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

Math 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.
Reading Enrichment	9	.5	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 *Michigan Merit Curriculum* and the *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts.*
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.
French I	9	1.0	In this course students will study language, people, and history. Students will begin to form basic French 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.
Auxiliary Band (Dance)	9	1.0	This course has a concentration on movement fundamentals through the dance elements of time, space and energy. The intent is to give students an awareness for the physical body and its athletic and expressive capabilities. Students experience these elements through a variety of genres. Introductory elements of dance choreography and performance are also included.
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.

Art	9	.5	Elements of art and principles of design will be introduced in this course. Students will explore and apply fundamental design concepts using a variety of materials. Students will combine, evaluate and apply new knowledge and life experiences to create original works that demonstrates newly acquired skills, information and insights.
College Readiness	9	.5	This course is designed to support students as they begin their high school experience, develop success skills and effective personal habits as it relates to academic life and life in general. A major goal is to support the student within their regular classes and help them to be successful. The curriculum focuses on skills relating to organization, communication, goal setting, time management, and problem solving. The integration of reading, writing, and technology into class discussions, daily assignments, small and large group activities, and projects serve only to encourage and strengthen the student in furthering the foundational skills proven to increase success in life.
Humanities	9	.5	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.