

Oak Park Freshman Institute

Ninth Grade Required Classes

9th English Language Arts	9	1.0	In this course, students will learn reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and listening skills while exploring a variety of literature. These skills will serve as a foundation for subsequent high school English classes. Units of learning include the novel, fiction/non-fiction, poetry, and essay writing. This course includes the Michigan Merit Curriculum and meets the requirements for English credit in ninth grade.
Algebra I	9	1.0	Through individual pacing using Cognitive Tutor and group instruction, the one-year course will focus on the key topics that provide a strong foundation in the essentials of Algebra I. This class is a study of the language, concepts, and techniques of Algebra that will prepare students to approach and solve problems following a logical succession of steps. Skills taught in the course lay groundwork for upper level math and science courses and have practical uses.
Conceptual Physics	9	1.0	Conceptual Physics is designed to introduce students to motion, forces, energy and scientific inquiry. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving and qualitative analysis in a laboratory setting while using mathematics skills to explain phenomena in the real world.
US History 1877-Present	9	1.0	This is a study of the chronology and impact of political, economic and social developments from post civil war reconstruction to the present: as well as the interaction among people of different national origins, races, and cultures and how such interaction has shaped our history. Emphasis is placed on how history has affected our world today.

Ninth Grade Elective Classes

Algebra Enrichment	9	.5	In this course students will learn a variety of techniques to strengthen their mathematical skills while taking Algebra I. Fundamental skills are expanded and problem solving using variables are practiced through multiple mathematical representations. Topics studied include real numbers, operations with polynomials, equations, inequalities, absolute value, linear functions, graphing, systems of equations and inequalities, exponential and quadratic functions, radical expressions and equations, and rational expressions and functions.
African-American Literature	9	.5	This course examines African-American literature from a variety of perspectives and in dynamic ways. The class begins with a study of slave narratives in the 18th and 19th centuries and then moves to post-slavery writing. Students analyze the works of prominent African-American authors and complete group and individual assignments. The course consists of close reading, discussion, and project preparation.
Environmental Science	9	.5	This course is designed to teach students the study of environmental science. Students will be required to perform water quality tests, conduct ecological experiments, and develop conceptual knowledge on man's impact on local and global environment.
Spanish I	9	1.0	In this course students will study language, people, and history. Students will begin to form basic Spanish conversations in response to the teacher as well as their peers. Students will complete grammatical and comprehensive exercises to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Concert Band	9	1.0	This course is designed to develop the intermediate and advanced woodwind, brass wind or percussion player. Students will further their knowledge of fundamentals and techniques of ensemble instrumental playing. Concert performances are required as the band is a team and each member plays a part.
Concert Choir	9	1.0	In this course students will develop choral technique, music reading, and the joy of making music. Concert performances are required as the choir is a team and each member plays a part.
Exploration of Sound	9	.5	This class will engage the study of American music history and its cultural implications from 1830's Congo Square New Orleans to the present. Students will study music styles, the types of instruments that create the music, and musical legends that influenced present day artists.
Physical Education	9	.5	Students will participate in a variety of health-enhancing physical activities to promote a healthy and active lifestyle. They will demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior by exhibiting self-control, cooperative skills, appropriate sports related behavior, and regard for safety.
Health	9	.5	Students will investigate and study the five components that determine the state of well-being that comes from a good balance of physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual health.
Foundations in Business	9	.5	This one semester course offers students the opportunity to study basic understanding of management and general business principles. Studies include the styles and function of management and the basic building blocks of business.

Cultural Studies	9	.5	<p>In this one semester course, students will engage in an in-depth study of the many elements of culture. Major emphasis will be placed upon practical, real life applications of culture. This approach will enable students to experience and appreciate the significance of culture in their lives from both a global and local perspective. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to a broad offering of topics in the social sciences including geography, government, history, economics, sociology, as well as current local, state, national, and global events/issues.</p>
Humanities	9	.5	<p>This semester long course focuses on the thematic study of human relationships and cultures with an interdisciplinary approach focusing primarily on Literature, History, Art, and Music. Students will explore how the areas of Humanities connect to and affect each other by exploring their own writing, developing their reading strategies, understanding the reader/writer connection, and conducting an open-ended research study. Students will do extensive writing and analysis of literature through literary essays, argumentative essays, narratives, poetry, reflections, and individual/group projects while also developing their speaking and delivery skills through individual/group speeches and presentations and/or performances.</p>
Reading	9	.5	<p>This course provides an opportunity for students to acquire skills and strategies needed to do well at the high school level. It is designed to improve comprehension and vocabulary skills while also offering guidance in writing skills and reading skills needed for high school course work. Students will receive individualized instruction designed to support success in completing language arts course work aligned with the <i>Michigan Merit Curriculum</i> and the <i>Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts</i>.</p>