Ashley Community Schools

Curriculum Guide

Graduation Policy

Credits**:**

Except for students in an approved personalized, acceleration or innovation program, each student is required to take and must accumulate the specified number of credits to graduate (see specific graduation requirements in the handbook).

Grade Classification:

Students must have earned six **(**6) credits to be classified as a Sophomore, twelve (12) credits to be classified as a Junior**,** and eighteen (18) credits to be classified as a Senior.

Graduation Requirements:

Outlined in the Ashley MS/HS Handbook and the Gratiot Continuous Learning Center Handbook. (pg. 22)

Departmental Credits Needed For Graduation:

Ashley High School and the Gratiot Continuous Learning Center program will follow the Michigan Merit Curriculum and understand a student's need for personalization, acceleration and innovation. Therefore, below is a guideline of the credits needed for a diploma. All students who earn a diploma, at a minimum, have demonstrated proficiency in the content outlined by the state academic standards or guidelines.

English: 4 credits

English 9 (1 credit), English 10 (1 credit), English 11 (1 credit), English 12 (1 credit), Class of 2024 may have a combination of .5 Speech credit and 0.5 elective credit

Fine / Applied Arts: 2 credits

Senior Band, Choir, Art**,** Journalism & Yearbook, Graphic Arts, Drafting or Woodworking, STEAM, Applied Technology, Computer Science, CTE, (1 credit)

Mathematics: 4 **credits**

Algebra | (1 credit), Algebra II (1 credit), Geometry (I credit), 1 senior year (1 credit)

Science: 3 credits

Biology (1 credit), Chemistry or Physics (1 cr), Anatomy, AG Science, Computer Science, or formal CTE program.

Social Studies: 4 credits

Civics (0.5 credit), Consumerism (0.5 credit), American History (1 credit), World History (1 credit), Economics (.5 credit), Political Science (.5 credit)

World Language: 2 credits

Spanish 1(1credit), Spanish 2 (1 credit)
*completion of a Department approved formal Career and Technical Education program or an additional visual, performing, and applied arts credit (1 credit) may be counted in place of the second Spanish credit.

Political Science (1/2 credit),
Economics (1/2 credit**),**
Physical Education (0.5 credit**)**
Health Education (0.5 credit**)**
Personal Finance (0.5 credit)

English Language Arts

English 9

Grade Level: **9 -** 12
Semesters: 2
Credits**: I**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: This is a two-semester course required for all ninth grade students. It is the first course to be taken in the English group. Class work centers on all the skills in the areas of grammar and communications with some emphasis on composition and career planning.

English 10

Grade Level: **10 - 12**
Semesters**:** 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites**:** English 9
Offered: Yearly

Description**:** English 10 is designed to give the student a variety of reading and writing experiences to reinforce the grammar and composition skills learned in English 9. A research paper which involves the use of standard research paper format is required.

English 11

Grade**-**Level: 11 - 12
Semesters**: 1**

Credits**:** 0.5
Pre-requisites: English 9 and English 10
Offered: Yearly
Description: This class will focus on improving writing skills and preparing students for the State High School Writing Test. Emphasis will be on making students aware of the writing process, becoming familiar with several styles of writing, engaging in cooperative activities such as group discussion and group editing and developing critical reading and thinking skills.

English 12
Grade Level: **12**
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** 0.5
Pre-requisites: English 9, English 10 and English **11**
Offered: Yearly
Description: This course work will consist of various challenging reading assignments, including one novel, and writing pieces generated by the class readings, as well as opinion and reflective pieces.

Speech (included)
Grade **Level**: 11 - 12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** 0.5
Pre-requisites: English 9 and English 10
Offered: As needed
Description**:** Structured to provide students with a variety of speaking experiences. Designed not only to increase speaking skills, but to provide tips on organizing speech material and increasing poise and confidence in speaking situations.

Literature/Novels
Grade Level**: 9 -** 12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**: 0.5**
Pre-requisites: None.
Offered: As Needed
Description: Students will gain experience in reading varied materials, including classic novels, newspapers, contemporary novels, and magazines. Although the focus is on reading, some writing will be expected, primarily evaluations of and reactions to the student's reading. Objectives of the class are to expose students to a variety of classic and contemporary reading materials, teach them to read effectively and to foster an enjoyment of reading itself.

Composition
Grade Level: **9 -** 12
Semesters: **I**
Credits**:** 0.5

Pre-requisites: English 9
Offered: As Needed
Description: The purpose of this course is to improve writing skills- The classroom study includes varied writing projects and a review of basic grammar.

Creative Writing

Grade Level: **9 -** 12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits: 0.5
Pre-requisites: English 9
Offered**:** As needed
Description: The emphasis will be on students improving skills in imaginative writing in all forms (short stories, haikus, free verse, short plays, etc.) are emphasized. A portfolio of writing will be required by the end of the semester.

Advanced Literature

Grade Level: 11-12
Semesters**: I**
Credits: 0.5
Pre-requisites: English 9 and English 10
Offered: As needed
Description: This **is** a one-semester survey course in American Literature from Colonial America to the present. This course is designed primarily for college-bound students and other good readers and will include selections from the major American writers. Prose, poetry, plays, and novels of America will make up this course.

AP English

Grade Level: **10** - .12
Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed
Description: This is a college level course, the students can elect whether or not they will take the College Board exam in which they may obtain college credit.

Fine / Applied Arts/Electives

Senior Band

Grade Level**: 9 - 12**
Semesters**:** 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites**:** None
Offered: Yearly

Description: This course offers interested music students an opportunity to further develop skills in such areas as: tone production, fingering, rhythm, scales, intonation, phrasing, style, and other related areas. Senior band members must have had previous band experience, or permission from the director. Band members will be required to participate in all performances, which include, but not limited to: parades, festivals / competitions, home basketball games (pep band), summer band program (marching band camp), and concerts. Participation in performances will constitute up to 60% of a students' grade. Those who are involved in sports will need to make prior arrangements with the director. Students may take this class and receive credit for this class more than once.

STEAM

Grade Level: 9 **-** 12
Semesters**: I**
Credits**:** .5
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Students will design and construct projects that are functional for daily life. This class may be taken more than once for credit.

Computer Apps

Grade Level: **9 -** 12
Semesters: **1**
Credits: .5
Pre-requisites**:** None
Offered: As Needed

Description**:** Students will learn word, excel and other office skills. Students will be introduced to coding.

Web Page Design

Grade Level: **9 - 12**
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** .5
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed

Description: Students will learn the basics of creating a web page. Students will design and publish working web pages**.**

Computer Science

Grade Level: **9-12**
Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed

Description: Students will learn how to code and make computer programs.

Yearbook

Grade Level: **9 - 12**
Semesters**:** 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: The class will write, edit and organize the school yearbook and cause its publication and circulation prior to the end of the school year. The class may be taken four years with credit received for all four years. (This class will be limited to ten to fifteen students only. Students will be selected by approval of the instructor.)

Work Study (Out of District Placement)/ Co-Op

Grade Level: 11 - 12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** 1 or 2
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed

Description: Seniors and Juniors may be excused from school up to a maximum of three class periods per day to receive on the job training. Students will be expected to work a minimum of 10 hours per week to receive credit for work study. Students should check the handbook for additional information concerning this program. Students may take this class and receive credit for this class more than once.

Senior Seminar

Grade Level: 12
Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed

Description: This course better prepares our Seniors for the outside world by demonstrating how to create and build a resume, letters of recommendation, and how to interview for a position. This course also better prepares our Seniors for college by requiring them to complete college enrollment forms, complete scholarship applications, and assist Seniors in the completion of the FAFSA application. This course includes having representatives from the business world present their careers to our Seniors, holding mock or practice interviews, and discussing what the business world is looking for in potential new employees.

Mentoring

Grades**:** 11-12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits: 1
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: With Teacher Agreement

Description: This course allows students to support, guide, and mentor other students within

the class. Besides supporting academic learning, teacher assistants will support respect, positive self-esteem, and problem solving skills for students within the class. **Permission from teacher and ms/Elem principle.**

Life Management

Grades**: 9-12**
Semester: 1
Credits: 0.5
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed

Description: This course will allow students to apply concepts from core content areas such as consumerism, nutrition, Family Living, budgeting, Taxes, insurance, investing, job search, effective communication, personal development and building healthy relationships.

Personal Living

Grades**: 9-12**
Semester: 1
Credits: ??
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed

Description: This course will provide opportunities for students to examine and reflect on issues that affect their health and well being. Students will be able to identify and create goals to assist their life personally and potentially professionally. Additionally, students will be able to think critically and problem solve in order to assist in the decision making process.

Essential Life Skills

Grades Level: **9-12**
Semester: 1
Credits: 0.5
Pre-requisites**:** None
Offered: As Needed

Description: Students will explore a variety of topics to develop those essential life skills necessary to build a successful domestic situation after high school. A variety of topics will be covered during the semester, such as sewing skills, kitchen safety, cooking and nutrition, positive relationships, time management, community involvement and cultural awareness, as well as the financial literacy that surrounds these topics. Our class will further seek to delve deeper into the above areas to foster a more sound understanding of how each area has the potential to impact the quality of life both inside and outside of the career setting, ultimately contributing to a more comprehensive view of the world in which they live.

Physical Education and Health

Physical Education / I.S. PE

Grade Level: 9 **-** 12
Semesters: 1
Credits: 0.5
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: This course gives the student an opportunity to develop physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. It will also enable the student to develop skills and body coordination as well as learn to play and develop a carry-over leisure time activities. Students are encouraged to attain the greatest possible degree of physical fitness and to maintain this condition throughout high school. Emphasis is on team sports and the techniques and rules of each. Offered are: football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, and a variety of low organized team games. Activities on an individual basis are: stunts and tumbling, golf, wrestling, track and field, games, contests and relays.

Lifelong Fitness

Grade Level: **9 –** 12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** 0.5
Pre-requisites**:** None
Offered**:** As needed

Description: This course will require students to perform advanced physical activities as well as set and meet personal fitness goals. An emphasis will be placed on weight lifting and physical fitness training.

Health Education

Grade Level: 9-12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** 0.5
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description**:** This course focuses on health habits basic to survival that contribute to the total well-being of individuals. The topics covered in this course include disease prevention and control, personal health practices, nutrition, growth and development, family health, emotional and mental health, substance use and abuse, consumer health, safety and first aid education and community health.

Outdoor Adventures:

Grade Level: ??
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**: 0.5**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As Needed

An all-inclusive physical education class in which students are taught life-long skills by using an integrated curriculum of science, math, writing, critical thinking skills, and computer technology. The focus **is** on outdoor activities including: fishing, archery, boater education**,** orienteering, survival skills, CPR, trip planning, tackle crafts, hiking**,** backpacking**,** camping, camp cooking, mountain bike camping, hunter education**,** ATV safety, sling shots, fauna/flora/wilderness medicine, paddling sports, wildlife conservation, and quail conservation**.** 1/2 credit

Mathematics

Algebra I

Grade Level: **9 - 12**
Semesters**:** 2
Credits: **1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: In Algebra I, the student will learn how to represent an unknown quantity by a variable, to develop an equation based on a given set of information, and then to solve the equation. Students will also learn how to graph linear equations, and simplify algebraic and radical expressions.

Geometry

Grade Level: **9-12**
Semesters**:** 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: Algebra I
Offered: Yearly

Description: A comprehensive study of lines and angles in a plane and their relationships to other quantities. The course also develops logic which is used to prove theorems. Triangles, circles, quadrangles and other polygons are studied.

Algebra II

Grade Level: 10 - 12
Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: Algebra I, Geometry (co-requisite)
Offered: Yearly

Description: This course builds on the skills acquired in Algebra I. New material will include powers and **roots,** inequalities, quadratic equations, and equations of higher degree. Trigonometric functions will be discussed during the second semester.

Senior Math

Grade Level: 12
Semesters: 2
Credits**:** 1

Pre-requisites: Algebra **1,** Geometry, and Algebra 2
Offered: Yearly

Description: In Senior Math, we cover a wide variety of topics, many of which review prior ideas learned throughout all of your math courses in middle and high school. These topics include: solving algebra equations, developing problem solving skills, right triangle trigonometry, working with fractions and measurements, finding area and volume of shapes, statistics & probability, and financial literacy. The purpose of Senior Math is to prepare the upcoming graduate for utilizing the math they've learned throughout high school to be successful in the real world.

AP **Stats**

Grade Level: **10** - 12
Semesters: 2
Credits: **I**
Pre-requisites: Algebra 1, Geometry
Offered: As Needed

Description: Students will be eligible to take the AP Stats test from the College Board to possibly obtain college credit. This is a college level course.

Stats

Grade Level: 10 **-** 12
Semesters**:** 2
Credits: **I**
Pre-requisites: Algebra 1, Geometry
Offered: As Needed

Description: Students will learn introductory Statistics and probability, along with higher order thinking.

Gaming Through the Ages

Grade Level: 10 **-** 12
Semesters**:** 2
Credits: **I**
Pre-requisites: Algebra 1, Geometry
Offered: As Needed

Description:

Beyond the Scoreboard: Data in Sports

Grade Level: 10 **-** 12
Semesters**:** 2
Credits: **I**
Pre-requisites: Algebra 1, Geometry
Offered: As Needed

Description:

Data Detectives: MythBusting with Statistics and Mathematics

Grade Level: 10 **-** 12
Semesters**:** 2
Credits: **I**
Pre-requisites: Algebra 1, Geometry
Offered: As Needed
Description:

Science

AG **Science**

Grade Level **9-12**
Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: As needed
Description: Will follow the guidelines for CTE AG class along with joining FFA as an option. Possible MSU credits. Emphasis on safety, will learn the animal/crop production of farming along with leadership skills.

Biology

Grade Level: **9 -** 12
Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly
Description**:** Biology is a branch of science employing the scientific method to characterize and investigate phenomena related to living organisms over a wide range of scales, from biophysics to ecology. class will be concerned with the characteristics, classification, and behaviors of organisms, how species come into existence (evolution), and the interactions they have with each other and with the natural environment. The continued existence of any biological organism is always dependent on acquiring sufficient energy, and thus some "connections" to the other areas of science will be discussed. This class will be divided into a number of sub-disciplines. The old division by type of organism remains with botany encompassing the study of plants, zoology the study of animals, microbiology, the study of microorganisms, molecular biology, which looks at the fundamental chemistry of life; cellular biology, which examines the basic building block of all life (the cell), physiology, which looks at the internal structure of organisms; and ecology, which observes how various organisms interrelate with each other and their environment.

Physical Science

Grade Level: 10 **-** 12
Semesters**: 2**
Credits: **1**
Pre-requisites: Biology

Offered: Yearly

Description: The first 12 weeks of this class will be spent reviewing (in depth) the major concepts of Earth Science and Astronomy (Space Science) with emphasis on "connecting" them to the other branches of science. Weather, geology, hydrology and oceanography, geophysics, geochemistry, mineralogy, cartography, GPS, astrophysics, cosmology, and stellar and galactic astronomy will be stressed along with the physical laws that govern them. The next 20 weeks of physical science will be directed at introducing chemistry and physics (approximately 10 weeks each). More emphasis will be placed on the mathematics that is involved in these areas, and the topics covered will. cover the basic test requirements. This section of the class will adequately prepare the student for the state requirement that all students must take either chemistry or physics in their junior or senior year as a requirement for graduation. The last 4 weeks of this class will be spent making "connections" within all of the disciplines of science in order to prepare each student for the MME.

Physics

Grade Level: 11 - 12
Semesters**:** 2
Credits: **1**
Pre-requisites: Biology, ESP, and Algebra I (exception by permission of instructor**)**
Offered: Yearly

Description: The class will cover the physical world in depth. Electricity, rocketry, and motion will be discussed in great detail. There will be many laboratory experiments. Highly recommended for college-bound students. 10th graders may take this class by permission of the instructor only. Students are required to complete 4 - 6 projects during the year. Students can elect to undertake a more general course of study (relaxed grading .scale) during the same section. This class will be aligned to the current state science objectives and will aid students in their preparation for success on the science portion of the MME.

Chemistry

Grade Level: 11 - 12
Semesters: 2
Credits: **1**
Pre-requisites**:** Biology, Physical Science, and Algebra I (exception by permission of instructor)
Offered: Yearly

Description**:** This is a college preparatory course designed to help the student understand the chemical world. The structure of the atom is studied. The **use** of chemical symbols in writing formulas and equations is emphasized. Laboratory experiences are designed to give the student experience in apparatus assembly as well as the importance of accurate observations and data recording for chemical experiments. Tenth graders may take the .class by permission of the instructor. After school lab time may be required. Students can elect to undertake the general course of study (relaxed grading scale) during the same section. This class will be aligned to the current state science objectives and will aid students in their preparation for success on the science portion of the MME.

Conservation Science:

Grade Level**: 9 -** 12
Semester: 1
Credits: .5
Pre-requisites**:** None
Offered: As Needed

Description: Students will develop skills, build an understanding of science and learn scientific techniques taught through the lens of conservation with an emphasis on hands-on, real-world activities. The curriculum focuses on wildlife conservation and the outdoor recreational activities that financially support the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, conservation work, shooting sports and boating. Conservation Science gives students a foundational basis for how these activities directly benefit habitat acquisition, enhancement and protection, as well as wildlife management, including game, nongame and endangered species.

Materials Science:

World Language

Spanish 1

Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: This class will be aligned to the Michigan Foreign Language standards for novice Level. This class uses the book *Avancemos 1* by Holt McDougal to get an introduction to vocabulary and grammar. Students will be learning to read, write, listen and speak about familiar topics. Students will learn vocabulary and grammar to talk about likes and dislikes, school, food, and family. This class will also discuss the culture of various spanish speaking countries.

Spanish 2

Grade Level: **9-12**
Semesters**:** 2
Credits**:** 1
Pre-requisites**:** Spanish 1
Offered: Yearly

Description**:** This is a college preparatory course designed to help the student learn more in depth knowledge of another language**.** This class will be aligned to the Michigan Foreign Language standards for novice/intermediate Level. This class uses the book *Avancemos 2* by Holt McDougal to get a more in depth look at vocabulary and grammar. Students will be learning to read, write, listen and speak about more topics. Students will learn vocabulary and grammar to talk about past experiences with travel, sports and health. This class will also discuss the culture of various spanish speaking countries.

German I

Grade Level: 9-12
Semester: **1**
Credits .5
Prerequisites: None
Offered: Depending on need and availability

Description: This is an introductory course to the very basics of the German language in terms of reading, writing, speaking**,** and listening. Counting, spelling**,** construction of simple sentences, and everyday conversational phrases will be covered. Culture and exploration of the various German speaking countries will also be included.

Social Studies

Civics

Grade Level**: 9 -** 12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**: 0.5**
Prerequisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: A basic overall review of our political system and internal workings **of** the American government. This course will also look at and discuss the duties and responsibilities of Americans as citizens in a democratic nation.

Consumerism

Grade Level: **9 -** 12
Semesters**:** 1
Credits**:** 0.5
Prerequisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: In this course, students will examine factors affecting consumer decisions of individuals and families, and consumer issues such as consumer protection, legislation and regulation, and consumer fraud. We are all consumers of goods, services, and environments.

United Nations (History of)

Grade Level**: 9-12**
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**: 0.5**
Prerequisites: None (Must discuss with instructor, with instructors permission only)
Offered: Yearly

Description: The course is designed to make students aware of the importance of being an informed citizen in today's complicated world. Students will also be studying, analyzing,

and acting out the working of the United Nations. Emphasis will be on names and places and current topics in the news, usually from newspapers, magazines, and television. There is-no textbook. Students may take this class and receive credit for this class more than once **(**however**,** assignments, projects, papers**,** and speeches will increase in difficulty with each additional class).

American History

Grade Level: 10 - 12
Semesters**:** 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites: Civics / Consumerism (or instructor's permission)
Offered: Yearly

Description: American History is the study of the United States from 1850- to present. The class will concentrate on themes such as American democracy, economic development**,** civil rights and liberties, cultural diversity, the U.S. role in world affairs, humanities and religion, conflict and cooperation, and the influence of technology.

World History

Grade Level: 10-12
Semesters: 2
Credits**: 1**
Pre-requisites**:** Civics, American History
Offered: Yearly

Description: How do world historians make sense of a global past? Why are geography and spatial reasoning important for understanding world history? These foundational expectations help students answer such questions, and introduce them to the tools they will need to study world history. Individually and collaboratively, students can engage in planned inquiries.

Political Science

Grade Level: 11-12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits: 2
Pre-requisites: Civics, American History
Offered: Yearly

Description: This course will review the American political system to include discussions on local, state, and national governments, political parties, issues in politics, voting, and how to register to vote and cast a ballot.

Economics

Grade Level: 11-12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** 0.5
Pre-requisites: Civics, American History?
Offered: Yearly

Description: This course will concentrate on personal finance to include establishing and

operating a budget, cash flow, how to establish and operate a checking account, credit cards, the importance of having a good credit rating**,** how to buy a car, how to obtain a loan for buying a house, as well as discussions on the importance of having a good financial plan and preparing for the unknown future.

Michigan History

Grade Level:**9-12**
Semesters: 1
Credit:
Pre-requisities: None
Offered: As Needed

Description- Students will explore the major events, developments and outcomes in Michigan History from the prehistoric period to the present. This exploration will include study of the important groups and individuals who made important contributions to Michigan and U.S. History.

AP Human Geography

Grade Level: **10 -** 12
Semesters**:** 2
Credits**: I**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: AP Human Geography is an introductory college-level human geography course. Students cultivate their understanding of human geography through data and geographic analyses as they explore topics like patterns and spatial organization, human impacts and interactions with their environment, and spatial processes and societal changes.

AP American History

Grade Level: 10 - 12
Semesters**: 2**
Credits**: I**
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: This is a college level World History class and students may elect to take the College Board exam to possibly obtain college credit.

Virtual Learning ***

Grade Level**: 9 -** 12
Semesters**: 1**
Credits**:** .5 or **1** credit depending on the course.
Pre-requisites: None
Offered: Yearly

Description: All courses on the following platforms listed below may be taken as long as they have been approved and meet Michigan standard. The courses are able to be taken in the summertime or during the regular school day. Students may take required classes for

credit recovery, but if the required class will fit in their regular school schedule during the school year the student will have to take it with the teacher.

*** All courses offered virtually outlined in the course offerings guidelines; which follow the requirements outlined by the State of Michigan in the following online platforms: Imagine Learning: Edgenuity, Michigan Virtual High School and Edmentum: Courseware.