

**ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MISSION STATEMENT AND SYSTEM GOALS**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Athol-Royalston Regional School District is committed to providing all children with the opportunity to reach their full individual potential and to become productive members of their communities. We will try to provide our students with the confidence to question their world and the ability to seek answers and make changes.

In partnership with parents, teachers, students and the community, the school system will promote social and academic excellence by stressing cooperation, communication, and collaboration.

**GOALS:**

1. All schools will strive to become focal points of their neighborhoods and communities.
2. All schools will provide a safe and healthy environment.
3. All schools will work with parents to develop an environment in which self-respect and respect for all members of the community are the central values.
4. Administrators will promote cooperation, communication and collaboration among staff and students.
5. The Regional School District and all schools will promote high expectations for all students.
6. All schools will provide all their students with challenging learning opportunities.
7. The school community will provide maximum opportunities for academic excellence in all areas of the curriculum, by:
  - a. providing the skills necessary to read with fluency, understanding, and an appreciation of literature;
  - b. providing daily opportunities for students to develop skills in writing and speaking;
  - c. ensuring competency in computing and understanding math concepts;
  - d. fostering the natural curiosity of their students and providing them with the opportunity to perform as scientists;
  - e. creating an awareness of global similarities and a tolerance for differences;
  - f. encouraging participation in the appreciation for music and the creative arts;
  - g. fostering an understanding of democratic values and American and world history;
  - h. integrating technological resources.
8. All schools will strive to equip students with the skills and attitudes necessary to enjoy healthy active lives.
9. All schools will encourage their students to make positive contributions to their community.
10. All schools will provide a variety of opportunities for all parents to become partners in the children's educational programs.
11. The Regional School District is committed to providing a program of professional development and assessment which promotes effective teaching strategies while honoring continuous self-improvement.
12. The Regional School District is committed to making a vigorous effort to educate the community about the needs of the schools, in order to ensure the availability of adequate funding to meet these goals.

## ***ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT***

We at Athol High School believe that our students can graduate with the tools necessary to lead meaningful, productive lives. In our school community, we endeavor to promote creativity and critical thinking, as well as to foster tolerance, self-confidence, and integrity in each individual. We encourage students to follow laws and work together to become productive members of society. Our goal is to educate our students to develop the skills necessary to continue to learn throughout life, and to adapt to the demands of the future.

## ***ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING EXPECTATIONS***

### **Academic**

1. Speak and write using standard English
2. Read and listen effectively
3. Employ critical thinking skills to solve problems
4. Use a variety of resources and technologies to acquire, evaluate, apply, and communicate information
5. Recognize responsibilities needed for well-being

### **Civic**

1. Understand the rights and responsibilities of the individual in society
2. Work independently and collaboratively

### **Social**

1. Understand and appreciate culture and diversity

***ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2363 MAIN STREET  
ATHOL, MA 01331***

***ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION***

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***ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT HEADS***

Thomas Telicki, Humanities  
Dominic Miranda, Math/Business/Technology  
Jeff Weston, Science  
Christine Miranda, Social Studies  
Melissa Perez, Special Education  
Kathy Horrigan, Physical Education/Health  
Edward Davidson, World Languages

**GRADUATION COURSE AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS**

All students, beginning with the class of 2013, must earn a minimum of 21 credits in order to graduate. For the class of 2012, a minimum of 23 credits must be earned. For the class of 2011, a minimum of 25 credits must be earned.

The minimum course requirements for the class of 2011 only are as follows:

English: 4 credits

Math: 4 credits

Science: 4 credits

Social Studies: 4 credits, to include World History, U.S. History I and II, or AP U.S. History.

PE/Health: 3 credits

Art: 1 credit

Business: 1 credit

See below for course requirements for the class of 2012 and beyond. These credits must include the required courses listed below. While all students, including seniors, are expected to pass all of their classes, all seniors must pass a minimum of five credits worth of work in their senior year.

Freshmen and sophomores should work their way through the following courses by the time they have to take the MCAS test sophomore year:

- Algebra I and Geometry or the equivalent – Introductory Algebra I or Introductory Geometry
- English 9, English 10
- Integrated Science
- Biology or Biology Honors

English\*.....4 credits: - to include  
English 9 or English 9 Honors  
English 10 or English 10 Honors  
English, English 11 or AP English Language  
English 12, English 12 Honors, or AP English Literature

\*All students must take all four levels of English (9, 10, 11, 12) to satisfy graduation requirements.

Math .....4 credits

Science .....3 credits Environmental Studies #431 will no longer satisfy a science graduation requirement

Social Studies .....3 credits: - to include

- For the Class of 2011 and beyond:**
- World History (1800-2000) or
- World History (1800-2000) Honors
- United States History I or
- United States History I Honors
- United States History II or
- United States History II Honors or
- AP U.S. History

P.E./Health.....1.5 credits – 1 semester for grades 9, 10, 11

**MINIMUM CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE**

All students must pass a minimum of 5 credits in their senior year  
Class of 2011: Minimum of 25 credits  
Class of 2012: Minimum of 23 credits  
Class of 2013 and beyond: Minimum of 21 credits

**CREDITS NEEDED FOR PROMOTION**

Class of 2011: Minimum of 19 credits for grade 12 status  
Class of 2012: Minimum of 11 credits for grade 11 status  
Minimum of 17 credits for grade 12 status

**CREDITS NEEDED FOR PROMOTION FOR THE CLASS OF 2013 AND BEYOND**

Grade 10: Minimum of 5 credits  
Grade 11: Minimum of 10 credits  
Grade 12: Minimum of 15 credits

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Students in their senior year must pass a minimum of five credits.
- Courses valued at more than one credit will not excuse a student from taking a full four-course load per semester.
- Sports eligibility: To maintain eligibility, a student must secure, during the last marking period preceding the contest, a passing grade in a minimum of five classes. Fall sports eligibility: To be eligible for the fall marking period, students are required to have passed and received full credit, for a total of five credits in the previous academic year.
- Report cards will be distributed twice a semester, once at the half way point and once at the conclusion.
- Progress reports will be distributed twice a semester, once at the half way point of the first quarter and once at the half way point of the second quarter.
- Any student not meeting minimum graduation requirements will have an individualized graduation plan developed by the student and guidance, subject to administrative approval. Moving up in homeroom grade is automatic unless you have failed so many courses that you cannot graduate with your class. In order to move to a 10th grade homeroom, students in the 9th grade must have 5 credits and have passed English 9 and the equivalent of Algebra I; minimum of 10.0 credits\* to move to 11th; minimum of 15.0 credits\* to move to 12th. \*for class of 2013 and beyond
- Passage of the MCAS test is required for graduation for all students in addition to AHS requirements.

## COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

The admissions standards for UMass and the State Colleges, emphasize a strong academic high school background so that students enter college ready to learn. These standards are minimums; each campus may choose to consider additional factors in its admissions decisions. Further, the standards do not apply to the state's community colleges, which admit any high school graduate.

### **Freshmen Applicants**

If you plan to enter UMass or a State College as a freshman, you will need to:

- 1) take 16 college preparatory high school courses,
- 2) earn at least a "B-minus" to "B" grade point average in your college preparatory courses, and
- 3) take the SAT reasoning or ACT test.

### **Academic Course Requirement**

Sixteen college preparatory courses (each course is equivalent to a year-long high school class) are required:

**English** 4 courses

**Mathematics** 3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework)

**Sciences** 3 courses (including 2 courses considered college lab courses)

**Social Sciences** 2 courses (including 1 course of U.S. History) (this requirement does not meet A.H.S. U.S. History requirement)

**Foreign Languages** 2 courses (in a single language)

**Electives** 2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)

### **Minimum Grade Point Average in Required Courses**

The grades you earn in college preparatory courses will be averaged into a grade point average (GPA). In calculating your GPA, you will receive extra credit for accelerated courses from the college (for example, honors or Advanced Placement courses).

Highly selective or more competitive colleges will be looking for more than minimum state standards such as four math, four science, (especially for math, engineering, or science-related majors), three social studies and three foreign language courses.

## GUIDANCE

In this section of the Program of Studies, several guidance issues will be presented in order to help students and parents decide on appropriate high school course selections and future planning activities for educational, career or military life after high school. This is a guideline only. It is every student's responsibility to discuss courses and activities with teachers, counselors, and parents.

### COURSE SELECTION

#### GRADE 8, 9, 10, 11

- It is important that subject selection include courses that meet Chapter 766 individual education plan accommodations, MCAS test expectations, graduation requirements, and courses for future planning.
- The Massachusetts State College requirements for entrance are a good recipe to follow for college preparation.
- Students should discuss an appropriate level of challenge with teachers of sequential courses such as math and world languages.
- Students should discuss honors and Advanced Placement courses with subject area teachers to plan for necessary prerequisites and appropriate selection.
- During the course selection process, students should obtain teacher and parental signatures on course selection.
- Students should also discuss with coaches and club advisors eligibility requirements and membership standards.
- Students should know that extracurricular activities at school or within the community are an important part of student life.
- Students should pay attention to the student bulletin announcements in homeroom for important opportunities for student involvement.

### COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL PLANNING CALENDAR

Whereas most of this information concerns a guideline for college entrance preparation, much of the same philosophy applies to entrance to vocational/technical schools as well.

#### GRADE 10

- Students must select challenging courses in high school to meet college standards. The Massachusetts State College entrance requirements are a good recipe to follow for college entrance.
- All sophomores will be required to take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) given in October of each year. The cost of the exam will be covered by the district for all sophomores. Juniors may take the PSAT at their own expense. This test is a practice test for the college entrance exam, the SAT reasoning test. The scores from the PSAT, when taken as a junior, are used by the National Merit Scholars to determine eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship but scores from the sophomore year are NOT admissible as NMSQT scores.
- Students should attend college fairs as posted.
- February and April school vacations are good times to visit colleges or vocational/technical schools as the opportunity for classroom and dormitory visitations are available and students are still on campus.
- Throughout the year, students should sign up for guidance appointments to discuss future plans and areas of concern.
- Students should utilize the internet to explore educational, career, military and scholarship information. The A.H.S. library computer lab is open after school for student use.
- Students should check the bulletin board outside the guidance office for general information and certain summer opportunities.
- Students should keep an open mind about future opportunities and should not eliminate any possibilities at this time.

## GRADE 11

### **FALL**

- Students should register through the guidance office for the PSAT which is given in October each year. ONLY junior scores from the PSAT will be admissible for NMSQT eligibility. Therefore, students who took this as a sophomore should repeat the test as a junior. Juniors must pay for this test.
- Throughout the year, students should check the bulletin boards outside the guidance office for college fair dates, college open house programs, visitation opportunities, testing dates, scholarships, military programs and summer workshops and courses.
- Throughout the year, students should sign up for guidance appointments to discuss future plans and areas of concern.
- With special permission from teachers and guidance counselors, juniors may sign up to meet with college and military recruiters.
- Students should discuss with the appropriate counselor shadowing and internship possibilities.
- Throughout the year, students should pay attention to the student bulletin announcements in homeroom that will specify important dates and programs for juniors such as Boys State and Girls State.
- Students should check out the registration process and dates for the SAT reasoning test, SAT subject test, and ACT (American College Test) for the whole year. Students cannot take the SAT reasoning test and SAT subject test on the same day, so students need to plan accordingly. All registration materials are located in the guidance office, but registration may be accomplished on-line as well. Students must pay for any of these tests.
- Throughout the year, students may check in the guidance office for part-time jobs.

### **WINTER**

- When PSAT scores are returned, students should review results for strengths and weaknesses. Students should inquire about local SAT preparation courses. Also, students should utilize the college board web site for test preparation ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)).
- Students should check personal transcript for all high school graduation requirements and courses for future planning. They should also prepare to take challenging 12th grade courses in the subject selection process.
- Students should write to colleges and vocational/technical schools for catalogs and information. Students should pick up military brochures available outside the guidance office. Students interested in the military should meet with recruiters to learn about enlistment programs.
- Students should register for SAT reasoning test, SAT subject test or ACT for spring testing (if student did not already take a test in the fall or winter).
- Students should register with a military recruiter to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to prepare for military entrance.

### **SPRING**

- Students should sign up to participate in the annual Job Fair to interview for summer employment or participate in career workshops.
- Students should finalize schedule for senior year.
- Students should continue research for future planning.
- Students in Advanced Placement courses must take the subject exams. Students must pay for the tests.

## GRADE 12

### **FALL**

- Students should register for a fall date (and possibly a winter date, as well) to take the SAT reasoning test, SAT subject test or ACT test.
- Throughout the year, the Student Bulletin contains many announcements about deadlines, scholarships, recruiters and programs that apply to seniors only.
- Seniors will attend a Future Planning seminar during a school day held in the A.H.S. cafeteria. The entire college application process with necessary forms and procedures will be reviewed. Students will receive their own packet of forms and notes for reference. Students interested in the military or a career after graduation will also receive relevant materials at separate meetings. Parents are invited to attend the morning session with the seniors or attend the evening presentation of Future Planning on that same day.
- Students must follow the extensive application process as described in the student packets.
- Throughout the year, students should sign up for guidance appointments to discuss future plans and areas of concern.
- Students must obtain applications from colleges and follow directions and meet deadlines.
- Any senior intending to apply for the early decision program at a college must notify guidance and meet appropriate deadlines.
- Students should sign up to meet with college and military recruiters.
- Throughout the year, students should check the bulletin boards outside the guidance office for college fair dates, college open house programs, visitation opportunities, testing dates, scholarships, military information and job opportunities.
- Students should request transcripts and letters of recommendation as outlined in the application packet.
- Students must request other necessary documents to be included in an application package such as a copy of a student's Chapter 766 education plan, a discipline report from high school (many colleges require this discipline information) and a health record.

### **WINTER**

- Students should meet all deadlines. Students should give guidance counselors and faculty (and community members) ample time to write letters of recommendations and complete forms - two weeks, at least.
- Students and parents should attend the Financial Aid Night where the local scholarship process will be discussed, as well as the FAFSA application.
- Throughout the winter and spring, students will follow the calendar, directions and deadline for local scholarship applications.
- Throughout the winter and spring, students must notify guidance of their acceptances to schools or military programs.

### **SPRING**

- Students should sign up to participate in the annual Job Fair to be interviewed for summer employment or participate in career workshops.
- Students in Advanced Placement courses must take the subject exams. Students must pay for the tests.
- Students must maintain good grades as all college acceptances, scholarship offers, and military enlistments are conditional on continued good progress and appropriate behavior.

### **995 SCHOOL TO CAREER INTERNSHIP**

**CREDIT TO BE DETERMINED, GRADE 10, 11, 12**

The School to Career internship at Athol High School will promote exploration and skill building in the areas of self awareness, future planning, career development, and personal responsibility through a contracted internship placement within area communities. The experience is designed to enhance and demonstrate the relevancy of the student's academic world to the world of work and to establish a foundation for enabling students to make good decisions about career choices.

## **THE A.H.S. SCHOOL TO CAREER INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT PROCESS**

The School to Career program places students with area businesses and agencies for work study internships that earn students Athol High School academic credit. Students will participate in internship preparatory sessions in the fall semester with the expectation of a spring semester placement. The following process will be followed for suitable placement.

**Student Sign-Up:** Interested sophomores, juniors and seniors need to make an appointment with their guidance counselor or the internship counselor to discuss possible internship placement.

**Basic Interview:** The student will meet with the internship counselor to discuss and clarify the student's understanding of the requirements, benefits, and goals for participation in the internship program.

**Schedule Availability:** The student's guidance counselor will check the student's schedule to coordinate necessary courses to meet graduation requirements with potential schedule openings for an internship.

**Preparatory Session I:** The student will meet with the internship counselor and engage in learning about general internship requirements and expectations.

**Preparatory Session II:** Based on goals information from the basic interview, the student and the internship counselor will discuss a specific internship site and the set up of a site shadowing experience.

**Shadow Experience:** The student will meet with the work supervisor on site and observe the operation of work for a day or other specified period of time.

**Evaluation Process:** The student will meet with the internship counselor and work site supervisor to evaluate the shadowing experience, the appropriateness of the site internship and the interest of the student and site supervisor to continue towards placement in the internship program.

**Contract:** Upon agreement, the student, the student's parents, the internship counselor and site supervisor will sign a contract which details the job description and requirements for the internship. The credit for the internship will be determined by the guidance department and will be based on the school's academic credit standards.

Due to many factors such as limited internship sites in the community, the inability to fit an internship into a student's schedule, or inappropriate site matches, not all students who request an internship are guaranteed a placement.

In the event that an internship does not get scheduled for a student on the first application, the student may repeat the placement process for another site.

All students who participate in the placement process will have gained experience in utilizing career planning skills that will be beneficial for future job, college or military interviews and productive career decision-making.

**COURSES OFFERED FOR THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR**

\*denotes college prep course

L denotes lab science

**ENGLISH**

- 011 ENGLISH 9 \*
- 012 ENGLISH 9 HONORS \*
- 021 ENGLISH 10 \*
- 022 ENGLISH 10 HONORS \*
- 031 ENGLISH 11\*
- 044 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE \*
- 041 ENGLISH 12 \*
- 042 ENGLISH 12 HONORS\*
- 043 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE \*
- 051 JOURNALISM
- 053 YEARBOOK
- 056 CREATIVE WRITING\*

**WORLD LANGUAGES**

- 112 FRENCH II \*
- 113 FRENCH III \*
- 114 FRENCH IV \*
- 125 FRENCH V \*
- 115 SPANISH I \*
- 116 SPANISH II \*
- 117 SPANISH III \*
- 118 SPANISH IV \*
- 119 SPANISH V \*
- 120 LATIN I \*
- 121 LATIN II \*
- 122 LATIN III \*
- 124 LATIN IV \*

**MATHEMATICS**

- 215 INTRODUCTORY ALGEBRA I \*
- 216 ALGEBRA I \*
- 217 INTRODUCTORY GEOMETRY \*
- 218 GEOMETRY \*
- 219 GEOMETRY HONORS \*
- 220 INTRODUCTORY ALGEBRA II \*
- 221 ALGEBRA II \*
- 222 ALGEBRA II HONORS \*
- 223 ADVANCED TOPICS IN MATH \*
- 224 PRE-CALCULUS \*
- 227 AP CALCULUS AB\*
- 228 INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS \*
- 229 AP STATISTICS \*

### **SCIENCE**

- 307 ROCKS, LAND AND TIME
- 310 INTEGRATED SCIENCE \*L
- 311 COLLEGE PREP BIOLOGY \*L
- 312 BIOLOGY MCAS PREP
- 313 BIOLOGY HONORS \*L
- 314 ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY \*L
- 315 INTRODUCTION TO CHEMISTRY
- 316 COLLEGE PREP CHEMISTRY \*L
- 317 COLLEGE CHEMISTRY ENRICHMENT
- 318 COLLEGE CHEMISTRY HONORS \*L
- 319 COLLEGE PREP PHYSICS \*L
- 320 AP CHEMISTRY \*L
- 323 AP BIOLOGY \*L
- 324 AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE \*L
- 330 INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICS
- 331 COLLEGE PREP ECOLOGY \*L
- 332 BIOTECHNOLOGY \*L
- 333 ELECTRONICS \*L
- 334 ELECTRONICS HONORS \*L

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- 411 WORLD HISTORY (1800-2000) \*
- 405 WORLD HISTORY (1800-2000) HONORS \*
- 452 UNITED STATES HISTORY I\*
- 454 UNITED STATES HISTORY I HONORS \*
- 453 UNITED STATES HISTORY II\*
- 455 UNITED STATES HISTORY II HONORS \*
- 472 AP U.S. HISTORY \*
- 430 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT\*
- 419 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HONORS\*
- 440 AP PSYCHOLOGY \*
- 424 PSYCHOLOGY \*
- 431 ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY
- 427 YOUTH AND LAW
- 473 HISTORY OF CURRENT ISSUES
- 426 SOCIOLOGY
- 474 GLOBAL ECONOMICS

### **BUSINESS**

- 502 PERSONAL & BUSINESS FINANCE
- 514 ACCOUNTING I \*
- 515 ACCOUNTING II \*
- 567 OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY APPLICATIONS
- 656 INTRODUCTION TO WEB DESIGN AND HTML

### **VISUAL ARTS**

- 720 VISUAL ARTS FOUNDATION
- 722 PRINTMAKING\*
- 724 CERAMICS/RELIEF \*
- 725 SCULPTURE \*
- 721 DRAWING \*
- 726 THE HUMAN FORM \*
- 727 PAINTING \*
- 732 DIGITAL MIXED MEDIA

**MUSIC**

- 713 CONCERT BAND
- 714 JAZZ BAND
- 716 CONCERT CHOIR
- 717 MUSIC THEORY
- 730 MADRIGAL/SHOW CHOIR
- 749 INTRO TO MUSIC

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH**

- 928 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH I
- 929 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH II
- 933 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH III
- 956 PHYSICAL EDUCATION II

**GUIDANCE**

- 995 SCHOOL TO CAREER INTERNSHIP

**\*DENOTES COLLEGE PREP COURSE**

**L DENOTES COLLEGE LAB SCIENCE**

Virtual Classroom by permission of the administration  
Independent Studies by permission of the administration

**ENGLISH**

Students must take one required English course each year and pass that course before taking the next level course; exceptions must have the approval of the administration. Sophomores must take both English 10 and English 10 II. In addition to required courses, students may choose elective English courses each year. Students who take honors or AP courses must read and take notes on a novel (or readings of equivalent length). An assessment on the reading will be given at the start of class. The following English courses are required:

- English 9 or English 9 Honors
- English 10 or English 10 Honors
- English 11, AP English Language
- English 12, English 12 Honors, or AP English Literature

**011 ENGLISH 9 \***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 9**

**Prerequisite: None**

This course emphasizes the development of reading, writing, viewing, speaking, and listening skills. It also includes instruction in research and study skills. Students read from various literary genres (novels, short stories, poetry, non-fiction and drama), complete frequent writing exercises, use reference sources, and produce periodic oral presentations. Students will complete a persuasive essay that involves research and documentation. Students must also maintain a journal and a writing portfolio.

**012 ENGLISH 9 HONORS \***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 9**

**Prerequisite: 8th Grade Teacher Recommendation**

**Summer Assignment Required**

This course emphasizes the development of reading, writing, viewing, speaking, and listening skills. It also includes instruction in research and study skills. Students read from various literary genres (novels, short stories, poetry, non-fiction and drama), complete frequent writing exercises, use reference sources, and produce periodic oral presentations. Students must also maintain a journal and a writing portfolio. Students will complete a persuasive essay that involves research and documentation. In addition, the student is responsible for completing a summer reading assignment prior to the start of classes.

**021 ENGLISH 10 \***  
**Prerequisite: English 9**

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 10**

This course focuses on the continued development of the student's reading and writing skills and provides a thematic approach to the study of literature. Students will be expected to write compositions, write book reviews and literary analyses, and continue to develop viewing, speaking, listening and vocabulary skills. Readings will include mythology, the Bible, a Shakespearean play, and a variety of poetry, drama, novels, and essays. A writing portfolio will be maintained. Students will complete a poetry paper that utilizes research and documentation.

**022 ENGLISH 10 HONORS \***  
**Prerequisite: English 9 and Teacher Recommendation**  
**Summer Assignment Required**

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 10**

This course focuses on the continued development of the student's reading and writing skills and provides a thematic approach to the study of literature. Students will be expected to write compositions, write book reviews and literary analyses, and continue to develop viewing, speaking, listening and vocabulary skills. Readings will include mythology, the Bible, a Shakespearean play, and a variety of poetry, drama, novels, and essays. A writing portfolio will be maintained. In addition, the student is responsible for completing a summer reading assignment prior to the start of classes. Students will complete a poetry paper that utilizes research and documentation.

**031 ENGLISH 11 \***  
**Prerequisite: English 10**

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 11**

This course will continue to build on reading, viewing, speaking, listening and writing skills learned in previous courses, with a particular emphasis on writing. All aspects of writing a research paper will be thoroughly explored, culminating in the production of a fully documented research paper. American literature will provide the basis for most reading and writing assignments. Students will be expected to use higher order thinking skills and demonstrate logical development of ideas. A writing portfolio will be maintained.

**044 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
**Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and sophomore-level English**  
**Summer Assignment Required**

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 11**

In this course, students will experience a college-level curriculum that follows Advanced Placement guidelines in the area of language and composition. The course will emphasize the study of a wide array of literary texts, as well the practice of varied writing forms. Students will be required to take the AP Language and Composition Exam in the spring.

**041 ENGLISH 12 \***  
**Prerequisite: English 11**

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 12**

This course is designed to reinforce and refine English language arts skills already learned in English 11. Writing will include autobiographical essays, critical reactions for a variety of purposes, creative writings and research-based project. Quality in terms of content, organization, and mechanics will be expected. Vocabulary development and speaking skills will be addressed. World literature will provide the basis for reading selections. Readings will be discussed with the purpose of encouraging students to reach more sophisticated critical judgments. A writing portfolio will be maintained.

**042 ENGLISH 12 HONORS \***  
**Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation and Junior Level English**  
**Summer Assignment Required**

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 12**

This course is designed to reinforce and refine English language arts skills already learned in English 11. Writing will include autobiographical essays, critical reactions for a variety of purposes, creative writings and research-based project. Quality in terms of content, organization, and mechanics will be expected. Vocabulary development and speaking skills will be addressed. World literature will provide the basis for reading selections. Readings will be discussed with the purpose of encouraging students to reach more sophisticated critical judgments. A writing portfolio will be maintained. In addition, the student is responsible for completing a summer reading assignment prior to the start of classes.

**043 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE \*****1 CREDIT, GRADE 12****Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation****Summer assignment required**

In this year-long course, students will experience a college-level curriculum that follows Advanced Placement guidelines in the area of literature and composition. The course will emphasize the in-depth study of canonized literary texts, as well the practice of critical essay writing. Students will be required to take the AP Literature and Composition Exam in the spring.

**051 JOURNALISM****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None**

Students in this course will learn the history, principles, and ethics of journalism, and they will learn to write in various journalistic formats (news, editorial, sports, review, etcetera). Students will also study and discuss current events and will analyze various aspects of the media. The class is also responsible for the production of *The Little Red Schoolhouse*, A.H.S.'s student newspaper. Students may take this course more than once with instructor permission.

**053 YEARBOOK****.5 CREDIT, GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: None**

Students in this course will be responsible for the production of the school yearbook, the parent newsletter, and the literary magazine. Students will learn about journalistic ethics, basic photography principles, on-line publishing techniques, publication design, and writing and editing. All students will be expected to solicit advertising support for the yearbook. Students may take this course more than once with instructor permission.

**056 CREATIVE WRITING \*****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None**

This course will involve the study and analysis of personal narrative, memoir, poetry, short story and drama genres. After the reading and analysis of each form, students will compose original pieces which will be performed or published for the class. Students are expected to offer substantial editorial support for one another.

**WORLD LANGUAGES****112 FRENCH II \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: French I**

Students learn the past tense, pronouns, and vocabulary and read at least two books in the language. Culture emphasizes the francophone words.

**113 FRENCH III \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: French II**

French III continues with verb tenses, pronouns, and vocabulary. Students read books and study films in the language, integrating culture, language, and history.

**114 FRENCH IV \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: French III**

This course provides an opportunity to work on their fluency, proper usage, and comprehension in speaking and writing French. Students read books, study films, and learn from projects.

**125 FRENCH V \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: French IV**

This course will explore the cultures of the French speaking world with emphasis on proficiency in speaking, reading and writing. The student will need a solid foundation in the basics of the language.

**115 SPANISH I \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: None**

Students will be introduced to the culture that is called the Hispanic world. Emphasis will be placed on achieving significant progress in the four major areas of language acquisition; reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will master basic communication techniques on the beginning level of the language, with the goal of continuing their studies to the highest level offered.

**116 SPANISH II \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Spanish I**

Students will strengthen communication skills through more complex exercises in listening comprehension and oral expression. Writing exercises, cultural readings, and grammar study will be constant throughout this course.

**117 SPANISH III \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Spanish II**

This course will offer opportunities to utilize the language in both practical and creative manners in both oral and written exercises. Listening comprehension and cultural readings are integral parts of study for the student. Study of more advanced grammar must also be included to complete this course of language study.

**118 SPANISH IV \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Spanish III**

This course will continue and conclude the study of Spanish grammar begun in level III. Upon completion of this class, the student will have a working knowledge of all verb tenses (including the subjunctive) and major grammatical structures.

**119 SPANISH V \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Spanish IV**

This course focuses on the Hispanic immigrant experience in the United States, specifically the Chicano cultures. Materials studied include historical texts, poems, essays, short stories, plays, art, music and films. Critical thinking and class participation in Spanish are stressed.

**120 LATIN I \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: None**

Emphasis will be on the comprehension of the Latin language through practice in reading. At the same time, through the readings, the student will acquire an understanding of the social and political history of the Romans, especially during the first century A.D.

**121 LATIN II \*** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Latin I**

This course continues the study of Latin through an ongoing story line in a Romano-British setting. Included as an integral part of the course is a better understanding of English word origins, legal terms and scientific vocabulary.

**122 LATIN III \***  
**Prerequisite: Latin II**

**1 CREDIT**

Having acquired the necessary reading skills through completion of Latin I and II, students will be challenged by more complex readings in the Latin text series. Emphasis will be on classical authors in their original texts. The study of English vocabulary through Latin and Greek roots continues, as well as the ongoing investigation of the Romanization process.

**124 LATIN IV \***  
**Prerequisite: Latin III**

**1 CREDIT**

Students will conclude their studies of the Romano-British setting of ancient times. Focus of the course is on the religious beliefs of the Celts and Romans, as well as a study of the Roman army. The eternal city of Rome is the final destination of our study tour.

**MATHEMATICS**

**215 INTRODUCTORY ALGEBRA I \***  
**Prerequisite: None**  
**Required prior to MCAS**

**1 CREDIT**

This course is an introductory Algebra 1 course. Topics include operations with real numbers, algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, word problems, graphing linear functions, powers and roots, operations with polynomials, and factoring.

**216 ALGEBRA I \***  
**Prerequisite: None**  
**Required prior to MCAS**

**1 CREDIT**

This is a first course in algebra for college-bound students. Topics include identifying and using number patterns, operations with real numbers, properties of numbers, order of operations, first-degree equations and inequalities, linear and quadratic functions, factoring, graphing, solving word problems, exponents, probability and statistics, systems of equations and polynomials.

**217 INTRODUCTORY GEOMETRY \***  
**Prerequisite: Introductory Algebra I**  
**Must be enrolled in this class prior to MCAS**

**1 CREDIT**

This course addresses the basic structure of geometry through a more informal approach. It is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra I or those students having had difficulties with Algebra I, who need more time to develop geometric concepts and applications. Topics include points, lines, angles, introducing proof, triangles, using congruent triangles, polygons, areas, ratios and proportions, similar polygons, circles, areas and volumes of solids, right triangles, and coordinate geometry. This course is not as rigorous and demanding as Geometry or Geometry Honors.

**218 GEOMETRY \***  
**Prerequisite: Introductory Algebra I**  
**Must be enrolled in this class prior to or concurrently with MCAS**

**1 CREDIT**

This course is designed to help the student have a better understanding of the nature of mathematical systems and an appreciation of the basic structure of geometry. The fundamental properties of plane, analytic and solid geometry are introduced. It will develop powers of spatial visualization. Emphasis is placed on definitions, basic postulates and theorems and the use of deductive reasoning. Algebra is used as a tool to help understand and develop geometric concepts. Students will also be introduced to such topics as coordinate geometry, trigonometry and transformations.

**219 GEOMETRY HONORS \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Algebra I or Teacher Recommendation****Recommended prior to MCAS**

This accelerated course in geometry is designed to help the student have a better understanding of the nature of mathematical systems and an appreciation of the basic structure of geometry. Fundamental and advanced properties of plane, analytic and solid geometry are introduced. It will develop powers of spatial visualization. Strong emphasis is placed on definitions, basic postulates and theorems and the use of deductive reasoning. Algebra is used as a tool to help understand and develop geometric concepts. Students will also be introduced to such topics as coordinated geometry, trigonometry and transformations.

**220 INTRODUCTORY ALGEBRA II \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Introductory Geometry**

This course is an introductory course in Algebra II. Topics include concepts of elementary Algebra, introduction to graphs, relations and functions, linear functions, equations, inequalities, systems of linear equations, radicals, complex numbers, quadratic functions and rational expressions. This class will also include a comprehensive MCAS preparation unit.

**221 ALGEBRA II \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Geometry or Teacher Recommendation**

This is a second course in algebra for college-bound students. It is designed to build upon the concepts learned in Algebra I and to help students understand algebra as a study of the real and complex number systems. Furthermore, the concept of functions as they relate to mathematics is a main theme for the study of algebra and a clear understanding of the concepts is a primary goal. Topics include matrices, probability and statistics, linear, quadratic, logarithmic and trigonometric functions, as well as the introduction of conic sections and sequences and series. The TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course and the school does not provide a calculator for each student.

**222 ALGEBRA II HONORS \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Geometry and Teacher Recommendation**

This course is taught at an accelerated pace and is intended for the college-bound student with a solid background in Algebra I. The topics covered in this course will include systems of numbers, matrices, probability and statistics, polynomial and rational expressions, linear equations and inequalities, coordinate geometry, relations and functions, quadratic functions, systems of sentences, real exponents, logarithmic functions, conic sections, sequences and series, and trigonometric functions. The TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course and the school does not provide a calculator for each student.

**223 ADVANCED TOPICS IN MATH \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Introductory Algebra II**

This course is designed to introduce students to the various branches of mathematics in which they may proceed as well as strengthen their understanding of the basic structure of mathematics. Included are topics in statistics, probability, linear and quadratic equations, trigonometry, and sequences and series. The TI-83 graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course and the school does not provide a calculator for each student.

**224 PRE-CALCULUS \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Algebra II**

This is an advanced course in pre-calculus for college-bound students with a strong interest and ability in mathematics. The topics covered in the course will include numbers systems, functions, trigonometry, sequences, series, limits, algebraic functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, vectors, systems of linear equations, conic sections and an introduction to calculus. The TI-83, TI-84, or TI-89 graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course and the school does not provide a calculator for each student.

**227 AP CALCULUS AB\*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus and Teacher Recommendation**

This advanced course is designed for the college-bound student with a strong interest and ability in mathematics who is going to take the AP Calculus exam. The focus of the course will be on the topics of limits, derivatives and integration. The TI-89 graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course and the school does not provide a calculator for each student.

Note: No final exam is given for the course, however, all students are required to take the Advanced Placement Calculus exam in May.

**228 INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Introductory Algebra II**

This introductory course is designed for the college-bound student with a strong interest in probability and statistics. Topics covered in the course include the normal distribution, scatterplots, correlation, least-squares regression, designing experiments, probability, control charts, binomial distributions, test of significance, and confidence intervals. The TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course and the school does not provide a calculator for each student.

**229 AP STATISTICS \*****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation**

This advanced course is designed for the college-bound student with a strong interest in probability and statistics. Topics covered in the course include the normal distribution, scatterplots, correlation, samples and experiments, probability, binomial and geometric distributions, test of significance, confidence intervals, Chi-square, and analysis of variance. Students who enroll in this course are required to take the AP Statistics Exam. The TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator will be used extensively in this course and the school does not provide a calculator for each student.

Note: No final exam is given for the course, however, all students are required to take the Advanced Placement Statistics exam in May.

**SCIENCE**

Important information that you need to know when planning for your science classes:

- 1) You are required to earn three science credits in order to graduate from Athol High School.
- 2) Integrated Science is required as a freshman.
- 3) All sophomores must take Biology, or Biology Honors. Biology and Biology Honors are standard college level preparatory classes. Students must now pass the Biology section of the MCAS exam to graduate.
- 4) If you are a serious college bound science student you need to make sure that you take Integrated Science, Honors Biology, College Prep or Honors Chemistry and College Prep Physics before you graduate. You should also strongly consider taking at least one of the AP science courses which include: AP Biology, AP Chemistry and AP Environmental Science. Many students do not realize that Honors Biology, College Prep or Honors Chemistry and College Prep Physics are all required if you plan on entering any of the health, technical or engineering fields.
- 5) If you are a very serious student who wants to get into a competitive college then you should consider the following: 1) Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry in your sophomore year. This will allow the sophomores to take AP Chemistry when they become juniors. (AP chemistry will not be offered when the students who are sophomores next year become seniors). 2) AP Biology or AP Chemistry or AP Environmental and or College Prep Physics in your junior year (unless you plan on taking College Prep Physics in your senior year). 3) AP Biology or AP Chemistry or AP Environmental and College Prep Physics in your senior year. Note: AP Biology and AP Chemistry are given in alternate years. AP Biology will be offered during the 2010/2011 school year with AP Chemistry offered during the 2011/2012 school year. We hope to offer AP Environmental every year if there are enough students to run the class.

**307 ROCKS, LAND AND TIME****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Integrated Science and any Biology class****May be taken concurrently with any Biology class.**

This elective course is an introduction to earth science concepts. Laboratory activities are included to supplement the content taught. However, the course is not a standard college level preparatory class. This course explores the dynamic forces that are constantly changing our earth. Students who have a general interest in geology, earth history, mineralogy, weather, astronomy and physics would enjoy this course.

**310 INTEGRATED SCIENCE \*L****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None**

This course is intended to integrate the domains of science taught in the K-12 curriculum. This standard college level preparatory class will build upon knowledge previously taught at the middle school level and is intended for freshman or beginning level students. This course is the first of two recommended before students take the biology MCAS exam. Topics of study will include math skills, chemistry, ecology, and biology. This course will use the inquiry method of study and will strongly rely on “hands-on” laboratory experiences.

**311 COLLEGE PREP BIOLOGY \*L****1 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Integrated Science. Must be at least a sophomore to take this class.**

All students are required to pass the MCAS exam in biology in order to receive a high school diploma. This standard college level preparatory course is specifically designed to help pass the biology exam. The course will rely heavily on laboratory experiences. This course will follow the learning standards set up by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Topics include: 1) The chemistry of life 2) Structure and function of cells 3) Genetics 4) Human anatomy and physiology 5) Evolution and biodiversity 6) Ecology and 7) Experimental design.

**312 BIOLOGY MCAS PREP****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisites: The Guidance Department will hand select the students taking this class.**

This .5 credit class starts in January and is offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors who have not passed the biology MCAS exam. At the discretion of the Guidance Department, this course is also open to those students who may need additional support in passing the biology MCAS exam. In this class students will review the topics covered on the biology MCAS exam which include: 1) The chemistry of life 2) Structure and function of cells 3) Genetics 4) Human anatomy and physiology 5) Evolution and biodiversity 6) Ecology and 7) Experimental design. Test taking strategies for taking multiple choice, short answer and open response questions will be reviewed. Biology MCAS Prep is not a standard college level preparatory class.

**313 BIOLOGY HONORS \*L****1 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Integrated Science. Must be at least a sophomore to take this class.**

All students are required to pass the MCAS exam in Biology in order to receive a high school diploma. This vigorous honors college level preparatory course is for the student who is conscientious and willing to devote a significant amount of extra time outside of the classroom. This challenging class will also help pass the biology MCAS exam. The course will rely heavily on very demanding laboratory exercises. Honors Biology will follow the learning standards set up by the Massachusetts Department of Education. Topics include: 1) The chemistry of life 2) Structure and function of cells 3) Genetics 4) Human anatomy and physiology 5) Evolution and biodiversity 6) Ecology and 7) Experimental design.

**314 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY \*L****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Biology, Algebra II and College Prep Chemistry****May be taken concurrently with College Prep Chemistry and Algebra II with permission.**

This is a challenging college level preparatory course that focuses on the study of the systems of the human body. Topics included will be the relationship between the structure and function of the cell, tissues, organs and organ systems. The course will offer laboratory experiences including a fetal pig dissection. Interested students should have a strong background in biology and college chemistry.

**315 INTRODUCTION TO CHEMISTRY****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra IB**

This elective course serves as an introduction to basic chemical principles. Laboratory experiences are included to demonstrate important concepts. Topics include: matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, types of bonding, chemical formulas and types of reactions. Introduction to Chemistry is not a standard college level preparatory class. If you are interested in becoming a nurse or entering any of the health, technical or engineering fields, you should sign up for College Prep Chemistry or Chemistry Honors.

**316 COLLEGE PREP CHEMISTRY \*L****1 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Algebra II****May be taken concurrently with Algebra II**

Taking chemistry in college is necessary if you want to go into many fields including those of health and engineering. Nursing, physical therapy, as well as being a technician or a doctor are all fields that require a strong background in chemistry. For this reason, chemistry is considered a “gateway class”. When you are in college, it is almost impossible to pass chemistry unless you have first taken this class or Chemistry Honors in high school. This college level preparatory class covers the structure and interaction of matter, atomic theory, stoichiometry, phase change, gas laws, chemical kinetics, and acids and bases. This lab course will utilize laboratory exercises to support, augment and emphasize course topics. A comfortable working knowledge of basic algebra is necessary for problem solving. It is recommended that you consider taking College Chemistry Enrichment concurrently if you feel that you will need extra support to be successful.

**317 COLLEGE CHEMISTRY ENRICHMENT****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: This course may only be taken in conjunction with  
College Chemistry or Chemistry Honors**

This course is offered by a chemistry teacher to provide extra support and enrichment for those students taking either College Prep Chemistry or Chemistry Honors. This .5 credit course will start at the beginning of the year and will end in January. College Prep Chemistry and College Chemistry Honors are very important courses. A strong background in chemistry is necessary to enter many fields including those of health or engineering. This is not a college level preparatory class.

**318 COLLEGE CHEMISTRY HONORS \*L****1 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Algebra I and Algebra II****May take Algebra II concurrently**

This rigorous honors level class will cover the same topics found in College Prep Chemistry, but in greater detail and depth. Additional topics will include acid-base equilibria and oxidation-reduction reactions. This lab course will utilize laboratory exercises to support, augment and emphasize course topics. A solid working knowledge of algebra is necessary for problem solving. You may consider taking College Chemistry Enrichment concurrently if you feel that you will need extra support to be successful.

**319 COLLEGE PREP PHYSICS \*L****1 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Algebra II****Note: May be taken concurrently with Algebra II**

This challenging college preparatory class is designed for students that are college bound. The course deals with the relationships between matter, energy, force and motion. The topics of Newtonian mechanics, rotational motion, oscillatory and wave motion, thermodynamics and optics will be considered. Laboratory experiences and problem solving will be used to gain an in-depth understanding of important concepts.

**320 AP CHEMISTRY \*L****1.5 CREDITS**

**Prerequisites:** Algebra II and College Prep Chemistry or Honors Chemistry  
**Signatures of the Advanced Placement Chemistry teacher and the department head are required to take this class.**

**Note:** Offered every other year. It will be offered during the 2011/2012 school year.

AP Chemistry is a full year course that will run two periods during the fall semester and one period in the spring semester. It is designed to be identical to a first year freshman course in college. AP Chemistry is a demanding in-depth continuation of the college preparatory chemistry class. Topics covered in the course will include: stoichiometry, oxidation-reduction reactions, thermochemistry, chemical bonds, gas laws, acid-base equilibria, kinetics, equilibrium reactions, electrochemistry and organic chemistry. Students will be expected to take the AP exam given by the College Board in May of 2012. If successfully passed, the exam can be used for college credit.

**323 AP BIOLOGY \*L****1.5 CREDITS**

**Prerequisites:** College Prep Biology or Honors Biology and College Prep Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.  
**Signatures of the Advanced Placement Biology teacher and the department head are required to take this class. May be taken concurrently with College Prep or Honors Chemistry with permission.**

**Note:** Offered every other year. It will be offered during the 2010/2011 school year.

AP Biology is a full year course that will run two periods during the fall semester and one period in the spring semester. It is designed to be identical to a first year freshman course in college. Topics covered in the course will include: chemistry of life, cells, cellular energetics, heredity, molecular genetics, evolutionary biology, diversity of organisms, structure and function of plants and animals and ecology. Students will be expected to take the AP exam given by the College Board in May of 2011. If successfully passed, the exam can be used for college credit.

**324 AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE \*L****1 CREDIT**

**Prerequisites:** College Prep Chemistry or Honors Chemistry and Algebra II  
**Signatures of the Advanced Placement Environmental teacher and the department head are required to take this class. May be taken concurrently with College Prep or Honors Chemistry and Algebra II with permission.**

AP Environmental Science is a full year course that will run one period for the entire year. It is designed to be identical to a first year freshman course in college. This interdisciplinary course is both rigorous and demanding. The College Board states that the goal of the course is “to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.” Topics in the course will include land and water use, energy resources and consumption, pollution, population studies and global change. Students will be expected to take the AP exam given by the College Board in May of 2011. If successfully passed, the exam can be used for college credit.

**330 INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICS****.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I or Informal Geometry

You can't enjoy a game unless you know its rules, whether it is baseball, football or soccer. Likewise, you can't fully appreciate your surroundings until you understand the rules of nature. By studying the concepts covered in Introductory Physics, you will have a much better understanding of how the world works. Physics is about the rules of nature. Because physics is the basic science – the foundation of biology, chemistry and all of the disciplines of science- it should be part of all students' education. Using laboratory work, projects and activities, students who take this class will discover the rules of nature's game for themselves. This course is not a college level preparatory class.

**331 COLLEGE PREP ECOLOGY \*L****.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite:** Biology College Prep or Biology Honors

Ecology is an interdisciplinary college prep course that focuses on natural and man-made environmental issues. You will have experience doing field work and research. You will also be responsible for designing and conducting scientific investigations to increase your understanding and appreciation of the natural environment. Laboratory experiences with computer-assisted probes will help to gather information, evaluate risks and examine alternative solutions to various environmental problems.

**332 BIOTECHNOLOGY \*L****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Biology and College Prep Chemistry  
(May be taken concurrently with College Prep Chemistry.)**

Current medical, environmental and forensic studies as well as prescription drug development often require the analysis of DNA and proteins. This college prep course was designed to introduce students to the tools, equipment and careers that depend upon molecular research. Topics of study in this laboratory course will include cell biology, molecular biology, immunology and the ethical issues arising from biotechnology.

**333 ELECTRONICS \*L****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra IA and Algebra IB**

The electronics industry provides jobs in such areas as consumer electronics, computer repair, automotive systems, medical equipment, military electronics and fire/security systems to name a few. A key employee of any company is the electronic technician, with the responsibility of repairing and maintaining electronic systems and equipment. In this hands-on college preparatory class, you will study the function of electronic components and their application to electronic systems. This laboratory class could lead to a career as an electrician, the study of electronics in the military service or further study, leading to an Associate of Science Degree in Electronic Technology or a degree in Electrical Engineering. Topics will include conductors, insulators, electron theory, magnetism, series and parallel circuits, electrical generation and electrical safety.

**334 ELECTRONICS HONORS \*L****1 CREDIT****Prerequisites: Algebra II**

This challenging honors level college preparatory class focuses on the physics of electromagnetism. The course material begins with a general study of vibrations and waves and then moves into electric forces and fields. Other topics will include capacitance, current and resistance, circuit and circuit elements, magnetism, induction and alternating current, atomic physics and digital electronics. In this hands-on class you will study the function of electronic components and their application to electronic systems.

**SOCIAL STUDIES****Some important information that you need to know when planning your course of study in social studies.**

You are required to take **three** credits in Social Studies beginning with World History II freshman year and then taking U.S. History I sophomore year and U.S. History II sophomore year, and U.S. History II junior year. We encourage you to take one of the many electives offered below whenever your schedule allows it. Advanced Placement U.S. History and Advanced Placement Psychology may be taken sophomore, junior, or senior years.

**Full Year- One credit course offerings: \* Indicates college prep course**

- \*World History II offered Grade 9
- \*World History II Honors offered Grade 9
- \*U.S. History I offered Grade 10
- \*U.S. History I Honors offered Grade 10
- \*U.S. History II offered Grade 11
- \*U.S. History II Honors offered Grade 11
- \*A.P. U.S. History offered Grades 10, 11, 12 with teacher recommendation (1.5 credits)
- \*A.P. Psychology offered Grades 10, 11, 12, with teacher recommendation (1 credit)

The following electives may be taken Grades 10, 11, 12 whenever you can fit them into your schedule.

**One Semester - .5 credit elective course offerings:**

- \*Psychology
- Sociology
- Youth and Law
- Environmental History
- Economics
- History of Current Issues
- \*American Government

**411 WORLD HISTORY II \***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 9**

**Prerequisite: None**

World History II is a **freshman** course covering Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Central America. Students will study the period of colonialism, economics, politics, social and cultural issues up through the modern times. Students will study the geography, cultures, political systems of each area of the world.

**405 WORLD HISTORY II HONORS \***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 9**

**Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendations**

World History II Honors is a freshman course covering democracy, reform, nationalism, imperialism, and wars throughout the world. Emphasis will be placed on understanding diversity among cultures, problems of globalization, terrorism, and diplomacy. Students will be given projects in writing and research, political systems, and social cultural issues.

**452 UNITED STATES HISTORY I \***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 10**

United States History I is a chronological study of American History from the revolutionary period to reconstruction. Topics will include the constitution, amendments, wars, science and technology, political systems, religion, ideology, economics and social and cultural issues. Several short papers are required.

**454 UNITED STATES HISTORY I HONORS \***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 10**

**Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

United States History I Honors is a chronological study of American History from 1775 to 1876. This includes the American Revolution, constitution, nationalism, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Several papers and presentations will be required. Analysis of primary source documents and novels are part of the course.

**453 UNITED STATES HISTORY II \***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 11**

U.S. History II is a chronological study beginning with the Industrial Revolution to the present. This includes political, economic, ideology, religion, arts, technology, economics, and social issues from post reconstruction to the present. Several short papers will be required.

**455 UNITED STATES HISTORY II HONORS\***

**1 CREDIT, GRADE 11**

**Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

U.S. History II Honors is a chronological study beginning with the Industrial Revolution to the present. This includes the political, economic, ideology, religious, arts, technology, and social issues from post Reconstruction to the present. Analysis of primary source documents, research papers are required.

**472 AP U.S. HISTORY\*****1.5 CREDIT, GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

**This course will run for two periods 1<sup>st</sup> semester and one period 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.** This is a great class for students who love history and want to challenge themselves. AP U.S. History is a full year college course. This course will sharpen your thinking and writing skills while studying fascinating historical people, places, events, inventions, conspiracies, scandals, wars and market crashes. The goal is to prepare you for the AP U.S. History exam which is taken in May and you will take practice tests, learn to write DBQ essays and answer FRQ in essay form. Emphasis will be on how to write a thesis statement, provide evidence, and conclusion. Also included are debates, simulations, power points, and book film reviews.

**430 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT\*****.5 CREDIT GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: U.S. History**

American Government is designed to enable students to learn how to actively participate in the American political system and to make intelligent decisions when presented with alternatives. Current political issues will be addressed as well as the structure of American government itself. Voter registration will be offered as part of this course. In addition, student attendance of at least one municipal meeting and a written summary are required.

**419 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HONORS\*****.5 CREDIT GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

Honors American Government is a course designed to enable students to learn how to actively participate in the American political system and to make intelligent decisions when presented with alternatives. Current political issues will be addressed as well as the structure of American government itself. Voter registration will be offered. In addition, student attendance of at least one municipal meeting and a written summary are required. There will be several essays and research required for this course.

**440 AP PSYCHOLOGY \*****1 CREDIT, GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

This is a full year course in preparation for taking the AP Psychology test in May. This introductory course in college Psychology introduces students to the scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principals, and phenomena associated with each of the major sub fields within psychology. Research papers, power points, presentations, and role playing simulations along with practice tests and learning how to answer FRQ for the AP test.

**424 PSYCHOLOGY \*****..5 CREDIT GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: None**

This is an introductory course in psychology, which is the study of human behavior and mental processing. Topics covered include personality, motivation, learning, intelligence, mental disorders, treatment, and human development. Psychology is a valuable course for all the major career areas and for gaining a better understanding of life skills.

**431 ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY****.5 CREDIT, GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: None**

This course will focus students' attention on the interaction of science with technology and society. Students will be afforded the opportunity to learn firsthand about their local environment from a historical, cultural and socioeconomic perspective. More and more decisions that citizens make as they govern themselves involve science and technology. Field trips will offer students a wide variety of environmental issues with the community and surrounding townships. In addition, the course will feature several guest speakers who will provide students with an awareness of current occupational opportunities in the environmental field. Individual term projects also play a vital role in each students' learning activities. Students will analyze the issues, gather information, make decisions, and take certain actions for solving the problems that arise in an age of rapid scientific development and technology advancement.

**427 YOUTH AND LAW****.5 CREDIT, GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: None**

The course is intended to familiarize a student with the components necessary for a career in criminal justice. Many concepts and practices related to law enforcement, the courts, and corrections will be addressed. It will be necessary for the student to complete simple legal documents and applications. Presenters to the class who are experts in the field include police officers, forensics officers, judges, and corrections officers.

**473 HISTORY OF CURRENT ISSUES****.5 CREDIT, GRADES 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: None**

This course will be a melding of world history and current issues. Students will be provided with the historical background behind issues facing today's world, fostering an appreciation for the study of history and its role in understanding our own world. Topics will include terrorism (including the subtopics of the religious issues in Ireland and the Israeli-Palestinian situation in the Middle East), the effects of imperialism and colonization on the modern world, natural resources and politics, and dictatorships. There is significant research involved.

**426 SOCIOLOGY****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None****Recommended 10, 11, 12 Grade****Offered on alternate years, next available in 2010**

Sociology is the study of group behavior. Contemporary social topics will be addressed such as: marriage, family, poverty, religion, education, demography, alienation and crime.

**474 GLOBAL ECONOMICS****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None****Recommended Grades 10, 11 or 12**

Want to know why your lives have changed since the Stock Market crashed in 2008? The social studies department is offering a brand new course in **global economics**. By studying economics, students will gain crucial information that will help them navigate through the world of taxes, investments, and annuities. This course will help students develop real life skills they need to succeed: to be able to think and choose responsibly as consumers, savers, investors, citizens, members of the workforce, and effective participants in our global economy. You don't want to get caught in Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme. If you don't know what this is, this course will teach you. Students will examine the allocation of scarce resources and the economic reasoning used by government agencies and by people as consumers, producers, savers, investors, workers, and voters. Key elements include the study of scarcity, supply and demand, market structures, the role of government, national income determination, money and the role of financial institutions, economic stabilization and trade. Don't graduate being in the dark about how to handle your hard earned money. Economics is a required course in many college curriculums. Be one step ahead by taking **Global Economics** while you are still in high school.

**BUSINESS****502 PERSONAL AND BUSINESS FINANCE****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None**

This course will involve an in-depth exploration of the world of finance and the finance industry. Students will gain practical knowledge on topics such as the stock market, maintaining a checking account, wise credit use, insurance choices, and risk assessment that will help them make appropriate financial decisions as they get ready to move beyond high school. They will learn how decisions regarding these topics can affect them personally as well as the global economy. Students will utilize computers on a regular basis throughout the course in ways, including but not limited to, tracking the stock market, reading about current economic issues, researching for projects, and creating presentations on their findings. Students will also get a brief look at several careers that are associated with the finance industry and their growth potential.

**514 ACCOUNTING I\*** **1 CREDIT**

**Limit to 25 students**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra IA and IB**

Does your future include a degree in business, finance, marketing, management, or even cosmetology? Would you like to own your own business some day? If you answer yes to any of these questions, an accounting course will likely be required and necessary. This course covers activities related to the accounting cycle of a proprietorship, partnership, and corporation. Students will prepare balance sheets, record journal entries, post to ledgers, and perform other accounting procedures that will serve as a background for employment in office jobs and preparation for studying accounting in college. Toward the end of the semester, students will be introduced to an automated accounting system to perform accounting procedures.

**515 ACCOUNTING II\*** **1 CREDIT**

**Limit to 15 students**

**Prerequisite: Accounting I**

Students will advance through the corporate accounting cycle. Computerized accounting problems will expand on topics learned in Accounting I while adding new topics about management accounting, cost accounting, not-for-profit accounting, and financial analysis. The automated accounting system will be used for much of this course. This is excellent background and preparation for college courses in business and accounting. **Tech Prep** qualification will exempt students from introductory courses at select colleges (**Mt. Wachusett Community College is one such college**).

**567 OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY APPLICATIONS** **.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: None**

Students will learn about major tools for producing business documentation and managing data in an office setting. Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher will be used to create professional documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and simple databases. Similarly, cloud-based productivity applications such as Google Docs and Zoho will be used to explore new collaboration models. This course has no prerequisites and is recommended for freshmen and sophomores.

**656 INTRODUCTION TO WEB DESIGN AND HTML** **.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: None**

This introductory level course is appropriate for any students who would like to be able to create a website and have a solid understanding of the way the World Wide Web functions. The course will teach students the basics of HTML, as well as WYSIWYG tools for creating and managing web sites. The course will also cover social networking tools and other Web 2.0 technologies for creating online content. Finally, design principles for a variety of audiences will be covered. A final website project will complete the class.

**VISUAL ARTS**

All studies require the skillful use of materials, processes and techniques, and organizing the elements and principles of design with thoughts, ideas or concepts in creating visual expression.

**720 VISUAL ARTS FOUNDATIONS** **.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: None**

This introductory course provides students with an opportunity to apply basic skills and concepts learned to both two-dimensional and three-dimensional assignments. Discipline areas covered include, but are not limited to: drawing, painting, printmaking, silk screening, ceramics and sculpture.

**722 PRINTMAKING** **.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: Visual Arts Foundations**

This course focuses on a more in-depth study of the art of printmaking. The history of printmaking as well as various printmaking techniques will be studied.

**724 CERAMICS/RELIEF\*****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Visual Arts Foundations**

In the area of ceramics, students will utilize various techniques, i.e.: pinch, slab and coil techniques, in clay construction. A concentration on surface decoration, i.e.: textural, under glaze, wax resist, stamp effects and scaffitto relief, will be explored. In the area of relief, students will explore raising areas from flat surfaces using various mediums to create pieces of art. These two topics will be studied separately as well as together producing projects demonstrating the knowledge and understanding of said topics both separately as well as combined.

**725 SCULPTURE \*****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Visual Arts Foundations**

This course teaches students how to convey ideas and images in a three-dimensional form using various mediums, i.e.: clay, paper and found objects. Sculptural history will also be explored through research and discussions/lectures.

**721 DRAWING \*****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Visual Arts Foundations**

In this course, pencil, charcoal, pastels, pen and ink, scratchboard, relief and multi-media combinations will be used to explore all aspects of drawing. The history of drawing will also be explored through research and discussions to create a solid drawing foundation.

**726 THE HUMAN FORM \*****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Drawing**

In this course, working with proportions and ideas to form both two-dimensional renderings and three-dimensional forms will be explored. Students will work with drawing the human form realistically, symbolically, and in abstraction. Portraits, cartoons, masks and sculptures are among the works that will incorporate the visual components of the human form.

**727 PAINTING \*****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Visual Arts Foundations**

This course focuses on building an awareness of identifying and working with special depth, composition and intent. A background from a historical perspective will be the basis for oil painting along with more detailed observations in relation values, intensities and edges. Acrylics, watercolors and calligraphy will also be studied and explored. Painting exercises lead to working from life moving into individual interests.

**732 DIGITAL MIXED MEDIA****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Visual Arts Foundations****Students will be required to have a digital camera and portable jump drive.**

This course will explore incorporating computers and digital media into artwork. Students will explore digital photography, short film, digital painting, image manipulation, graphic design and scanning in conjunction with creating pieces of artwork as well as public displays.

**MUSIC****713 CONCERT BAND****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Grade 8 band or recommendation of high school music director**

Students will participate in a variety of concert and marching band performances throughout the year. Attendance is required at all home football games, parades, concerts. Students will be encouraged to participate in local, district, and state-wide music festivals and competitions. Any student having no prior experience playing a band instrument, but who desires to enroll in the course, should contact the band director before enrolling.

**714 JAZZ BAND****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Concert Band**

Students will study and perform classic and contemporary jazz music and are required to perform in three concerts and various co-curricular programs throughout the year. All members must be enrolled in Concert Band.

**716 CONCERT CHOIR****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None**

This course is designed for students who have a desire to sing and study the fundamentals of choral music, including: posture, breathing, tone production, diction, music reading, and solfege. Chorus members will perform both traditional and contemporary choral music in three required school concerts and other school related functions.

**717 MUSIC THEORY****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None**

This general music course is an introduction to music and musicianship for students who have the desire to learn about the elements of music. Topics include musical notation, melody, harmony, rhythm, composition, music listening and analysis, ear training, music literature, and music history.

**730 MADRIGAL/SHOW CHOIR****1 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Concert Choir**

Students will study and perform madrigals of the 16th century, as well as other forms of traditional vocal music. Students will also prepare music from the jazz and Broadway idioms in preparation for the Spring and Pops Concert performances. Members are required to perform in three concerts annually, and various co-curricular programs throughout the year. All members must be enrolled in Concert Choir.

**749 INTRO TO MUSIC****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: None****Students must provide their own guitar**

In the first term of this class, students will learn how to use various audio equipment, produce a radio commercial, learn the history of Rock and Roll, research a musician, learn about the four instrument families, and watch various musicals. In the second term, students will be introduced to the guitar. This portion is designed for beginners and will focus on developing guitar performance skills through reading music, playing, music listening, and daily practice. Each student must supply his/her own guitar.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH****928 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH I****.5 CREDIT**

This is a mandatory semester course that meets on a rotating basis. The course will stress wellness and promote health behaviors both physically and mentally. The physical education component will stress team and personal skill development. The class will offer fitness-oriented choices as well as competitive games and Project Adventure. The President's Challenge Fitness Test is required for all students. The Health Education component offers subjects such as stress management, substance abuse and nutrition. The high school Dare Officer will co-teach the Dare Unit. The student must pass both the physical education/health components to receive credit for the course.

**929 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH II****.5 CREDIT**

This is a mandatory class that will offer fitness on a team and personal level and stresses exercise and recreational activities for the student. The President's Challenge Fitness Test will be required and a Project Adventure Unit will be offered. The health component will deal with current events in health and updated subjects that affect our students. Topics will include substance abuse, mental health issues, risk behaviors and developing a wellness plan for life. This class will support the MCAS Biology requirement and study systems of the body. The Training Active Bystanders Unit will also be taught.

**933 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH III****.5 CREDIT**

Physical Education: This is a mandatory semester course that meets on a rotating basis. This course offers electives in team and individual sports as well as lifetime and carry-over activities. An emphasis will be placed on exercise and fitness and how it effects individual well-being. A Project Adventure Course that includes team oriented and cooperative activities as well as both low and high elements will also be offered. The President's Challenge Fitness Test will be required for all students. Health: This course offers standard First Aid and CPR. It will identify ways to prevent injury and/or illness, recognize emergencies, follow action steps in an emergency and provide care for the injured until professional, medical help arrives. Red Cross certification will be available to all students. Special focus will also be on cardiovascular, communicable and chronic diseases. Health careers will also be discussed. In order to receive credit for Physical Education/Health, you must pass both the physical education and health components.

**956 PHYSICAL EDUCATION II****.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: This elective Physical Education II class will be offered to students who have Successfully passed previous physical education requirements with honors.**

Personal fitness and wellness concepts will be covered during the semester. Offerings will include carry-over lifetime sports, weight training and conditioning, and a chance to experience local fitness-oriented businesses. Those students who elect to choose the Physical Education II class for an additional semester will only be able to do so with a teacher recommendation.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION****010 PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING****1 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program**

This is a pre-vocational training program to provide students with special needs a means to begin the transition from school to work. The main components of this course are instruction on work ethic, understanding directions, preparation of job application forms, interviewing skills, appropriate dress and hygiene, money management, and budgeting and preparing resumes.

**090 TUTORING/STUDY SKILLS I & II****.5 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program Semester I & II**

Tutoring is a supervised study period for students. Students are responsible for bringing their assigned work to their tutor for assistance and reinforcement as needed. Access to necessary tools is available, i.e., computers, spell check, calculators, etcetera. Monitoring of progress is provided by tutors and teachers. (Study strategies and organizational skills will also be addressed to help meet the goals of the student's IEP). The tutorial period will include some activities not limited to study strategies and organization skills.

**091 LEARNING CENTER MATH****1 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program**

A study of basic and consumer math skills will be the focus of this course. Topics include review of basic computational skills, use of a calculator, percentages, fractions, decimals, measurement, estimation skills, banking, and pre-algebra skills.

**092 LEARNING CENTER ENGLISH****1 CREDIT**

**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program**

A study of basic language skills used in daily life will be the main context of this course. Students will be working on improving grammar skills, reading comprehension, paragraph development, increasing vocabulary skills, and accessing reference materials. This class will address the needs of the students based on their IEP goals.

**094 LEARNING CENTER SOCIAL STUDIES** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program**

This course will cover various systems of government, including local, state and national governmental systems of the U.S. This course will also cover units in U.S. and World History. Students will be instructed in how to actively participate in government, especially at the local level.

**095 VOCATIONAL WORK STUDY PT I & II** **.5 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Individualized Education Program**

This is a vocational training experiential learning program in which students participate in a modified school program with a work component. Students will be individually placed in supervised job settings both within the Athol-Royalston Regional School District as well as in Athol and surrounding communities. Students learn appropriate work skills and employment expectations while working in a supervised environment with a job coach, as needed. Students will be evaluated quarterly to ensure compliance with their IEP goals and objectives.

**096 LEARNING CENTER SCIENCE** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program**

This course will offer topics in anatomy, botany, ecology and current environmental issues. There will be some lab work required as well as experiential learning activities included outside the classroom. This course will address the needs of the students as identified in the students' IEP.

**097 FUNCTIONAL LIVING** **.5 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program**

A study of basic skills needed for everyday living situations will be the focus of this course. Some of the topics include time management, personal hygiene, health and nutrition, money, problem solving, budgeting, community safety, public transportation and use of telephone and computer skills. Students will participate in the planning of meals, grocery shopping, serving, and clean up. Students also participate in the management and daily operations of the school store.

**083 PRE-ALGEBRA** **1 CREDIT, GRADES 9, 10**  
**Prerequisite: Individualized Educational Program**

This course will cover various pre-algebra skills such as positive and negative integers, decimals, percents, measurements, fractions, word problems and solving problems with variables. The course is designed to help students prepare for Introductory Algebra I. Must be recommended by student's educational team and indicated on the IEP.

**081 FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGLISH I** **1 CREDIT, GRADE 9**  
**Prerequisite: Individualized Education Program**

This course will study a variety of genres including the short story, poetry, non-fiction, the novella and plays, writing mechanics, a study of grammatical rules and descriptive writing will also be examined. This course is designed to follow the existing English frameworks curriculum with modifications to meet relevant Individual Educational Program.

**075 FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOLOGY** **1 CREDIT**  
**Prerequisite: Individualized Education Program**

This course will examine the biological makeup of plants, animals, and microorganisms. It will include environmental issues that affect our society today. Laboratory activities and various "hands-on" activities will be required. This course is designed to follow the existing science curriculum requirements with modifications to meet the Individual Education Program.

**082 CAREER EXPLORATION****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Individualized Education Program****Semester I or Semester II**

This course allows post-graduate students to gain experience in the world of work as a transition from the school setting into adult, independent living. This course is intended for students who have completed the pre-vocational training program and are ready to move into a more independent job setting.

**061 DEVELOPMENTAL READING****.5 CREDIT****Prerequisite: Individualized Education Program****Semester II only**

A course for students who would benefit from improving decoding, phonics, and remedial reading skills. This course will use various strategies to help improve student vocabulary skills, writing skills, reading comprehension and fluency using high interest reading instruction. The course should be recommended by the students educational team and identified on their IEP.

**ATHOL HIGH SCHOOL  
PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING  
INDEPENDENT STUDY REQUESTS**

1. The student's request will first be routed to the department chairman.
2. The department chairman will make an initial determination as to whether or not there is an available instructor who is competent to supervise the student in the particular area of study the student has requested.
3. If such an instructor is available, the student and the instructor will then plan a course of study that will be submitted to the department chairman for approval before the work can actually begin. This will specifically outline course objectives, course requirements, length of course, etcetera.
4. Transcripts will reflect this type of program by listing the field of study after the words "Independent Study." Example: Independent Study - American literature.
5. The mark for the course will be expressed in terms of "pass," "fail," or "honors."
6. Only junior and other senior students who have demonstrated sufficient motivation will be allowed to undertake independent study programs.

**VIRTUAL CLASSROOM INFORMATION**

The Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee, the school superintendent, and the Athol High School administration, have entered an agreement with VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL to offer online courses for our students.

"VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL (VHS) is a non-profit organization that collaborates with schools to offer online, content-rich, credit bearing high school courses to students across the country and around the world".

Each semester Athol High School will have a limited number of district-paid slots for student's use. Courses will be taken during school time as part of a student's schedule in the school library monitored by the school librarian, Sharon Euvrard. Each course is taught by a certified teacher contracted with VHS. The grading of the course will be done by the VHS teacher. In accordance with our credit schedule, one credit will be awarded for the successful completion of the course. The numeric grade will be averaged into the student's grade point average and the course will have an honors designation for ranking, unless it is an Advanced Placement course which then will have the AP designation.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- Student must be a junior or senior
- Student must have serious commitment to complete the course
- Student cannot take courses already offered at Athol High School
- Student must have grade point average of 80 or better
- Student cannot be in violation of the school's attendance policy and must have a good conduct record
- The principal, the department chairperson of the requested course area, the guidance chairperson and parent(s) must approve the student's participation.
- The principal has the discretionary authority to recommend a student or conditions of participation that do not meet the above criteria

**PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Student must follow all Athol High School and VHS rules concerning course work, timely assignments, the no cheating rule and daily attendance
- All copyright laws and policies must be followed at all times
- Student must use assigned VHS course period for VHS work only
- Student must follow Athol High School Internet Policy

A sample of course offerings would be Art History, Mandarin Chinese, Calculus for Business, Zoology, Criminology. See your guidance counselor for more information on courses.