

**Athens Area High School
Athens, Pennsylvania**

**Grade 9
Course Selection Catalog
2023-2024**



Wildcats

**School Counselors
Jennifer Judson
Daniel Kelleher**

570-888-7766 Ext. 2236

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY PAGES	PAGE
Mission Statement.....	I
School District Goals	I
Discrimination Policy	II
Principal's Message	III
Counselors' Message	IV
Graduation Requirements	V
Honors Criteria.....	V
Grading Policy	V
Act 158 Pathway Graphic	VI

SECTION I: 2023-2024 Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

English 9	1
-----------------	---

SOCIAL STUDIES

US History II (1870 – Present).....	1
-------------------------------------	---

SCIENCE

Honors Biology	1
STEM Physical Science	2
Physical Science	2
Intro to Agriculture.....	2

MATHEMATICS

Honors Geometry.....	2
Algebra I A.....	2
Algebra I B.....	2

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I.....	3
----------------	---

BUSINESS EDUCATION

Microsoft Office	3
Business/Entrepreneurship	3

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Human Relations I.....	3
Human Relations II	3
Cooking I.....	3
Cooking II.....	4
Sewing I.....	4

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Graphic Communications..... 4
Manufacturing Systems.....4
Energy & Control Systems..... 4
Circuit Analysis 4
Introduction to JAVA Programming 5
Introduction to PYTHON Programming 5
Introduction to Design & Development 5

ART & CERAMICS

Studio Art I & II 5
Introduction to Ceramics 5

MUSIC

Marching Band..... 6
Concert Band 6
Jazz Band..... 6
String Orchestra..... 6
Concert Choir 6
Reflections..... 7

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health / Physical Education 9 7





The mission of the Athens Area School District, in collaboration with family and community, is to provide educational excellence by preparing students with the skills necessary to become life-long learners and responsible members of society.

LOCAL GOALS OF THE ATHENS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. We will provide quality programs and services in an environment where all individuals will be encouraged to respect each other and be responsibly involved in the educational process.
2. We will create a positive educational climate that is safe, physically comfortable, and readily accessible to all students.
3. We will be a learner-centered organization focused on intellectual development and personal growth.
4. We will form partnerships with families, business, government, and community organizations to enhance educational opportunities, maximize resources, and integrate services for all students in a fiscally responsible manner.
5. We will foster a love of learning and its value as a life-long process.
6. We will encourage all students to understand their personal importance and to confidently pursue a contributing role in the world community.

Discrimination Policy

Athens Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Title IX coordinator, Craig J. Stage, Superintendent of Schools, Athens Area School District, 100 Canal Street, Athens, Pennsylvania 18810 (570-888-7766).


ATHENS AREA HIGH SCHOOL
401 WEST FREDERICK STREET, ATHENS, PA 18810
570-888-7766 • FAX: 570-888-4038 • WWW.ATHENSASD.ORG

“Building Foundations for Future Success.”

CRAIG STAGE, SUPERINTENDENT
JENNILEE SHORES, BUSINESS MANAGER

WILLIAM CLARK, PRINCIPAL
DAVID GABRIEL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

JENNIFER JUDSON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR
DANIEL KELLEHER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

April 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

We are pleased to offer the Athens Area High School Course Selection Catalog to assist you in planning your academic studies for the 2023-2024 school year. The information contained in this publication has been prepared to familiarize you with specific course content, prerequisites, and suggested study for your career choices.

Academic planning requires the cooperation of parents, students, and school personnel. Our Guidance Information Services can supply you with additional educational and occupational materials to aid in your planning. Accurate and timely course selections will facilitate a schedule that meets the individual needs of each student.

We intend to offer a full complement of courses for 2023-2024. AAHS courses are aligned to the Pennsylvania State Standards and reflect the essential learnings necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to meet state standards and show academic achievement and growth. Our students will be able to enroll in classes that will afford them the opportunity to earn college credits through a number of post-secondary institutions. It is our desire to team with parents to provide optimal educational opportunities for student success, and to prepare them for college and career readiness. We appreciate your cooperation and support. If you have any questions, please call the high school office.

Sincerely,

William J. Clark, Principal

III


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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Please take a few minutes to review the course catalog for 2023-2024. It has been prepared to help you understand the courses that are available to you and the requirements necessary to graduate from Athens Area High School. The 10-12 grade Course Selection Catalog can be found under “Guidance Department” on the High School Guidance page of the District Website.

After we meet with you to review the courses that are available and to provide instructions on completing the course selection form, we ask that you take the selection form home and discuss your choices with your parents and with the teachers who currently teach your courses. You could also email teachers with questions. While we hope to meet with all students who have questions, time constraints may still make this difficult. We would recommend emailing simple questions to your counselor and requesting a meeting for more complex questions. If you want to have an individual meeting with your counselor about your selections, indicate this by checking the appropriate box on the form. We will review all course selection forms when we receive them and will answer emails or meet with individual students as needed or requested. Either way, please be sure you have the required parent signature on the completed form before you return it. *Your form is due within three (3) days of receiving it.*

The selections you make now are not necessarily final. You will have an opportunity to make course changes in the summer after you receive your schedule in the mail. **However**, we encourage you to strive for accuracy in making your selections during this process as, we cannot guarantee that changes will be possible during the summer.

Jennifer L. Judson (A-J)
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IV

Board President ~ John Cheresnowsky Board Secretary ~ Christine Middlecamp
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CLASS OF 2027 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation Course Requirements

Course Content Area	Credits Required
English	4.00
Science	3.00
Mathematics	4.00
Social Studies	3.00
Health/Physical Education	1.50
Pathways	10.50
Total Required Credits to Graduate	26.00

All students in the Class of 2027 must meet one of the Keystone Graduation Pathways criteria as listed on the next page. We are encouraging all students from the Class of 2027 to make every effort to meet the criteria for one of the first two options.

Students must carry the following minimum credits in each grade level.

Grade 9	7.00 credits
Grade 10	7.00 credits
Grade 11	7.00 credits
Grade 12	7.00 credits

HONORS COURSES

Honors courses have been created in each of the core subject areas. The purpose of this is to meet the academic need for additional challenge that many students possess. Please note: the curricular material in each of these courses will follow the same scope as the academic classes. The difference will be in the rigor, quality and time demands placed on students in the honors section. Due to the additional time and quality demands, there will be a weighting of these grades (multiplier of 3%), reflected in the student's cumulative grade point average.

CRITERIA

- A. Student must carry a grade point average of at least 93% in the current eighth grade subject.
- B. Student must receive a recommendation addressing work ethic, study skill, and interest from the current eighth grade subject teacher.
- C. Students taking Honors/AP courses are expected to maintain a minimum grade of 77%.

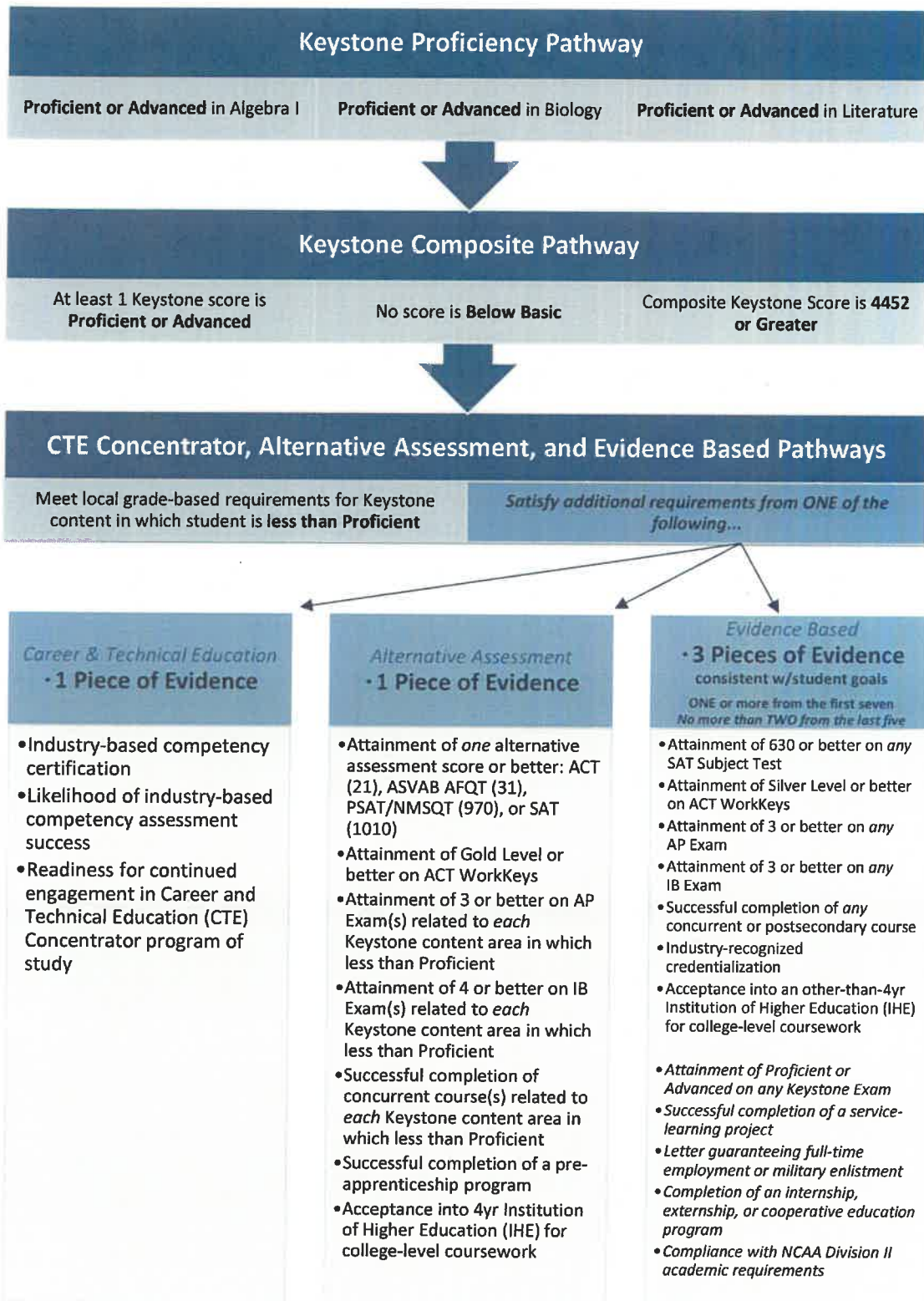
GRADING SYSTEM

- A. The following are the percentage grades and their alpha equivalents that are used in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 at Athens Area High School.

93	to	100	=	A	
85	to	92	=	B	
77	to	84	=	C	
70	to	76	=	D	(The lowest passing grade is 70)
Below 70			=	F	

- B. To achieve honor roll status a student must earn an average of 93% or higher for all courses that use a percentage grade during any marking period.
- C. Class Rank is based on the cumulative average of all planned courses using a percentage grade.

Act 158 Pathway Graphic



English

ENGLISH 9

One Credit

Description: This course will pursue a variety of language arts activities to give the student a basic knowledge of grammar/mechanics, composition, literature, oral presentations, library skills, listening skills, and vocabulary usage. The literature covered will consist of poetry, drama, modern essays, and short stories by various notable authors and will be suitable for the future needs of students. Vocabulary will be utilized in connection with literature and the writing of compositions. All other topics/subjects will be discussed as units and will include information, skills and activities as assessment.

Social Studies

Social Studies Sequence

Grade 9 – US History II
Grade 10 – Civics & Government
Grade 11 – Modern World History
Grade 12 - Electives

US HISTORY II (1870 – Present)

One Credit

Description: United States History II will include the industrial revolution through present day. Units will include: Industrial America, The emerging United States and World War I, Prosperity and depression, World War II and post war America, and Civil rights through modern day.

Science

Science Honors Sequence

Grade 9 – Honors Biology
Grade 10 – Honors Chemistry/Chemistry
Grade 11 – Honors Physics/Physics

Science Non-Honors Sequence

**Grade 9 - Physical Science/
STEM/Physical Science**
Grade 10 – Biology
**Grade 11 – Chemistry/STEM
Chemistry/ChemCom**

HONORS BIOLOGY

One Credit

Pre-requisite (completion of Algebra I in 8th grade with teacher recommendation for Honors Geometry in 9th grade)

Description: A biology course for honors ninth grade students, this course will focus on Cells and Cell Processes and Continuity and Unity of Life. Units will include basic biological principles, the chemical basis for life, bioenergetics, homeostasis and transport, cell growth and reproduction, genetics, theory of evolution, and ecology with an emphasis on the practical application of biological knowledge utilizing STEM techniques. The Biology Keystone Exam will assess students' mastery of the Biology Assessment Anchors and will be administered at the end of the course.

Science, continued

STEM PHYSICAL SCIENCE

One Credit

Pre-requisite (completion of Math 8 in 8th grade with recommendation for Algebra IB in 9th grade)

Description: Students will be introduced to inquiry and project based learning through the development of the STEM inquiry process. Students will focus on problems that affect the real world utilizing all disciplines. This course explores the relationship between matter and energy. Students will conceptually and mathematically investigate nature of science, motion & forces, energy, waves, and matter through a hands-on approach.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

One Credit

Description: Physical Science is a course that explores the relationship between matter and energy. Students will conceptually and mathematically investigate physical science concepts through a hands-on approach. Themes include the nature of science, motion & forces, energy, waves, and matter and how it applies to living things.

SCIENCE ELECTIVE

INTRO TO AGRICULTURE

One Credit

Description: This course is a prerequisite for higher level agriculture courses. Students are introduced to current events in agriculture, crops, soils, conservation, livestock, and fields of agriculture service and occupations. Students will participate in the National FFA Organization and learn about its importance in agricultural education. Emphasis is placed on presenting opportunities for students both in and outside of class time in FFA and SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience). Topics include but are not limited to public speaking, leadership, animal science, plant science and natural resources. Students are engaged in active learning in class and by participating in FFA events and opportunities.

Mathematics

HONORS GEOMETRY

One Credit

Description: This is a math course for 9th grade students who have successfully completed Algebra I. It covers the use of plane and solid geometry with emphasis placed on the development of logical thinking by the use of geometric proofs and on the application of the geometric properties.

ALGEBRA I A

One Credit

Description: Algebra IA will develop a foundation necessary for the student to continue in the study of mathematics. This course is specifically designed to prepare students for Algebra IB and to give them a good foundation in basic Algebra. The topics of study are: Comparison and evaluation of numerical expressions, Variables and variable expressions, Operations with real numbers, Properties of real numbers, and Solving linear equations and inequalities.

ALGEBRA I B

One Credit

Description: Algebra IB is offered to students who have successfully completed Algebra IA. The course will develop a foundation necessary for the student to continue in the study of mathematics. The topics of study are:

1. Systems of linear equations and inequalities.
2. Exponents and exponential functions.
3. Quadratic equations and functions.
4. Polynomials and factoring.
5. Rational equations and functions.
6. Radicals and connections to geometry.

Foreign Languages

Level I is offered in Spanish: Spanish

One Credit

Description: In the first year, students will concentrate on understanding and using basic vocabulary and high frequency phrases of the foreign language. Various cultural aspects of the countries where the language is spoken will be presented.

Business Education

MICROSOFT OFFICE

One-Half Credit

Description: Stay current with useful technology! Here's your opportunity to learn the most popular productivity software used in the business world. In addition to teaching Windows Theory and File Management, this course teaches the MS Office 2016 Suite ~ Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. This class will be beneficial to everyone regardless of their career plans.

NOTE: Students who schedule this course will have the opportunity to earn three college credits through Keystone College.

BUSINESS/ENTREPRENEURSHIP

One Credit

Description: This course is designed to integrate two previous classes, Introduction to Business and Entrepreneurship. Real-world business consists of passions and interests that are developed into exciting and rewarding careers. Throughout the year, students will be introduced to fundamental business concepts, business law, leadership qualities, banking and finance, global business, marketing, and entrepreneurship. Students will complete a culminating Business Plan centered around individual interests.

Family & Consumer Science

HUMAN RELATIONS I

One-Half Credit

Description: This course focuses on a better understanding of the development of self and explores the consequences of decision-making. A few of the topics that will come up in this course are: situations with preventative discussion involving teen pregnancy, drugs and alcohol, as well as suicide. Students will be required to take home a simulated baby for two days of a week as part of their final project.

HUMAN RELATIONS II

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: Human Relations I

Description: This course builds on Human Relations I and consists of the development of the life cycle from birth to death. The course topics include community characteristics of being successful when single and married, discussions on sexual responsibility, pregnancy and birth, child development, and parenting skills. Students will be required to create and present a final project of a lesson that can be simulated in a real-life child care situation.

COOKING I

One-Half Credit

Description: The importance of safety and sanitation, the basics of kitchen equipment, cooking terminology, measurements and recipe reading will be addressed in this course. Other topics that will be taught include nutrition guidelines, understanding labels, nutrients, and nutrition-related health issues. Students will be required to make foods in relation to each topic discussed.

Family & Consumer Science, continued

COOKING II

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: Cooking I

Description: This course will build on and review the skills learned in Cooking I. The students will develop more culinary techniques using the principles of baking. They will be required to prepare and learn the principles of pastries, cookies, cakes, and breads.

SEWING I

One-Half Credit

Description: This course is designed to develop the **basic** knowledge and skills of sewing and mending. Course topics include the purpose of clothing and how to identify the basic tools and equipment used for sewing. Students will be required to understand techniques by creating samples before they can sew, as well as create inexpensive projects for a charity and for themselves. Students will be required to purchase their own supplies for their projects.

Technology Education

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course provides a broad overview of communication systems--print and electronic media. Students will experience individual and group activities using the following equipment and software: digital camera, scanner, Adobe InDesign CS4, Adobe Photoshop CS4, and Adobe Illustrator CS4. These programs will be used to complete projects such as a set of company documents, assorted graphical logo (raster and vector based), a biography website and an informational website.

MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will define manufacturing as the processing of raw materials to produce products to meet the needs and wants of people. The students will design, produce, and market a simple product. Technology in all phases of manufacturing and marketing systems will be used. The Universal Systems Model will be used to improve all phases of the manufacturing process. This course will utilize a multi-disciplinary teaching approach by working with the Art, Science, and Business departments. Problem solving, troubleshooting, critical thinking, and teamwork will be incorporated into the course.

ENERGY AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: None

Description: In this course students will develop a basic understanding of transportation technology. Through problem solving activities, students will develop, produce, use, and assess vehicles used to transport people and freight. They will also study the technological subsystems of propulsion, structure, guidance, control and support in land, water, air, and space environments.

CIRCUIT ANALYSIS (Grades 9-12)

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course will introduce students to the fundamental techniques and application of electronics. The course activities will include: The performance of transformers, capacitors, resistors, inductors, digital electronics, and circuit analysis. This will be accomplished by simulating circuits using computer software and hands-on circuit building. A final project will incorporate all concepts the students learn in the course. Students will work in groups for the purpose of developing problem-solving skills.

Technology Education, continued

INTRODUCTION TO JAVA PROGRAMMING (Grades 9-12)

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: Grade of 90 or above in Algebra I or teacher recommendation

Description: This introductory-level course is designed for students who have very little programming experience. Students will design object-oriented applications with Java and will create Java programs using hands-on, engaging activities such as calculating bill, tip, and tax calculations and temperature conversion programs. Students also learn the techniques of Java and how Java can be used in cross-platform programming. At the end of the course, students are able to write basic programs using Java and are prepared to pursue further instruction in any programming language.

INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON PROGRAMMING (Grades 9-12)

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: Grade of 90 or above in Algebra I or teacher recommendation

Description: This course introduces first-time programmers to the Python programming language. Through projects, students will learn a basic understanding of the rules and grammar used in programming in Python. A final project with drone construction will showcase their problem-solving and programming skills.

INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT (Grades 9-12)

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will explore a variety of technological systems and work on Computer Aided Drafting and Design projects as well as hands on projects. They will use a variety of hand and power tools to create their projects. The majority of the class work is hands-on-learning where projects start using the latest release of "AutoCAD". Any student who has a career interest in engineering, design, building, construction, or manufacturing will find this course valuable.

Art & Ceramics

STUDIO ART I

One-Half Credit

Description: This is a first year introductory course, a prerequisite course to be taken before other art courses. This course exposes the student to art in general with an emphasis on drawing. Students will also be exposed to art history, design principles, and basic art theory.

STUDIO ART II

One-Half Credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art I

Description: Studio Art II is a second year art elective. Studio Art II students will be exposed to a wider range of materials such as watercolor, acrylic, linoleum block carving and printmaking, etc. In addition to learning advanced techniques, students will also be exploring the elements and principles of design in greater depth. Lessons in art history and aesthetics will continue.

INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS (CERAMICS I)

One-Half Credit

Description: This course not only provides experiences for hand-built projects, but provides an introduction throwing cylinders. Pottery students will create projects using a variety of techniques such as slabs, coil building, and pinch pots. Popular items created include, boxes, whistles, lanterns, and bowls.

Music

MARCHING BAND 9

One-Half Credit

Description: The high school marching band performs at football games, parades, competitions, and other community events throughout the year. The marching band starts rehearsals over the summer and continues until the end of the football season with the addition of the Memorial Day and July 4th parades.

Students will expand their knowledge of basic marching techniques, conducting, designing shows, writing marching drill, and leadership skills. Students may also choose to participate with the band as baton twirlers, rifle squad, color guard, or flag squad. Students are required to attend two weeks of band camp in the summer, regular after school rehearsals, and ALL performances. One year (not including 8th grade) of marching band is required to participate in concert band. Exceptions may be granted for students who participate in a school sponsored fall sport (soccer, football, volleyball, cross country, or golf).

CONCERT BAND 9

One-Half Credit

Description: The concert band rehearses during the day and has performances throughout the year. Students enrolled in concert band perform music from a variety of periods and styles. Students will expand their knowledge of basic theory and historic relevance of the literature they perform. Students are required to attend all rehearsals, performances, and attend weekly group lessons. Students in concert band will also have the opportunity to make up the woodwind, brass, and percussion sections of the Orchestra during the spring semester. To participate in concert band, students must participate in marching band in their first year of band at the high school. Exceptions may be granted for students who participate in a school sponsored fall sport (soccer, football, volleyball, cross country, or golf).

JAZZ BAND 9

One-Half Credit

Description: Jazz Band is the most select instrumental group at Athens Area High School. Jazz Band members are chosen by the director's recommendation and audition only. Students who audition for Jazz Band must be members of the concert band, marching band, or orchestra. Emphasis is placed on improvisation techniques and performing a variety of standard charts from pop, show, and jazz styles. This select ensemble requires a high degree of dedication, time and work from each member. The Jazz Band performs at all instrumental concerts at the high school and other local events throughout the spring semester. Membership is limited to 16-20 members. The ensemble meets every day during the school day during the spring semester and from one to three times a week after school.

STRING ORCHESTRA 9

One-Half Credit

Description: The String Orchestra is comprised of string players in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who rehearse every other day throughout the school year. The String Orchestra strives to give its members the experience of playing orchestral literature from a variety of composers and styles that will enhance their playing technique and musical knowledge. Students are required to attend a sectional rehearsal once a week in which they will work on string technique, solos, and orchestral music. String Orchestra members will also make up the string section of the Symphony Orchestra during the spring semester with select band students making up the wind and percussion sections. The String Orchestra performs at the winter and spring concerts at the high school and at other community functions.

Please Note: Students who participate in both band and orchestra will receive one combined credit.

CONCERT CHOIR 9

One-Half Credit

Description: The Concert Choir is open to any interested high school student and strives to give its members the experience of singing choral literature from a variety of composers and styles that will enhance the members' singing technique and musical knowledge. Members will learn vocal wellness and the care of their vocal instrument. Concert Choir performs at all high school vocal concerts and selected other concerts throughout the year. Concert Choir rehearses every other day during the school day and from two to three times per semester after school.

Music, continued

REFLECTIONS (Show Choir) 9

One-Half Credit

Description: Reflections is the most select choral group at Athens Area High School. Reflections members are chosen by the director's recommendation and audition only. Students who audition for Reflections must be members of Concert Choir. Emphasis is placed on performing a variety of choral literature and choreography from the pop, show, and jazz styles. This select ensemble requires a high degree of dedication, time, and work from each member. The director may, at any time, drop or add a member at his/her discretion. Reflections perform at all vocal concerts at the high school and for many civic and social clubs throughout the year. Membership is limited to 16-25 members. The ensemble meets every other day during the school day and from one to three times a week after school.

Physical Education

HEALTH / PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grade 9)

One-Half Credit

Description: This course has been designed as a comprehensive overview of current health and fitness topics. The students will demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts dealing with body systems, safety, and personal health habits. Special attention will be given to mental health and dealing with stress, anxiety and depression, reproductive health and sexual responsibility, communicable diseases including STDs and AIDS, and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues. Through classroom discussions, guest speakers, demonstrations, and cooperative learning activities, students will gain the knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed, responsible decisions regarding their own health. In addition, through group participation, students will improve or maintain their fitness levels, develop leadership skills, work cooperatively with others, display teamwork, improve self-confidence, show initiative, and most importantly, start developing an enjoyment and interest in physical activity. They will assess and use strategies for enhancing adult group interaction in physical activities. They will accomplish this through individual and team-based activities that promote a healthy life. Successful completion of this course is required for graduation.