



2010-11 Course Selection Guide

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Vision Statement

To cultivate and challenge each learner's intellectual and expressive potential in a rigorous academic and artistic setting.

Mission Statement

Through the creation and performance of theatre, music, and dance, learners will establish their unique personal signature. Rigorous academics and collaboration with professional artists will prepare learners for higher education and lifelong engagement in the arts.

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- A full time student at Main Street School of Performing Arts will take four classes per day.
- One credit is earned for each quarter long class.
- Throughout the four years of high school, a student must earn credits in the following areas:

Class of 2011-12

English	8	credits
Mathematics	6	credits
Science	6	credits
Social Studies	8	credits
Physical Education	1	credit
Fine Arts	14	credits
<u>Electives</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>credits</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	56	credits

Classes of 2013 and beyond

English	8	credits
Mathematics	8	credits
Science	8	credits
Social Studies	8	credits
Physical Education	1	credit
Fine Arts	14	credits
<u>Electives</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>credits</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	60	credits

- Students planning to attend a college or university are strongly encouraged to complete a more rigorous course load. Post secondary institutions are becoming more competitive each year and students are being compared to one another, not to the minimums for application to the institution. A typical course load for admission is similar to the following:

English	8+	credits
Mathematics	8+	credits
Science	8	credits
Social Studies	8+	credits
Single Foreign Language	8	credits
Fine Arts	14	credits
Plus Additional Academics		

- Although 56 credits (class of 2011 and 2012) or 60 credits (class of 2013 and beyond) in four years are the minimum students must earn in order to graduate, most students earn more.
- Students must have earned a minimum number of credits to move on to the next grade level. The following are the minimum number of credits needed to be in the grade listed:

Sophomore (10th)	12 credits
Junior (11th)	26 credits
Senior (12th)	40 credits

- Some courses, including music, dance, theatre, math, and Advanced Placement courses require special placement criteria to be completed before registration.
- Students may choose to take a small number of courses on a Pass/Fail grading scale. These courses cannot be courses required for graduation or the student's art endorsement. If a student wishes to take a course Pass/Fail they must fill out a Pass/Fail request, available in the counselor's office, by the end of the second week of the course. This request form calls for the student's signature, the instructor's approval, and counselor's sign off.
- Many courses have a length of two quarters. Grades are awarded at the end of each quarter and these grades will appear on the student's transcript (the document that colleges will see).
- Students are required to take both quarters of a two quarter class, unless they have counselor or instructor permission to take only one.

SCHEDULING OF CLASSES

Due to the small enrollment at MSSPA and our comparatively diverse course options, scheduling classes is challenging. The number of single section classes further complicates the scheduling process. Any student who is requesting more than one single section course (AP courses, many arts courses, etc) or who is “out of grade level” (i.e. a freshman taking Pre-Calculus) **will likely not be able to schedule all their first choice classes** in a single year. This is why it is important to consider different course options. A student will likely be required to make a choice between two single section courses.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Once students complete the course selection process for the next school year, it will be difficult to make changes to schedules. Please carefully consider your course choices with this fact in mind. Teacher schedules, the hiring of teachers, the number of sections, section sizes, and the ordering of textbooks and supplies are determined by initial student selection and registration. For these reasons all non-substantive reasons for schedule changes such as: changing hours, “I prefer to take it next year,” or “I changed my mind,” etc. will not be considered. We are aware that occasionally circumstances change between the time of registration and the beginning of class that necessitates changing a schedule.

Schedule changes will only be considered during the first two weeks of any quarter.

DROP/ADDING COURSES DURING THE YEAR

Changes to courses may be made during the first ten days of each quarter. If a course is dropped, students must maintain a minimum of four credits. Courses dropped after the first ten days will result in an “F” recorded on the student’s transcript for that course.

MSSPA reserves the right to modify/cancel courses based on the number of students enrolled in individual courses.

TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

Advanced Placement (AP) course: A course that requires students to work at high levels of achievement and involves extra work outside of class. Students who take the national Advanced Placement examinations associated with these courses may receive college credit.

Elective course: A course chosen by students to fulfill the graduation requirements.

Prerequisite course: A course that students must pass before registering for a higher-level course.

Required course: A course students must pass in order to graduate from MSSPA.

Technique course: A dance course in either the Ballet or Modern course progression.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

1. Course selection materials are distributed.
2. Study the course selection guide and know what courses are available.
3. Be aware of prerequisites, grade level requirements, etc.
4. Familiarize yourself with post-secondary options for after high school and the requirements for each institution. See appendix A for more information.
5. Students and parents should discuss elective course choices.
6. Get teacher to sign off on your course choices (signature required for each department you are choosing courses in and for all academic areas even if you don't plan to take any courses in those departments next year).
7. Contact the counselor if you have any additional questions.
8. Complete the course selection form provided with the registration guide. Follow additional instructions on course selection form.
9. Your homeroom advisor will look over your selections for completeness and then take you to the computer lab to enter your selections at a designated time.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2010-2011

DANCE

Introduction to Jazz Dance and Musical Theatre

Length of course: 1 quarter

Grades: 9-10

Prerequisites: None

Description: Introduction to Jazz Dance and Musical Theatre is a beginning-level technique class designed for non-dancers. Students will learn classical jazz technique, swing dance and excerpts from various Broadway musicals. This is a performance-based class; students will participate in daily warm-ups, across the floor phrases and center combinations. All students must have jazz shoes for this class. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

Beginning Dance: Ballet and Modern

Grades 9-10

Length of course: 4 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: This introductory level dance course teaches beginning-level students about both modern dance and ballet. Students will meet year long to learn ballet technique with an emphasis on correct alignment, developmental strength and an understanding of basic ballet vocabulary. Students will also learn modern technique; emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, anatomy and phrasing. This is a participatory class; students will dance everyday. *This course can be repeated for additional credit. (This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

Intermediate Dance: Ballet and Modern

Grades: 10-11

Length of course: 4 quarters

Prerequisites: Beginning Dance and/or instructor permission

Description: Students expand their foundation of ballet and modern technique with an emphasis on the exploration of the context, history and evolution of the art form. Continued emphasis will be placed on expansion of ballet/modern vocabulary, movement phrasing and human anatomy. Lessons will provide corrections in alignment and will increase developmental strength. *This course can be repeated for additional credit. (This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

Advanced Dance: Ballet and Modern

Grades: 11-12

Length of course: 4 quarters

Prerequisites: Intermediate Dance and/or instructor permission

Description: This course continues to focus on correct alignment, developmental strength, vocabulary, musicality, and artistry required in advanced-level technique. Emphasis will be placed on using ballet and modern as a vehicle for expression while developing physical stamina. Students will continue to explore the relationship of human anatomy to movement. *This course can be repeated for additional credit. (This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

Pointe

Grades: 9-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Audition and/or placement by the department and three semesters of ballet technique or its equivalent

Description: This course is designed to help the student understand and develop strength in the legs and feet with beginning movements sur le pointe. Beginning technique begins with proper execution of skills at the barre while wearing point shoes. Students will transition from only doing barre work by executing basic technical steps in center work. *This course can be repeated for additional credit. (This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

NOTE: This class may be combined with other like courses or not offered in any particular year based on enrollment.

Pointe II

Grades: 9-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Audition and/or placement by the department, three or more semesters of ballet technique and Pointe I or its equivalent

Description: This course teaches intermediate/advanced pointe technique with an emphasis placed on the expressive performance of classical ballet, development of greater physical strength, control, stamina and more complex movement vocabulary sur le pointe. Female variations from the classical repertoire will be introduced at the instructor's discretion. *This course can be repeated for additional credit. (This course meets the Physical Education requirement).* NOTE: This class may be combined with other like courses or not offered in any particular year based on enrollment.

Partnering

Grades: 9-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Placement determined by department

Description: Basic technique of partnering in the classical style. Supported balances, pirouettes and basic lifts will be examined in this class. Pas de deux from classical repertoire will be introduced at the instructor's discretion. *This course can be repeated for additional credit. (This course meets the Physical Education requirement).* NOTE: This class may be combined with other like courses or not offered in any particular year based on enrollment.

Beginning Improvisation and Composition

Grades: 10

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: One dance technique class at MSSPA

Description: Students explore the idea that art is an expression of our time. Students learn about basic choreographic elements, including time/space/energy/structure. The course culminates in the creation and presentation of student developed studies.

Intermediate Improvisation and Composition

Grades 11

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Beginning Improvisation and Composition

Description: Students further explore the components of dance creation, such as style, creative voice and rhythm. The course culminates in student created studies.

Special Topics in Choreography

Grades: 11-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Beginning Choreography

Special Topics in Choreography is a quarter-long course designed to provide students with an in-depth choreographic experience based on a contemporary issue in dance composition. Students will spend the entire quarter learning about and creating work in response to a specific issue or idea. Topics may include dance designed for the camera, musical theatre choreography or site-specific choreography. Special Topics is designed as an upper-level course in the dance department.

World Dance Investigation

NOTE: Not offered in 2010-11. Course will be offered again in 2011-12 and on an every-other-year basis thereafter.

Grades: 12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None.

Description: Exploration of dance forms from around the world, such as West African dance, kabuki, bharatnayam, capoeira, and others. Students will read about dance cultures, watch video and live representations of different dance forms, and participate in dance classes to learn about specific dance forms from around the world. This is an upper-level lecture-based class.

Dance Careers

NOTE: Course will be offered in 2010-11 and on an every-other-year basis thereafter.

Grades: 11

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None.

Description: An exploration of dance related career options. Students will learn how to write a resume and cover letter while also studying nonprofit management, arts administration, dance education, dance therapy and grant writing. Students will meet with several professionals working in various fields of dance. This course is primarily lecture-based.

Body Shop

Grades: 9-10

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course emphasizes fundamental body wisdom. Students are introduced to dance conditioning, injury prevention, muscles and joints, other fundamentals of dance kinesiology and key elements needed to provide healthy and safe bodies in the performing arts. Students are expected to participate in daily yoga, Pilates, aerobic exercises and other somatic activities. (*This course meets the Physical Education requirement*).

Senior Creation & Performance Lab

Grades: 12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Dance majors only

Description: Students will create and prepare a final performance to be presented at an external venue, including all aspects of production. Students will work alone and in groups to create a performance synthesizing all elements of their artistic learning while at MSSPA.

LANGUAGE ARTS

9th Grade English

Grades: 9

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: English 9 is a semester long course that reviews and elaborates on elements of fiction. The first quarter places particular concentration on plot, characterization, symbol and theme with *Of Mice and Men*, *The Color Purple*, and a play by William Shakespeare. The second quarter emphasizes satire and social commentary with *The Crucible* and *1984*.

Performance of literature is emphasized. Compositions are generally analytical and academic, focusing on the creation of an assertive thesis statement and the development of strong, focused support for the thesis. Grammar, vocabulary, spelling and academic writing, and conventions are studied and implemented into student writings.

10th Grade English

Grade: 10

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: 9th Grade English

Description: Students enrolled in this course study literature from the United States, gathering multiple literary viewpoints to answer the question: "What does it mean to be an American?" Readings include *A Raisin the Sun*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Things They Carried*, *Lakota Woman*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *The Great Gatsby* and many other passages, short stories, and poems by American writers. Students in this course will also study writing across a wide spectrum of composition types, including: the expository essay, the persuasive essay, essays that compare and contrast and the critical review essay. Grammar, vocabulary, spelling and writing conventions are reviewed and implemented into student writings.

11th Grade English

Grades: 11

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: 9th and 10th Grade English

Description: 11th Grade English asks students to consider what it means to be a member of a global community. Students will improve their reading skills and their appreciation of the literature by reading short stories, poems, novels, and plays written by authors around the world with a humanities unit in 18th-19th century British Literature. Students are asked to engage in both creative and analytical writing connected to the literature as well as practicing effective communication skills and public speaking. Texts have been selected to engage students on a global level and may include *Night*, *The Odyssey*, *Things Fall Apart*, *House of Spirits*, *Warrior Woman*, and *A Tale of Two Cities*.

12th Grade English

Grades: 12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: 9th, 10th, 11th Grade English

Description: This course introduces students to "true life" nonfiction stories of current interest in the form of biographies, autobiographies, adventure and survival stories, and memoirs. Texts may include *In Cold Blood*, *Into the Wild*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted*, *Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, and *Funny in Farsi*. There will also be a focus on research writing where the students will be answering questions such as: Why research? How do I narrow my topic? How do I avoid plagiarism? Students will have the opportunity to explore various forms of nonfiction and be able to implement the learned skills and techniques into their own writing. This class asks for higher level understanding of the writing process.

Creative Writing

Grades: 11-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: 9th and 10th Grade English

Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to discover and develop the ability to write poems, stories, creative essays, and other types of writing. Students will participate in processes of writing, which require risk-taking and revision. Students will receive feedback from both classmates and the teacher. The focus will be on the development of the student's voice as a creative writer and the implementation of creative writing techniques that will be learned throughout the quarter.

Interpersonal Communications

Grades: 11, 12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: 9th and 10th Grade English

Description: This is a nine-week course that explores relationships – both personal and professional – through the lens of communication studies. Through exploration of the self, relationship dynamics and social influence, students will work to discover appropriate strategies for communicating the self, managing conflicts and building relationships. Students will also explore the professional realm of communication through speech-writing and performance.

Themes in Our Times (formerly Contemporary Studies)

Grades: 9-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Description: When a nation is at war, how are its people—everyday citizens—affected? Students will explore this central question as it spans across modern and contemporary works from different cultural, historical and personal perspectives. Works include: *The Kite Runner*, *A Separate Peace*, *Persepolis*, as well as other novels, short stories, poems, documentaries, films and passages. Students will also write themed compositions in response to literature.

Playwriting I

Grades 9-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Description: Playwriting skills are explored in the context of performance theatre; specific focus is placed on scene building through action, conflict, character, dialogue and structure. This course culminates with the creation of a 20-30 minute one-act play.

Playwriting II

Grades 9-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Playwriting I

Description: Students in Playwriting II will continue to explore playwriting from multiple approaches. Basic skills are extended when students write within multiple genres, including Surrealism, Expressionism and Absurdism. Adaptation and screenwriting are also explored in this course.

Advanced Placement Language & Composition

Grades: 11-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: 9th and 10th Grade English, signed AP Contract

Description: This is a writing course for juniors and seniors who are college bound and considering taking the Advanced Placement writing test. Centered on academic writing and analytical reading, this is an intensive course designed to improve your ability to organize, develop, revise and edit written work. Students will also be able to identify successful rhetoric in nonfiction writing and implement these techniques in their own writing. This class also includes the practice of writing essay responses to former test questions and mastering the vocabulary and critical reading skills required on the test. In order to fulfill graduation requirements, juniors in AP Composition will be required to complete a Communication component. NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition

NOTE: Course will not be offered in 2010-11; this course will be offered 2011-12.

Grades: 11-12

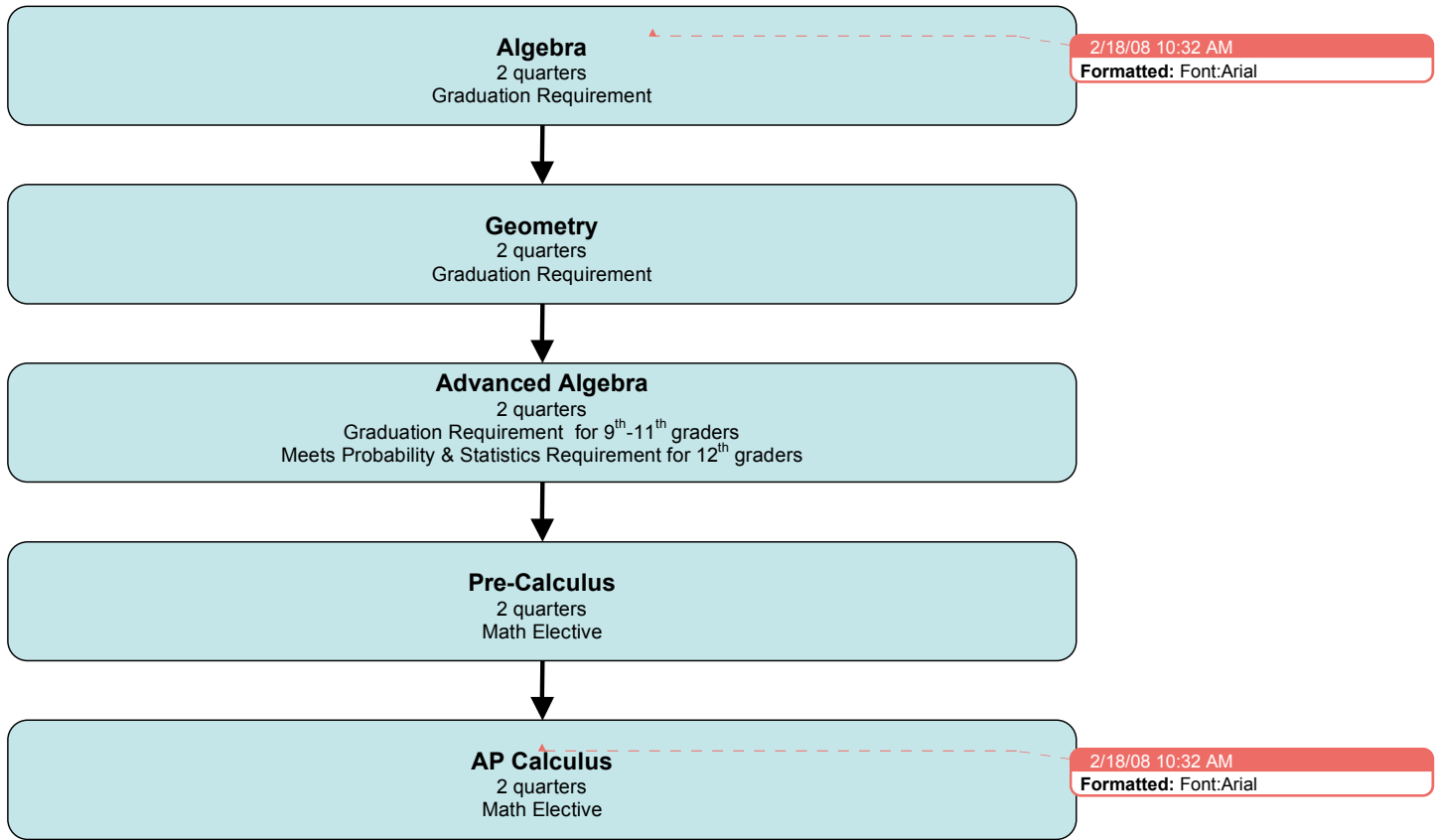
Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: English 9, 10

Description: Offered in lieu of 11th or 12th grade English, this is a literature course for juniors and seniors who are ready to be challenged intellectually and academically. Canonized works of literature will be studied with special emphasis on themes, style and rhetorical strategies. Students will learn strategies for planning and producing written responses to literature and will prepare for college level literature courses. Additionally, students will apply their understanding of styles and rhetoric to the study of Communications—both public and interpersonal. In order to fulfill graduation requirements, seniors in AP Literature will be required to complete a research paper. NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics Course Sequence Courses must be taken in order.



Note:

All 12th graders must complete six credits of math including Algebra, Geometry, and either Advanced Algebra or Probability and Statistics. If Probability and Statistics has not yet been taken, the requirement can be met through Advanced Algebra.

All 11th graders must complete six credit of math including Algebra, Geometry, and either Advanced Algebra.

All 9th and 10th graders must complete eight credits of math, beginning at the appropriate level for each student, and covering Algebra, Geometry and Advanced Algebra concepts.

Most students will also be required to take Pre-Calculus and students who had Algebra in eighth grade will be required to take Calculus.

Algebra

Grade Level: 9 - 10

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Students develop understanding and meaning in algebra by investigating real-world situations, using data, making connections, and utilizing applications from science, the environment, social studies, and the arts. The following units will be studied: multiple representations of linear equations, solving linear equations and proportions, systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic models, and graphing data. A scientific calculator is required for class and a graphing calculator is strongly recommended.

Geometry

Grade Level: 9 -10

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Algebra

Description: Students develop understanding and meaning in geometry by investigating real-world examples and applications in an interactive environment. The following concepts will be studied: geometric reasoning, constructions, properties of shapes, and trigonometry. Through the development of communication skills and logical reasoning, students will understand the concept of proof. A scientific calculator is required for class and a graphing calculator is strongly recommended.

Advanced Algebra

Grade Level: 10 - 12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Geometry

Description: This course provides a balanced mix of pure algebra and data-analysis techniques in a hands-on investigative approach. The following units will be studied: sequences and series; linear models and systems; exponential, power, and logarithmic functions; quadratic and other polynomial functions; and trigonometry. The study of statistics is a large part of the course and will include standard deviation and normal distributions, correlation and regression, and compound events in probability. A graphing calculator is required. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI-84 calculators.

Pre-Calculus

Grade Level: 11 - 12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra

Description: This college preparatory course will prepare students for calculus by using technology and an investigative approach to problem solving in real-world situations. Topics include: inverse functions, composite functions, trigonometric functions and identities,

parametric functions, vectors, matrices, polar coordinates, complex numbers, polynomial and rational functions, conic sections, and limits. A graphing calculator is required. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI-84 calculators.

AP Calculus

Grade Level: 11 - 12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus, signed AP Contract

Description: AP Calculus is a course in single-variable calculus that includes techniques and applications of the derivative, techniques and applications of the definite integral, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. This course is equivalent to at least one semester of calculus at most colleges and universities. Algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations are emphasized throughout this course. Students will better appreciate the connection among various representations. Students are required to have access to graphing calculators in class and at home. These calculators are required on portions of the AP exam. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI-84 calculators. NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

MUSIC

CHORAL AUDITION INFORMATION: Students who would like to be considered for Chamber Singers will need to audition in the spring for the next school year. Students will then be placed in either Choir and Chamber Singers based on the results of their audition. Students who would just like to be in Choir do not need to audition, just register for the class. Audition information will be posted and made available to all students prior to the auditions. (Students who are new to MSSPA will audition during their Arts Workshop).

Choir

Open to all Majors, but **Required for all Vocal Music Majors** (if not placed in Chamber Singers.)

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Length: 4 Quarters. Ninth grade students should be taking two consecutive quarters each year, older students should be taking 4 quarters per year.

Description: Students will rehearse daily in preparation for at minimum of two majors concerts. Students will study a variety of choral literature of all genres from Renaissance to the 21st Century. In addition, students will study sight-reading using solfege syllables to increase note-reading abilities. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

Chamber Singers

Open to all Majors, but **audition required**. (Audition results will be posted before in time for scheduling for the next school year.)

Grades: 10-12*

Prerequisites: 1 year of Choir or comparable voice study.

Length: 4 Quarters. Students are required to enroll in all 4 quarters.

Description: Students will rehearse daily in preparation for at minimum of two majors concerts. Students will study a variety of advanced choral literature of all genres from Renaissance to the 21st Century. In addition, students will study sight-reading using solfege syllables to increase note-reading abilities. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Students will also study some standard vocal jazz literature.

*Exceptions will be made for exceptional 9th grade male singers.

INSTRUMENTAL AUDITION INFORMATION: Students who would like to be considered for Steel Drum will need to audition in the spring for the next school year. Students will then be placed in either Steel Drum or Instrumental Ensemble based on the results of their audition. Students who would just like to be in Instrumental Ensemble do not need to audition, just register for the class. Audition information will be posted and made available to all students prior to the auditions. (Students who are new to MSSPA will audition during their Arts Workshop).

Students interested in Steel Drum Ensemble will need to demonstrate their music reading skill. Students should prepare a selection from a written source, and will also be required to sight read in the audition to assess reading skill.

Instrumental Ensemble

Grades 9-12

Prerequisites: Instrumentalist

Length: 4 Quarters. Ninth grade students should be taking two consecutive quarters each year, older students should be taking 4 quarters per year.

Description: Instrumental Ensemble is open to instrumentalists who have enough proficiency on their instrument to play effectively with other musicians. The ability to read music will be helpful, but not required. Students must provide their own instrument and any supplies necessary on a daily basis. Keyboards and pianos will be provided. Pre-existing groups are encouraged to apply for the class and will be allowed to work as a group throughout the class. Students will be required to prepare a solo selection to be performed during the first week of class which will determine further placement. Students who do not have the musical skills to work effectively in groups may be assigned solo projects designed to build basic skills on their instrument.

Steel Drum Ensemble

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: Be able to read music. **Audition Required.**

Length of Course: 4 Quarters. Students are required to enroll in all 4 quarters.

Description: Students will rehearse daily in preparation for at minimum of two major concerts. Students will study the specific technique of authentic steel drumming. Students will develop part reading skills on their specific instrument. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

Music & Technology

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: None. Must provide headphones for class project time.

Description: Students will use music software, primarily *Garageband* to create, edit, and record their own compositions. Students will also explore basic and advanced techniques in editing recorded material. No prior musical experience or computer experience necessary.

Music Theory 1 (Formerly Music Fundamentals)

Grades: 9

Length of Course: 2 Quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Entry level music theory course. Students will learn the basic language of western music. Students will study basic music theory, simple notation, basic composition skills, beginning ear training skills. Students will perform in small groups and alone on several performance projects. Students will also study portions of music history and areas of world music.

Music Theory 2 (Formerly Music Theory 1)

Grades: 10

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Music Fundamentals or comparable study.

Description: 2nd Level of music theory study. Students learn the language of western music including notation, chord structure, composition, and ear training. Students will also study portions of music history and areas of world music.

Music Theory 3 (Formerly Music Theory 2)

Grades: 11

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Music Fundamentals, Music Theory I or comparable study.

Description: 3rd Level of music theory study. Students learn the advanced language of western music including notation, melodic, harmonic, and chord structures, composition, and ear training. Final projects include performance and composition. Students will also study portions of music history and areas of world music.

AP Music Theory & Composition

Grades: 12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Music Fundamentals, Music Theory 1, Music Theory 2, signed AP Contract

Description: Fourth level of music theory study. Students learn the advanced language of western music including notation, chord structure, composition, sight-singing and ear training.

NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

Senior Creation and Performance Lab

Grade: 12

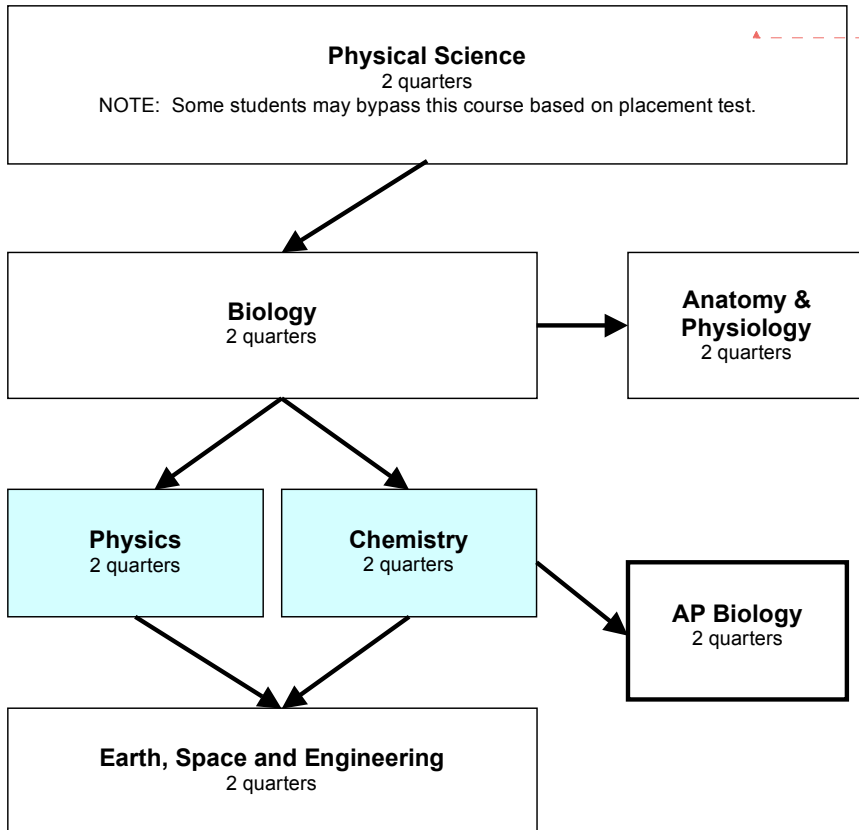
Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: At least three music courses, including Music Theory 1, Music Theory 2, Music Majors only.

Description: Students will create and prepare a final performance to be presented at an external venue, including all aspects of production. Students will work alone and in groups to create a performance synthesizing all elements of their artistic learning while at MSSPA.

SCIENCE

Science Course Sequence



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Physical Science

Grade: 9

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Physical science is an introductory chemistry and physics course. The first quarter covers chemistry, which is the structure and properties of matter. The second quarter includes physics which is the study of the relationship between matter and energy. Students explore topics in measurement, properties of matter, elements, chemical reactions, motion, forces, simple machines, waves, light, etc. Students are involved in hands-on activities designed to link the concepts learned in class and lab to real life occurrences.

Biology

Grade: 9-10

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: What makes living things unique and how do they function? This course explores the interactions between living things and their environment, both internal and external. These interactions are studied by practical experience in the laboratory and class activities. Major areas investigated are: scientific method, ecology, cell structure and function, microscope use, cell respiration and photosynthesis, cell division, evolution, genetics, and diversity of life.

Chemistry

Grade: 10-11

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Algebra

Description: Designed for college-bound students. Topics covered include: atomic theory, bonding, periodicity, solutions, chemical reactions, behavior of gases, interaction of energy and matter, and history/background of chemistry. The laboratory is an integral part of this course.

Physics

Grade: 10-11

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Algebra

Description: The study of how and why objects move the way they do, fall down, spin, crash and revolve. Sound, electricity, light, waves, lenses, and the Universe's quantum reality are studied. This course is intended to finely tune your perceptions of your world.

Earth and Space Explorations

Note: Not offered 2010-2011. New course begins 2011-2012.

Grade: 11-12

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry or Physics

Description: Earth & Space Explorations is a semester-long course focusing on the study of the earth's layers, and the structure and scale of the universe. Students analyze and describe Earth's interconnected systems and examine how Earth's materials, landforms, and continents are modified across geological time. Through laboratory and field investigations, students understand the history and development of the earth and space sciences, explore the uses of earth and space science in various careers, and investigate earth and space science problems concerning personal needs and community issues.

Forensic Science

Grade: 9-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course introduces students to some of the specialized fields of forensic science, the principles of science and technology upon which they are based, and the application of these principles to various analyses of crime scene evidence.

Anatomy & Physiology

NOTE: Course will be offered in 2010-11 and on an every-other-year basis thereafter.

Grade: 10-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Biology or instructor approval

Description: Anatomy and Physiology investigates the structure and function of the human body and is designed to help students who are interested in gaining an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the human body. Emphasis is placed on the human systems including biochemistry, tissues, bones, muscles and the respiratory, circulatory, reproductive, nervous, digestive and renal systems.

Advanced Placement Biology

NOTE: Not offered in 2010-11. Course will be offered again in 2011-12 and on an every-other-year basis thereafter.

Grade: 11-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, signed AP Contract

Description: AP Biology is a college-level survey course for motivated students who want to delve deeper into the mysteries of life. The course touches on all of the major topics of biology in more depth. Students apply biology and chemistry concepts to challenging

laboratory experiences. Students are required to take the AP exam for possible college credit in May. NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

Advanced Placement Chemistry

NOTE: Course will be offered in 2010-11 and on an every-other-year basis thereafter.

Grade: 11-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Algebra, signed AP Contract.

Description: The AP Chemistry course is a course designed for those who wish to pursue college credit in chemistry by taking the AP exam. Course topics include: Atomic theory, Chemical Bonding, Nuclear chemistry, Gas laws, kinetic-molecular theory, Solutions, Reaction types (oxidation-reduction, acid-base, precipitation), Equilibrium, Kinetics, Stoichiometry, Thermodynamics, and basic Organic chemistry. These topics will be learned at an enhanced level in the following regards: 1) Quantitative calculation of chemical quantities. 2) Quantitative laboratories. 3) Detailed recordkeeping of all labs in a laboratory notebook. Students must be prepared to devote substantial time and effort to this course outside of school. NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics

Grade: 9

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: The course is designed to offer students a comprehensive study of the United States governmental and political systems and will use the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as a framework to understand how American government is organized. The students will become familiar with political parties and the voting process, the historical foundations of American democracy, comparing political systems, the system of federalism, the rights of citizens, the federal legislative branch, the federal executive branch, the federal judicial branch and state and local governments. Also, through a variety of activities, students will become knowledgeable about current national and world events.

Early American History

Grade: 9

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course will provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to critically examine American History. Students will learn about the political, social, and economic history of the United States and will develop an appreciation for the many groups of people who have contributed to the rich history of our country through the nineteenth century.

Modern United States History

Grade: 10

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics & Early American History

Description: In this course the turning points in 20th century American History and civic participation are taught. Students will study: the United States' emergence as a world power, the Roaring 20's and the Great Depression of the 1930's, World War II, the Cold War, and the social and political changes from the 1950's to the present.

World Studies

Grade: 11

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics & Early American History and Modern United States History

Description: World studies students investigate areas of the world both past and present using interdisciplinary approaches. Students use concepts and methods from history, anthropology, sociology, political science, geography and economics to learn about cultures other than our own. Students will also be encouraged to analyze current international issues from a variety of view points using skills they learn and practice in the course.

Geography

Grade: 12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Civics & Early American History and Modern United States History

Description: This course builds on global knowledge in three areas: political geography, physical geography, and human geography. The course centers on the five major themes of geography. Given that framework, students will develop an understanding of the influence the physical earth has on cultural and political structures as well as the impact of human behavior.

Economics

Grade: 12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Civics & Early American History and Modern United States History

Description: This course emphasizes the definition of economics as the study of choices people make with their resources. In this class students will be exposed to the issues caused by a world full of unlimited wants and limited resources. Students will also recognize economics as a diverse field seen differently from all over the globe. In addition to core concepts of the discipline, students will learn basic, but often overlooked components such as: the importance of credit, how to balance a checkbook, and the significance of interest rates.

Sociology

NOTE: Not offered in 2010-11. Course will be offered again in 2012-13 in a 3-year rotation with Psychology and Art History.

Grades 11-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Modern United States History or World Studies

Description: This introductory elective course examines the ways people interact and relate to one another in society. Students will develop a sociological perspective as they analyze society through the three sociological paradigms. Specific topics covered will include: culture, socialization, social interaction, groups and organizations, deviance, race and ethnicity, relationships and gender.

Psychology

NOTE: Not offered in 2010-11. Course will be offered again in 2011-12 in a 3-year rotation with Sociology and Art History.

Grades 11-12

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: none

Description: This course is designed to introduce the student to a survey of current topics in psychology: historical background, sensation and perception, emotions, learning, developmental psychology, motivation, personality and abnormal behavior.

Art History & Technique

NOTE: Course will be offered in 2010-11 and in a 3-year rotation with Psychology and Sociology thereafter.

Grades 11-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: World Studies or AP European History

Description: This elective course attempts to understand social, political, and cultural history as context for visual art. In contemplation, observation, and practice- students will learn to see the power of art, its impact on history, art's meaning, and art's legacy. Students will spend 8-9 weeks learning the history of art, then 8-9 weeks learning the artistic technique and developing works of art with a culminating art show at the end of the semester.

Advanced Placement European History

NOTE: Not offered in 2010-11. Course will be offered again in 2011-12 and on an every-other-year basis thereafter.

Grades: 11-12

Length of course: 3 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics & Early American History, Modern United States History or Advanced Placement United States History, signed AP Contract

Description: The study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which we live. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of the AP program in European History are to develop a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretations, and c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing. NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

Advanced Placement United States History

NOTE: Course will be offered in 2010-11 and on an every-other-year basis thereafter.

Grades: 11-12

Length of course: 3 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics & Early American History, signed AP Contract

Description: Advanced Placement U.S. History is the equivalent to an introductory college course in U.S. History. It will provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with materials and challenges in U.S. history. Topics span colonization through society and culture at the end of the 20th century. In addition to learning historical content, students will be trained in analyzing and interpreting primary and secondary sources and expressing their historical understanding in writing. NOTE: You will be required to take the AP exam at the end of this course.

THEATRE

Unscripted Theatre I

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Students learn and practice the fundamental rules of improvisation through a variety of improvisational experiences. The rules and styles of improvisation are discussed and practical applications are applied to work on stage.

Unscripted Theatre II

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Unscripted Theatre I

Description: Students review and practice the fundamental rules of improvisation. Both short and long form improvisation is studied. Students explore how improvisation can be more than humor and jokes. This class will draw on those skills to create original sketches which will be used for a final performance.

Voice and Diction I

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Students learn the basic foundation of how a performer's voice works, and why it doesn't. The connection between breathing, relaxation, physical health, and vocal

production are explored. The mind/body connection is the key in how to use your body and not hurt your voice. Connections to all areas of performance are addressed.

Voice & Diction II

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Voice and Diction I

Description: Voice and Diction II emphasizes dialect, verse and the actor's voice on stage. Proper technique, placement and care of the voice are the main focus. The student performs several monologues and scenes in Irish, Standard British, Cockney, American Southern and New York dialect, as well as the rhyming and blank verse of Shakespeare and Moliere.

Theatre Movement I

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course focuses on using the body to communicate. Students will heighten their observation skills, attention to detail, and their ability to work collectively as a group. This class also requires students to be physically active as they participate in daily physical exercises and an occasional team sport. (*This course meets the Physical Education requirement*).

Theatre Movement II

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Theatre Movement I

Description: Movement based theatre is explored. This class strives to connect a sense of control to the actor's body as they work through some of the more physically demanding things required from actor: Period Style Acting, Mime or Mask work and Stage Combat. Precision and control are the goals and an open exploration and expansion of what an actor's body can do.

Acting I

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Script analysis, cold reading, character exploration, auditions, scene work, monologues, and making choices in theatre are the core of the acting curriculum. Acting one lays the ground work and vocabulary for the serious acting student. Self discovery and stage fundamentals lay the foundation of this class.

Acting II

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I

Description: A multi-dimensional look at scene study and relationships in theatre. Students will spend more time dissecting scripts and looking at multi-media performances. The students will begin to examine how the actor is simultaneously the character and ones self.

We will use the tools we have gathered in Acting I to assist us in creating believable characters on stage.

Acting III

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I, Acting II

Description: Using techniques and processes learned in Acting II, students create work using their unique artistic process which incorporates in depth scene study, monologue work and physical vocal and emotional connections. Students will create original works as well as strive to further their scripted repertoire as they prepare for college auditions.

Acting Ensemble

Length of course: 4 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I, Acting II

Description: In this year long course the Acting Ensemble students will create a touring show that will travel to Middle Schools and High Schools to raise awareness of an issue facing teenagers. They will begin with researching a topic of importance, inviting guests from the community that deal with these issues to speak at our school, and then writing and rehearsing this 30 minute show. The Acting Ensemble will tour this show second and third quarters as well as organizing and participating in other MSSPA community events.

Directing

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I, Acting II, Acting III

Description: In Directing, students begin to look at work onstage from the other side. Students learn how to create tension and emotion from blocking and tempo, how to dissect a script down intoactable moments, and the art of communication and collaboration. The Directing students will work in tandem with the Acting Ensemble students and be the guiding force, directing their tour and helping to book their performances.

Acting IV

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I, Acting II, Acting III

Description: This is the capstone class for the serious actor. In Acting IV we deal with the other mediums actors work in such as film and television. Acting for the camera and how that differs from our work on stage is discussed. Serious attention is paid to audition technique, interview skills and getting the job. The serious students will gain insight from outside speakers and working professionals from Minneapolis Theatres. They will also create a showcase of material that will be presented to a public audience, including invited guests from the Minneapolis Theatre Community.

History of Film

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: How is a film put together to tell a story? What techniques are used to aid the storyteller that are only available in film? In History of Film, the student will learn how to take a film apart and critique it from both an artistic and technical point of view. Terminology and some basic hands-on work are addressed in working with a camera, angles, shots and digital editing. The course focuses on the art of visual communication and how we as performing artists can tell our stories through this medium.

Exploration on a Global Stage

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: The theatre that a culture creates says something about its people's lives, how they lived and what they believed. Students explore theatre through a global lens. How does Eastern Theatre differ from Western Theatre? At what points are they the same? What can be brought into our craft by exploring how other cultures and communities express themselves in theatre, drama, ritual and ceremony?

Senior Creation and Performance Lab

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Senior, Theatre majors only

Description: Students will create and prepare a final performance to be presented at an external venue, including all aspects of production. Students will work alone and in groups to create a performance synthesizing all elements of their artistic learning while at MSSPA.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish I

Grades: 9-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Introduction to the study of the Spanish language and cultures through reading and storytelling. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish II

Grades: 9-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language and cultures through reading and storytelling. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish III

Grades: 10-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Spanish II

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language and cultures through reading and storytelling. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. NOTE: This course may be offered at the same time and in the same classroom as Spanish IV depending on demand.

Spanish IV

Grades: 10-12

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Spanish III

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language through the reading of different genres of literature and studying the history of various Spanish-speaking countries. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish V

Grades: 10-12

NOTE: This course may be offered as an Independent Study with teacher agreement. Please speak to the Spanish teacher for details.

Prerequisites: Spanish IV

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language through the reading of different genres of literature and studying the history of various Spanish-speaking countries. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Appendix A: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR *Minnesota COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES*

The courses listed below are the **MINIMUM** entrance requirements for colleges and universities. Completion of these requirements does not guarantee entrance into any post-secondary institution. Other post-secondary applicants often exceed these requirements and are competing for entrance into the same colleges and universities. In order to remain competitive, MSSPA's students are **strongly encouraged** to surpass the minimum requirements. These requirements are a summary of college entrance requirements. Contact the individual college for specific requirements.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITIES

- **Four years of English** (8 credits)
- **Three years of Mathematics** (6 credits, through Advanced Algebra or Pre-Calculus)
- **Three years of Science** (6 credits, 2 credits of Physical Science, 2 credits of Biological Science, and 2 credits of another Lab Science such as Chemistry or Physics)
- **Three years of Social Studies** (6 credits, 2 credits of US History, 2 credits of Geography or a combination of courses incorporating geographic studies)
- **Two years of a single World Language** (4 credits)
- **One year of either World Cultures or Fine Arts** (2 credits)
- **ACT or SAT Required**

MINNESOTA TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- High school diploma is required with course work in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- Placement tests will be administered to all incoming students
- No ACT or SAT required
- Students planning to transfer to four year institutions need to meet the high school preparation requirements of these institutions before transferring

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA (TWIN CITIES, MORRIS, AND DULUTH)

- **Four years of English** (8 credits)
- **Three years of Mathematics** (6 credits, through Advanced Algebra or Pre-Calculus)
- **Three years of Science** (6 credits, 2 credits of Physical Science, 2 credits of Biological Science, and 2 credits of another Lab Science such as Chemistry or Physics)
- **Three years of Social Studies** (6 credits)
- **Two years of a single World Language** (4 credits, 6 credits recommended for CLA)
- **One year of Visual or Performing Arts** (2 credits)
- **ACT or SAT Required**

MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGES

- **Four years of English** (8 credits)
- **Three years of Mathematics** (6 credits, through Advanced Algebra or Pre-Calculus)
- **Three years of Science** (6 credits, 2 credits of Physical Science, 2 credits of Biological Science, and 2 credits of another Lab Science such as Chemistry or Physics)
- **Three years of Social Studies** (6 credits, check individual college requirements)
- **Two years of a single World Language are strongly recommended** (4 credits, check individual college requirements)
- **Several courses in the arts**
- **ACT or SAT Required**

Students who are interested in going to a four-year school may consider taking:

- (1) The PLAN in their sophomore year
- (2) The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) in their junior year; and
- (3) The ACT or SAT in spring of their junior year.

Note that a student's grade point average, regiment of rigorous courses taken, and ACT or SAT scores are considered in the final admission decision. If a student is missing an admission requirement, contact the admissions department of the specific college or university.

Appendix B: NCAA Eligibility Requirements

Students wishing to participate in Division I or Division II collegiate athletics must meet NCAA academic requirements. Student athletes should consider their academic choices carefully to ensure the proper coursework is completed. The academic requirements are as follows:

Division I

16 required core courses as follows:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Math (at the level of Algebra I or above)
- 2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including one lab course)
- 1 year of additional courses in English, Math, or Natural or Physical Science
- 2 years of Social Science
- 4 years of additional academic courses in any of the above areas or Foreign Language, Philosophy or non-doctrinal Religion

Division II

14 required core courses as follows:

- At least 3 years of English
- At least 2 years of Math (at the level of Algebra I or above)
- At least 2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including 1 lab course)
- At least 2 years of additional courses in English, Math or Natural and Physical Science
- At least 2 years of Social Science
- 3 years of additional academic courses in any of the above areas or Foreign Language, Philosophy or non-doctrinal Religion

Note: These are the core classes that are required by the NCAA. Additional eligibility requirements such as minimum GPA, minimum test scores and/or other standards must also be met. Please refer to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net for more information.

Appendix C: AP Contract

MSSPA Advanced Placement Course Contract

- You must fill out separate contract for each Advanced Placement Course
- If a completed contract is not turned in, you will not be accepted into the course
- Each contract requires a student and parent signature
- All students are expected to take the AP exam for each course in which they are enrolled.

Name: _____

Advanced Placement Course: _____

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It gives high school students exposure to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and then gives them an opportunity to show what they have learned by taking an AP Exam. Colleges and universities often grant credit, placement, or both, to these students.

Participation in AP courses is the best possible preparation for success in college. A record of AP courses on a student's transcript is an indication of the student's commitment to rigorous academics. The rigorous curriculum requires more effort and homework on the part of the student. The pace of the class is faster, covering more content and in greater depth. Typically, successful AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time, and have parental support.

General Course Expectations

- AP courses typically require approximately six hours of individual study time per week.
- Students are required to take the AP exams for all AP courses in which they are enrolled
- Due to staffing concerns, students may exit an AP course only at the end of the quarter. A student desiring to exit an AP course must also meet the following requirements:
 - Attended tutorial sessions with the teacher.
 - Attended a student/parent/teacher conference.
 - Received a grade of D or F in the course

Student Agreement

I have read the requirements, am familiar with the course expectations and accept its academic challenges. I understand that my success in this AP course is primarily my responsibility.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Agreement

I have read the requirements for this course and agree to support and encourage my son/daughter in his/her endeavors in the course. I will notify the teacher immediately of any concerns I have relating to the AP class or my child's progress.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date