an "Economic Way of Thinking". The students will learn the economic goals of the US and other societies, different types of economic systems, and will see the viewpoint of individual consumers and business owners. They will also learn about the banking system and investing. This course relates history and politics to the study of Economics.

Civics (.5 Credit)

Required 11

This course will provide students with an in-depth understanding of the US Constitution and the United States Government that will help them to become knowledgeable and informed citizens. Students will learn the fundamental Constitutional principles, the organization of government at all levels, and the responsibilities of citizenship. They will also compare political parties, and study US elections. Each branch of government will be examined.

US History in Depth (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12 Prerequisite US History

This course will take a closer look at some of the historical periods studied in the 10th grade U.S. History course. With student input, eras will be selected to take a deep dive into. This will include, but is not limited to: primary source study, documentary and feature film study, non-fiction reading, and research projects.

Current Events (.5 Credits)

Elective 11-12

Current Events is an excellent opportunity for students to apply knowledge from their previous High School Social Studies courses. The class changes from semester to semester as current

world events dictate. It includes aspects of Geography, History, Government, and Economics. The focus is on events that are happening currently and pertain to the student's life, or are currently important to our country. There is a leaning toward serious issues (war, terrorism, elections, the economy, criminal trials, etc.), but at times will cover "lighter" stories of interest to the students.

Psychology (.5 Credits)

Elective 11-12

At its core, psychology is the study of the human mind and individual human behavior. The study of psychology is different from any other class offered in high school because psychology is connected to both the social sciences (history, economics, etc.) and the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, etc.). As a social science, psychology explores the influences of society on individual behavior and group relationships. As a natural science, psychology looks for biological explanations for human behavior. The student will learn about both the social and biological aspects of human behavior while also gaining insight into his or her own life and the lives of others.

Sociology (.5 Credits)

Elective 11-12

Sociology is the study of people, groups, and their interrelationships. Unlike the study of psychology, which focuses on the individual, sociology focuses on human behavior at the group level. The course will examine sociological methodology, culture, social structures, social inequality, and social institutions such as family, education, religion, and sport.

Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12

In this year-long course, students will explore careers aligned with their interests, engaging with employers to understand their chosen paths. They will create an individualized and actionable plan for life after high school, including adaptable tools and resources to achieve their career goals. Students will have the opportunity to research colleges, apply for scholarships, and complete FAFSA. The course also covers communication, interview, resume, job search skills, financial literacy, critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership development.

SENIORS ONLY: All seniors will be required to commit to a 12-month post-graduation follow-up period consisting of at least monthly check-ins with the JMG Specialist (Teacher), who will provide students with additional support and guidance while they navigate the first year post-graduation.

AP European History (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12 Prerequisite US History requires teacher approval this is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

AP European History is a rigorous course that focuses on Europe from the Renaissance (14th century) to the present. Besides focusing on the important events, people, and movements from that time period, a great emphasis is also put on developing the critical thinking skills necessary to correctly analyze and interpret the past. This will be done through heavy use of primary source

materials. The course will provide students with the opportunity to acquire the content knowledge and skills necessary to succeed on the College Board Advanced Placement European History Test.

AP Government (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12 can replace Civics Prerequisite B or better is both World and US History requires teacher approval this is a weighted class (5.0 scale)

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, and roles that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions and processes. They will also engage in activities that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project. Students are required to take the AP U.S. Government and Politics exam in May, which is given by the College Board and independent of the Watervliet Social Studies Department and course grade. A passing score can earn students college credit in U.S. Government.

AP US History (1 Credit)

Elective 11-12 Prerequisite B or better in both World and US History requires teacher approval this is a weighted class (5.0 scale)
Advanced Placement United States History is a comprehensive, full year course that serves as the high school equivalent to an introductory college course in U.S. History. This course will offer an in-depth examination of the political, economic, social, cultural, intellectual, and military developments that shaped American growth from the pre-colonial era to the modern day United States. Students will learn to assess and weigh evidence presented in historical materials and develop their own interpretations and conclusions through discussion and a variety of interpretive writing assignments. Students are required to take the AP US History exam in May, which is given by the College Board and independent of the Watervliet Social Studies Department and course grade. A passing score can earn students college credit in U.S. History.

World Language Courses

Spanish I (1 Credit)
Required 8-12

Spanish 1 is an introductory course of the language and culture of the Spanish language and Spanish speaking communities. The curriculum is aligned to ACTFL World-Readiness Standards at the Novice level of proficiency.

Spanish II (1 Credit)

Required 9-12 Prerequisite Spanish I

Spanish 2 is a continuation of the introductory course of the language and culture of the Spanish language and Spanish speaking communities. Spanish 2 immerses students in the francophone

world via interpretive tasks, Integrated Performance Assessments (IPAs), cultural readings, and authentic images and videos. Aligned to ACTFL World Readiness Standards, the course curriculum takes students from a Novice/Mid- to a Novice/High-level of proficiency.

French I (1 Credit)

Required 9-12

French I is an introductory course in French language and culture. Students will become familiar with the geography, language and cultures of the French speaking world. French 1 immerses students in the francophone world via interpretive tasks, Integrated Performance Assessments (IPAs), cultural readings, and authentic images and videos.The curriculum is aligned to ACTFL World-Readiness Standards at the Novice level of proficiency.

French II (1 Credit)

Required 10-12 Prerequisite French I

French II is the continuation to an introduction to the French language and culture through the practice of listening, reading, speaking and writing. The goal of this course is to review the basics of level 1 and to continue to learn new French vocabulary, grammar structures and conversational skills in order to enhance literacy skills in both English and French.

French 2 immerses students in the francophone world via interpretive tasks, Integrated Performance Assessments (IPAs), cultural readings, and authentic images and videos. Aligned to ACTFL World Readiness Standards, the Voces French 2 curriculum takes students from a Novice/Mid- to a Novice/High level of proficiency.

American Sign Language I (1 Credit)

Required 9-12

In this introductory course, students will learn the basics of American Sign Language (ASL), the primary language used by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities in the United States. This class will cover foundational vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, allowing students to communicate in everyday situations. Through hands-on practice, interactive lessons, and immersion in Deaf culture, students will develop a deeper understanding of both the language and the diverse community it represents. Emphasis will also be placed on the importance of visual communication and non verbal cues, as well as fostering respect for Deaf culture and history. By the end of the course, students will be able to introduce themselves, ask and answer basic questions, describe people and events, and engage in simple conversations using ASL.

American Sign Language II (1 Credit)

Required 10-12 Prerequisite ASL I

Building upon the foundational skills learned in ASL I, this course will deepen students' proficiency in American Sign Language, focusing on more complex vocabulary, sentence structure, and conversational skills. Students will expand their ability to communicate effectively in a variety of real-life scenarios, including discussions on personal experiences, future plans, and

describing more detailed events. In addition to further development of language skills, ASL II emphasizes the nuances of Deaf culture, encouraging students to explore and appreciate the community's traditions, values, and history. Through interactive activities, role-playing, and immersive experiences, students will continue to build their confidence and fluency in ASL while enhancing their understanding of visual communication. By the end of the course, students will be able to engage in more advanced conversations, express ideas in both formal and informal settings, and interpret simple ASL dialogues.

Art Courses

Art I (1 Credit)

Elective 9-12

The aim of this course is to introduce the students to a wide variety of art materials and techniques as well as art from contemporary and historical figures. This course will include work in the following areas: drawing, painting, design, sculpture and ceramics. The school year will be split into nine-week sections and we will try to accomplish as much from this list, as time allows.

Art II (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12 Prerequisite Art I

This course is designed to complement the Basic Art course and to reinforce the knowledge of the basic elements and principles of design through a variety of mediums and projects. Students will have the opportunity to improve their visual problem solving and creative thinking skills as they work on collaborative and independent projects. The school year will be split into nine-week sections and we will try to accomplish as much from this list, as time allows.

Sculpture (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12

This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of ceramics and the techniques of rendering in a three-dimensional space. The students will learn various hand-building techniques with clay as well as the technical, historical, and terminology associated with 3-dimensional design. Students will also have exposure to the pottery wheel. In addition to ceramics students can expect to work with non ceramic sculptural materials such as wire, cardboard, paper mache or plaster.

Music Courses

High School Band (1 Credit)

Elective 8-12 Prerequisite previous enrollment in band or special permission from director.
This class is a performing organization primarily concerned with the study of wind, brass, and percussion instruments and the performance of band literature. The band performs at home football games, parades, concerts, festivals, and competitions throughout the year. Attendance at

all scheduled rehearsals and performances is required as part of the class grade.

Jazz Band (1 Credit)

Elective 7-12 Prerequisite enrollment in Middle School Band/High School Band and audition/director approval. This class is a performing organization primarily concerned with the study of jazz instruments (saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, guitar, bass guitar, drum set, and auxiliary percussion) and the performance of jazz band literature. The band performs at concerts, festivals, and other special engagements throughout the year. Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is required as part of the class grade. Students will also learn basic Jazz Theory and Jazz History.

Concert Choir (1 Credit)

Elective 9-12

This full year course is part of a comprehensive choral music curriculum. Students will acquire the basic skills and knowledge needed for successful participation in choir. Activities will help develop life skills of discipline, responsibility, self-confidence, critical thinking, and teamwork. Performance opportunities will enhance creative potential and aesthetic awareness. Students will develop the skills needed for lifelong enjoyment of singing and participation in choral music organizations. Instruction will center on the use of two, three and four part choral octavos for singers, and literature will span a variety of styles. The course will include a comprehensive study of basic music theory skills, sight reading skills, and proper vocal, choral and performance techniques.

Treble Choir (1 Credit)

Elective 8-12

This full year course is part of a comprehensive choral music curriculum. Students will acquire the basic skills and knowledge needed for successful participation in choir. Activities will help develop life skills of discipline, responsibility, self-confidence, critical thinking, and teamwork. Performance opportunities will enhance creative potential and aesthetic awareness. Students will develop the skills needed for lifelong enjoyment of singing and participation in choral music organizations. Instruction will center on the use of two, and three part choral octavos for singers, and literature will span a variety of styles. The course will include a comprehensive study of basic music theory skills, sight reading skills, and proper vocal, choral and performance techniques.

Theatre Performing Arts (1 Credit)

Elective 7-12

Theatre Performance is a full year course focusing on the basic skills of acting, the art of pantomime, the historical aspects of the theatre, and the technical side of theatre productions. Students will be encouraged to explore their creativity and improvisational skills, as well as possibly having the opportunity for participation in a play and/or musical.

Physical Education Courses

PE and Health (1 Credit)

Required 9-12

This course is a full year class that will cover Michigan's Standards for both PE and Health. Both of these courses are required for graduation. The class is designed to promote Fitness, Health and Well-Being. Lifetime skills and Recreation Activities will also be components of this class. Not only will the students be exposed to the Skills of each activity, but also to the Rules of the Game, History of the Sport and Court/Field Dimensions.

Weight Training (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12 Prerequisite PE and Health

This course is a full year class that will cover Michigan's Standards for Physical Education. The class is designed to extend beyond basic Sport and Recreation Activities. Not only will the students be exposed to and tested on the Skills of each activity, but also participate in Team Games and Tournament style competition in each sport.There will also be a focus on Strength and Conditioning activities.

Girls Weight Training (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12 Prerequisite PE and Health

This course is a full year class that will cover Michigan's Standards for Physical Education. The class is designed to extend beyond basic Sport and Recreation Activities. Not only will the students be exposed to and tested on the Skills of each activity, but also participate in Team Games and Tournament style competition in each sport.There will also be a focus on Strength and Conditioning activities.

Woodshop Courses

Basic Woods (1 Credit)

Elective 8-12

This introductory, hands-on course blends traditional craftsmanship with modern design. Students will learn the unique qualities of different wood species and how to safely use a variety of hand and power tools. Moving beyond the traditional shop, students will also use Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software to create 3D project models. By the end of the course, students will have built a foundation in shop safety, digital planning, and practical construction, completing functional projects they can take home.

Intermediate Woods (1 Credit

Elective 9-12 Prerequisite Basic Woods

Building on the foundations of Basic Woodworking, this course challenges students with larger, more complex, and time-intensive projects. Students will venture into advanced construction techniques, refined joinery, and precision finishing. Students will also learn to program and safely operate a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machine to carve intricate designs and cut complex

parts with digital accuracy. This class is ideal for students looking to hone their technical skills, merge contemporary technology with traditional woodworking, and take ownership of several small independent builds from concept to completion.

Advanced Woodworking (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12 Prerequisite Intermediate Woods

Advanced Woodworking is designed for highly motivated students who want to push the boundaries of their creativity and technical skill. This course seamlessly integrates time-honored traditional techniques with cutting-edge manufacturing technologies. Rather than following standard class assignments, students will spend most of the year challenging themselves with a major independent build—taking a complex project entirely from initial concept and CAD modeling to final assembly and finish. Perfect for students looking to develop a portfolio, master advanced joinery, and showcase true craftsmanship from start to finish.

Electives and Career and Technical Education Courses

Peer Leadership (Peer to Peer) (1 Credit)

Elective 10-12

This course is designed for students who are interested in going into education and/or helping others. High School students enrolled in peer to peer will be mentors, role models, and friends to a student who is on the autism spectrum (ASD) or qualifies for special education services. In this role, as a peer to peer mentor you will be with an assigned student mentee a minimum of one class period per day. In addition to being a mentor, role model, and friend, you will assist your student mentee in such things as appropriate classroom behavior, organization of assignments and supplies, and focusing on what the teacher is saying. As a peer to peer mentor you will attend peer to peer forums once a month to discuss the progress of your student mentee and contribute ideas on how to more effectively help your student mentee progress toward his/her goals.

Academic Support Labs (.5 or 1 Credit)

Elective 9-10

Academic Lab support classes are designed to provide support for struggling students in the academic areas of Physical Science, Algebra I, World History, English 9, English 10 and Geometry. Students are selected for these courses based on academic need.

Dual Enrollment Courses LMC/SMC

Elective 9-12 Prerequisite 3.0 GPA or better

This program is available to second semester freshmen through seniors with a 3.0 or higher GPA. This opportunity provides students the option to begin earning college credits that will transfer to a college they plan to attend in the future.

Programming at Van Buren Technology Center (3 Credits)

Elective 11-12

Van Buren Technology Center has a variety of Career and Technical Education program offerings for students during their junior and/or senior years. Students can attend one academic year or during both their junior and senior year. VBTC programming takes up three hours of the school day. Watervliet High School provides transportation to and from VBTC. Students are expected to abide by all WHS and VBTC rules and procedures while attending VBTC. Programming through VBTC may include work based learning experiences for some second year students. Many VBTC programs offer direct college credit opportunities.

Program Offerings are:
Advanced Manufacturing
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Allied Health Technologies
Auto Technician- Brakes, Engines and Suspension (BES)
Auto Technician- Electrical & Engine Performance (EEP)
Auto Technician- Maintenance & Light Repair (MLR)
Business, Management & Administration
Careers in Education
Construction Trades
Cosmetology
Culinary Arts & Catering Management
Cyber Security & Computer Network Technology
Dental Occupations
Emergency Medical Technician
Engineering & Architectural Design
Fire Science Academy
Graphic Design
Law Enforcement
Marketing, Sales & Business
Patient Care
Polymer Technologies
Print Design
Software Engineering
Sports Medicine
Welding

Berrien County Career and Technical Education (1-3 Credits)

Elective 11-12

Berrien County Career and Technical Education programming offers many CTE courses. Programs are housed in various schools throughout the county. Students participate in one, two, or three hours of CTE coursework depending on the program of choice and its requirements. Students must provide their own transportation in order to participate in Berrien County CTE programming. Students are expected to abide by all WHS and the visiting school districts rules during their enrollment. Many Berrien CTE Programs offer direct college credit opportunities.

Online Courses (.5 or 1 Credit)

Elective or Credit Recovery 9-12

Watervliet offers online coursework through Edgenuity (credit recovery), and Michigan Virtual Academy. Online classes are used for credit recovery and elective purposes. Students who choose to take online coursework and do not need it for the recovery of credit are allowed to select a class from a list of offerings. Students electing to use the Michigan Virtual platform must have a minimum gpa of 3.0 or above.