

Freshman Elective Course Descriptions

The following is a description of each of the courses offered to incoming freshmen at Maine West for the fall of the 2019-2020 school year.

Engineering, Design, & Manufacturing

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

This is the first course in the Project Lead the Way program which is a sequence of courses designed to prepare students to be successful in science, engineering and engineering technology. The course introduces students to the scope, rigor and discipline of engineering prior to entering a post-secondary institution. Students use a problem-solving model to improve existing products and invent new ones. Using Inventor (3-D modeling software), students create 3-D representations of their designs. Emphasis is placed on analyzing potential solutions and communicating ideas to others.

COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING (CAD) 1:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit (Dual Credit)

This course is designed for students who wish to be involved with the architectural and engineering design fields and for those interested in computer aided drafting. Students will be introduced to both traditional and computer aided drafting skills. The aim of CAD 1 is to introduce beginning students to basic information, skills, and concepts related to drafting and design. Special attention is given to: sketching, measurement, room planning, multi-view drawings, auxiliary views, working drawings, sectional views, orthographic drawings along with AutoCAD tools and commands. Current and future trends in the architectural and engineering fields will be examined.

Business

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

Students will gain a better understanding of the economic resources used in producing goods and services in a global economy. Marketing, entrepreneurship, and financial systems will be taught to enhance students' knowledge of successful business operations. This course is suggested for students planning to take other business course offerings.

This course may be taken to fulfill the Consumer Education graduation requirement.

COMPUTER PROGRAMING:

1 period daily, 1 semester course, 1/2 credit

Computer Programming will introduce students to the fundamental concepts of programming. These include designing, planning, coding and debugging of computer projects including games, simulations and other applications. The course will introduce and use several educational programming platforms to teach computer programming skills. This course is design for students with no prior programming experience.

ROBOTICS:***1 period daily, 1 semester course, ½ credit***

This course is a beginning course in robotics. Students will be utilizing VEX IQ, RobotC or EasyC software. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a robot. Students will work hands-on to build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems and binary number systems. Student designed robots will be programmed to compete in various courses as developed by the instructional team.

DIGITAL MARKETING***1 period daily, 1 semester course, ½ credit***

Students will develop capabilities in designing, implementing, and evaluating digital marketing strategies. Through hands-on projects students will experience the new reality of marketing in the digital world.

GRAPHIC ARTS 1***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

This course is designed for students who wish to learn about two dimensional graphic design. Students will learn the basic principles of design, two dimensional graphic design execution, page layout and printing. Information regarding post-secondary options and career opportunities in this field are also emphasized.

KEYBOARDING & FORMATTING: SUMMER SCHOOL ONLY

Keyboarding and Formatting is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to develop skills in using the computer as a writing tool. The course includes a thorough teaching of the keyboard, development of speed and accuracy, and the formatting of letters, outlines, reports, and navigating and searching the Internet for information.

Human Services, Culinary and Fashion

CULINARY ARTS 1:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

Culinary Arts 1 introduces the skills and knowledge needed to become a competent cook and select the right food for healthy living. Students will learn to interpret a recipe, measure ingredients correctly and create a safe and sanitary working situation. They will develop skills in planning, teamwork, and time management in lab situations; demonstrate proper use and care of equipment; develop ability to select products and understand principles of nutrition.

FASHION 1:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

The Fashion 1 course is designed to provide students with basic skills and opportunities for creativity in pattern and fabric selection and their use; the ability to use equipment and to operate a sewing machine; techniques of simple pattern alteration and construction of garments; and the opportunity to explore various aspects of fashion.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT:

Early Childhood Development is a course designed for students who are planning to pursue any occupation related to children or the healthcare field. This course provides information about conception, pregnancy and the delivery of a baby. Other topics include growth and development of infants and young children up to age three. Emphasis is placed on parental roles, responsibilities, and guiding techniques for disciplining children. This course also increases awareness of job opportunities in childcare and healthcare careers. Students will have the opportunity to earn Level 1 ECE credit. This course is recommended for Preschool Practicum and Healthcare Careers.

INDEPENDENT LIVING:***1 period daily, 1 semester course, ½ credit***

Independent Living emphasizes the basic principles and practical aspects of living on your own. Topics include: the management process, goal setting, decision making, career success, creating a resume, interviewing techniques, financial management, banking, using credit wisely, food preparation and nutrition, renting and furnishing an apartment, purchasing and insuring a car, and making wise consumer decisions.

This course may be taken to fulfill the Consumer Education graduation requirement.

Art

ART FOUNDATIONS/ART APPLICATIONS:***1 per daily, full year course, ½ credit per sem***

Art Foundations provides an opportunity for students to become more creative and sensitive individuals. Students experience being able to express themselves as they learn how to draw, paint, print, 3D & 2D sculpt and work with designs. Students also discover the world of the artist. This course is for all students, not only for those expecting to pursue art as a career. The course is broken into 2 semesters: Art Foundations builds skills required to make Art. Applications continues to build on skills learned in Art Foundations.

DESIGN MATERIALS I:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

Design & Materials I combines the aesthetics of art and the functionality of design. Students learn design, composition and skills, and then apply them toward the hands-on creation of items which may include jewelry, fibers, ceramics, two-dimensional designs, sculpture, and mixed media. Major emphasis is placed on originality and craftsmanship toward projects which may be both decorative and functional. Design & Materials I broadens a student's appreciation of the arts and crafts as it heightens their awareness of their own creative abilities.

DIGITAL IMAGING I:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

Digital Imaging is a class designed to explore creative art making through the use of computers. This course provides a comprehensive computer art exposure specializing in various digital art concepts and techniques. Electronic photo imaging, digital still life, and electronic drawing are studied the first semester. Students continuing this course for a second semester will enhance their mastery beyond first semester skills and techniques. Areas such as animation/video and landscape 3D design are explored.

PHOTOGRAPHY I:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

Photography I at Maine West alternates, between the photography darkroom and the digital computer lab. Every other week is spent in the digital computer lab. In the digital lab students explore creative art making through the use of the computers.

Foreign Language

The goal of modern foreign language courses is to teach students to communicate with people in another language. This involves the development of the four skills fundamental to language acquisition: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The study of culture is also an integral part of the curriculum. Through this process, students will better understand their own culture and increase their global awareness. A four-year sequence is recommended for optimum success in second language acquisition.

FRENCH I, GERMAN I, ITALIAN I, SPANISH I:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

In the first year of a modern foreign language, students become familiar with the sounds of the language, its basic vocabulary and the most common structures. They study the cultures, the countries, and the life-styles of the people who speak the language.

FRENCH II, FRENCH II ACC., GERMAN II, GERMAN II ACC., SPANISH II and SPANISH II ACC.:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

In the second year of a modern foreign language, students improve their ability to understand and speak as well as read and write. They broaden their knowledge and understanding of the people whose language they are studying.

SPANISH III and SPANISH III ACC.:***1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit***

In the third year of Spanish, students further develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students deepen their appreciation of the culture through a variety of studies.

Music

SYMPHONIC BAND:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

Open to all students with previous band experience. The band performs at all Band Concerts and is a part of the marching band at football games and parades.

STRING ORCHESTRA:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

A comprehensive class designed for string players with experience reading music and playing their instrument. An audition with the director is required to ensure that students are placed correctly. In class, students will improve their performance skills and enhance their knowledge of music theory and history. Students who do not own instruments may rent them from the school.

CHORUS:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

Chorus is a choral organization designed to meet the needs of beginning high school singers. Activities include unison and part singing, music reading, and interpretation of a variety of song styles.

GUITAR I:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

Open to all students. No prerequisite. Guitar I is designed for students with no previous experience. Beginners study guitar techniques and the basics of reading chords symbols. Much emphasis is placed on learning to read music - notes and rhythms. A guitar at home is recommended, and rental of a school instrument is required for class time use.

PIANO I:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

Piano I is designed for students with no previous experience in piano playing. Students learn to play the beginning fundamentals of keyboard playing and basic musicianship, as well as composition and arrangement software. Classes are held in the MIDI Lab where students practice at individual keyboard workstations.

DIGITAL AUDIO AND MUSIC PRODUCTION:

1 period daily, 1 semester course, ½ credit

Digital Audio and Music Production is a Chromebook apps based course that allows students to create audio recordings to produce a piece of music, create loops, understand the properties of sound and how they are represented in the digital domain. Students will understand basic audio specifications used in product descriptions and use them to choose audio tools that will best match creative needs, recognize how audio signals move within a digital mixer and use internet services for distribution and collaboration.

Speech/Drama/Broadcasting

DRAMA I:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

Throughout the year each student will receive basic instruction about theatre and theatre performance. The course will provide the student with a variety of communication experiences including (1) the viewing of scenes, films, and video tapes (2) participation in theatre games, pantomimes, monologues, improvisations and acting scenes and (3) discussions of theatre from the points of view of both participant and critic. Drama I is a performance-oriented course that can benefit students in many, if not all, future careers by improving oral communication skills. Successful completion of Drama 1 meets the Communication Arts Graduation Requirement.

BROADCASTING:

1 period daily, full year course, 1 credit

This introductory course in Broadcasting and Radio/TV production offers hands-on experience in producing radio and television programming, as well as media literacy studies and discussion on the impact of the media in modern society. Time is split between the classroom and recording facilities at WMTH, Maine West's own radio station. Radio Production projects include interviews, DJ shows, Public Service Announcements, commercials, a TV review segment and a chance to design an original radio station format. In the second semester, students focus on TV production and fill a variety of jobs behind the scenes to produce multi-camera news, sports and weather telecast. Students often tour area TV and radio station studios as well. Successful completion of Broadcasting meets the Communication Arts Graduation Requirement.

TECHNICAL THEATRE:

1 period daily, 1 semester course, ½ credits

Technical Theatre gives students the opportunity to work on a variety of group and individual projects in the areas of set design and construction, theatrical make-up, costuming, scene painting, stage lighting and sound.