

Middle College

High School Course Descriptions

Creative Writing (1 Credit)

This course enlarges the students' understanding of their heritage through an integrated study of literature. Through responding to fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, both formally and informally, students will analyze the structure and genre of literature. Students will gain an understand of how literature corresponds to an approach in writing, including understanding the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers.

Interpersonal and Workplace Communication (1 credit)

This course is for students who want to improve their ability to think clearly and express themselves effectively. The course incorporates instruction in writing, listening, and speaking through various modes of participation and classroom activities. Students in this course will review, analyze and practice personal interaction skills and tactics emphasizing the oral and written communication skills critical to success in the workplace through the following weekly seminars:

1. Occupational Seminar (employability skills)
2. Speech Center
3. Writing Center
4. Guidance
5. Technology in Learning

Math II (1 credit)

This course continues the development of concepts introduced in Math I and emphasizes the skills necessary for problem-solving and continued growth in mathematics. Students will apply concepts of number and operations, algebraic relationships, geometric and spatial relationships, measurement and data analysis, and probability.

Math III (1 credit)

This course is a continuation of Math II. It will increase breadth and depth of concepts of number and operations, algebraic relationships, geometric and spatial relationships, measurement and data analysis, and probability.

Math for Today (1 credit)

Students will be involved in learning how to collect information, communicate information mathematically, solve problems from a real-world context and justify the solutions to the problems. This course will integrate the abstract ideas of algebra, including use of patterns, generalizations, analyzing linear equations and relationships, graphing, and the application of geometric ideas and concepts.

Earth/Space Science (1 credit)

This is a laboratory course that integrates the study of Earth with the characteristics of the solar system and builds upon those concepts introduced in middle school science courses. The study of the Earth will include its history, composition, structure, atmosphere and its place in the universe. The characteristics of the solar system include the motion of the universe and its structures. The tools required for space exploration will also be studied.

General Biology (1 credit)

General Biology provides an overview of the processes of living things, from the cellular level to the biosphere. Laboratory activities integrating scientific investigation and process skills make up an important component of this course.

Scientific Research & Design-Forensics (1/2 credit)

The class is designed around authentic performance assessments with students working in teams to solve crimes using scientific knowledge and reasoning. It involves all areas of science including biology, anatomy, chemistry, physics, and earth science with an emphasis in complex reasoning and critical thinking. In addition, students must incorporate the use of technology, communication skills, language arts, art, family and consumer science, mathematics and social studies.

Scientific Research & Design- Meteorology (1/2 credit)

Meteorology is a laboratory based course which examines the elements of weather, weather forecasting, and global climate change. The topics will include, but are not limited to: nature and causes of wind, clouds and precipitation; storm systems and fronts; thunderstorms,

*Courses subject to change.

tornados, and hurricanes; weather maps and forecasting, data collection, climate factors, and recent or current significant weather events and patterns.

Liberty & Law (1/2 credit)

This course is designed to be the culminating experience in the student's required social studies program bringing together and expanding the knowledge from prior study of the following areas: citizenship, current events, multicultural perspectives, history, geography, economics and government. Students will be expected to demonstrate, through examination, understanding for the basic provisions and principles of The Constitution of the United States and of the State of Missouri.

World Geography (1/2 credit)

This course is a study of people, places and environment from a physical and cultural perspective. Through a variety of classroom activities, students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the interdependent world in which they live. Students will analyze and evaluate the connection between their local and global communities. The course will emphasize the practical and responsible application of geography to life situations.

Personal Finance (1/2 credit)

This course is designed to help students apply decision-making skills to earning and spending an income, establishing and enhancing savings and investments, purchasing insurance, using credit and managing money. Students with a basic understanding of finance are more confident and competent in making financial decisions, building their careers and acting as informed citizens.

Physical Education/Wellness (1/2 credit)

This course will emphasize the knowledge, development and improvement of skills needed for maintenance of a desired level of physical fitness and life time wellness. Tennis shoes required.

Employment Internship (1/2 credit)

This course will provide each student with the opportunity to intern job placements. Students are required to complete 90 hours in a successful internship experience in their specific career pathway. Students must provide their own transportation. Work experience may be paid or unpaid. The student intern must maintain medical insurance at his/her parents' expense during this class.

Work Credit (1/2 credit)

Students may complete 180 hours of work credit for high school credit, if approved by the high school counselor in advance. Students must provide verification of employment and work hours to the high school counselor.

Service Learning: (1/2 credit)

This course is a unique educational experience which provides students with the opportunity to understand how their community works by developing an awareness of "volunteerism". Students may volunteer outside the regular school day to an organization of nonprofit community agencies and service organizations. *This course is set up through the Middle College counselor upon request or recommendation by staff.*

Credit Recovery: (Multiple Credits)

Credit Recovery is an intervention offered to students who have previously taken a course but failed to earn a passing grade. Credit recovery allows students to go back and recover the credit by completing course requirements in the Credit Recovery Program. PLATO is a computer assisted curriculum with standard-based learning activities, standards-driven assessment, and data management to facilitate academic improvement. This curriculum has proven to be successful for students in credit recovery. Credits recovered are reported as Pass/Fail.

PLATO Learning: While attending Middle College, some courses for *Credit Acquisition* are taught through PLATO, such as liberty and law, personal finance, and world geography.

Developmental Reading: (1/2 credit)

This is a college level developmental reading class to improve reading and comprehension. Recent brain discoveries have helped us to understand that many strategies previously used in reading programs were not lined up with the way we now (due to enhanced technology) know our brains actually learn. A course called, "*Read Right*", started last fall on OTC's campus and has demonstrated great success in raising reading levels. U.S. Government statistics indicate: "1 child in 3 will have reading problems; *Read Right* creates an interactive environment that compels the brain to re-build neural networks through process learning, resulting in more fluent, efficient reading and improved comprehension.

Read Right has a high rate of success with all types of student populations. This includes students who have been previously diagnosed with reading difficulties, dyslexia, etc. as well as others who have just found reading difficult and tedious. Selected Middle College students based on their SRI or PLAN scores will be enrolled by the program Coordinator.

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