

FVHS

9th Grade

Elective Guide



2024-2025

FVHS 9th Grade Elective Offerings

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Creative Writing I: Creative Writing is designed for students who enjoy reading and writing, and are looking to learn the art behind the written word. Students will compose poetry and prose of varying lengths, as well as read a number of works for inspiration and as models of writing styles.

Introduction to Communications and Mass Media: This introductory course is designed for students interested in pursuing additional coursework in journalism, media, and communications. Students examine the basics of writing, design, and production as well as current industry issues.

Speech I: This course cultivates a positive and supportive classroom environment in which students become comfortable in front of an audience of their peers, giving a wide variety of speeches, practicing the virtues of constructive criticism, and learning the fundamentals of academic and legislative debate.

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Astronomy: An introductory course for space science. The course follows areas of student interests within the topics of rocketry, stargazing, planets, celestial bodies, space exploration, and big bang theory just to name a few.

Intro to Meteorology: This course explores in more detail the sun, Earth, atmosphere, air masses, weather, climatology, and related careers. This course is designed for students who have taken Earth Science.

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

Spanish I: This course covers personality, school, foods, free time activities, and family. After finishing the course, students will have mastered the present tense. A family tree project will be completed at the end of the course.

Spanish II: This course covers daily life, extracurricular activities, shopping, map/driving, childhood, and celebrations. Students will gain an understanding of the past tense at the surface level. Students will write a children's book in past tense as a culminating project/part of the final exam.

Native Spanish speakers should select Spanish Heritage I / II

German I (Fall only): This class covers vacations, animals, hobbies, restaurants, holidays, and other basic information. Students will gain a mastery in the present tense and accusative cases. Students will learn simple sentence structure and reading of simple passages for reading comprehension.

German II (Spring only): This course covers school, weather, birthdays, household, and holidays. Students will gain a mastery in the past tense and all case structures. Students will learn simple sentence structure and reading of simple passages for reading comprehension.

French I (Fall only): This course covers sports, weather, foods, hobbies, places, family, and other topics. Students will learn simple sentence structure and reading of simple passages for reading comprehension.

French II (Spring only): This course covers clothing, travel, the home, daily life, school, and health. Students will gain a beginning understanding of the past tense. Students will learn simple sentence structure and reading of simple passages for reading comprehension.

Students choosing German I or French I should take the corresponding level II course in the same year.

ARTS ELECTIVES

Visual Arts Beginning: An introduction to the elements and principles of design through exploration of a broad range of media. Skills emphasized are drawing, painting, graphics, fibers, ceramics, art history, and 3D design.

Visual Arts Intermediate: Students are challenged to evaluate their art products, to solve problems in terms of the chosen art media, and to learn concepts and skills as they relate to personal art expression. Emphasis is on craftsmanship, technique, and creativity. **The prerequisite for this course is Visual Arts Beginning.**

Sculpture & Ceramics I Intermediate: This course includes the fundamentals of 3-D modeling & composition planning. Various types of clay construction and glazing techniques are explored. **The prerequisite for this course is Visual Arts Beginning.**

Instrumental Band – Beginning: This is a music performance elective designed for students **with no prior experience** with music-reading or playing a wind or percussion instrument. Students will learn to read music notation and develop basic performance skills on flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone or concert percussion. Students must provide their own musical instrument. The band director will provide information about where and how to rent or purchase instruments. Students who may have difficulty acquiring their own instrument due to financial hardship should contact the band director for assistance.

Instrumental Band – Intermediate:– Symphonic band is a yearlong commitment. Previous school band experience or audition required.

Vocal Music – Beginning: Chorus is a yearlong commitment. Participation in after school rehearsals and performances is expected.

Music Appreciation: This course is a non-performance music elective focused on music's relationship to other arts disciplines, humanities, and world cultures. No prior experience with reading or performing music is required. Through reading, listening, viewing and discussion, students learn to why music is an essential ingredient of all human cultures.

Theater Arts - Beginning -This course trains students in basic aspects of movement for the stage and vocal expression. Class activities include Pantomime, Improvisation, and Solo and Ensemble Acting. Students' memorized acting work is presented at least once every week. Students will also study selected plays and Origins of the Theater.

Technical Theater - Beginning - This course allows students to explore "Back Stage." Areas of study include Scenery Construction, Scenic Painting, Properties and Lighting for the Stage. Students have the opportunity to be backstage as crewmembers for school productions. Students who enjoy carpentry and painting will excel in this class.

Dance - Beginning – Students are introduced to movement and choreography by using whole body movement, strength, flexibility, endurance, and proper alignment to develop dance technique. Students with prior dance experience may audition for placement in advanced levels of Dance.

CTE ELECTIVES

Agriscience Applications - An introductory course that allows students to study a diverse group of topics in the ever-changing field of agriculture. The following units will be covered: FFA/ Leader, Animal Science, Environmental/ Natural Science, Plant Science, Biotechnology, Agricultural Engineering.

Agriculture Mechanics - Introduce students to the basic skills of agriscience structures and mechanical systems. Topics include: leadership, safety, tool usage, carpentry, electrical wiring, project planning, and welding.

Horticulture I - Students learn all aspects of plant production and will apply the skills and knowledge they learn in the classroom. The following units will be covered: Leadership, Plant Industry Careers, Plant Physiology, Plant Growth and Development, Soils, Nutrients, Fertilizers, Garden Planning, Pest Identification and Management.

Construction Core - This course helps prepare students for National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certification. Content includes basic safety, construction math, introduction to hand tools and power tools, introduction to blueprints, material handling, basic employability skills, and the Green Environment.

Masonry I - Introduces the nature of masonry technology, materials, and employability skills. The content includes introduction to Masonry, Tool and Equipment, Measurement & Drawing, and Masonry Installation.

Prerequisite: Core/Sustainable Construction.

Business Essentials - Students explore finance, management, and marketing to cover business in the global economy, functions of business organization and management, marketing basics, and risk management.

Entrepreneurship - In this course, students develop components of a business plan and learn what it REALLY takes to start and run a successful business.

Microsoft Excel Honors – Students learn to use spreadsheets and manage workbooks as well as how to manage, manipulate, and format data. This course prepares students for the Microsoft Office Excel Specialist and Microsoft Office Excel Expert certifications. Honors students will complete an Honors project and a portfolio.

Sport & Event Marketing – Students will develop an understanding of marketing, branding, promotion, media, and marketing data as they relate to the sport and event industries.

Food and Nutrition - Assists students in understanding the role of nutrition in health and wellness.

Demonstrations, hands-on food labs, and guided instruction are used throughout the course. Students will gain the skills to plan, purchase and prepare nourishing meals and to evaluate and improve their day-to-day food choices.

Child Development - Learn about being a great parent or caregiver! Take a practice baby home or wear the empathy belly to simulate pregnancy! This class offers information on parenthood decisions, child care centers, childproofing, pregnancy and labor, and development and care of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Principles of Family and Human Services - This course is geared toward individuals who may work in the Human Services field, helping build communities and offering assistance and enrichment to underserved populations. Emphasis is placed on human development, professional skills, diversity, analyzing community issues, life management, and human ecology.

Counseling & Mental Health I - Introduces students to the counseling and mental health field through understanding how to create healthy, respectful, and caring relationships across the life span. Emphasis is placed on understanding mental health, family and friend dynamics, effective communication, and healthy intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships.

Intro to Computer Science - This course is designed to introduce students to coding and computer science by way of making and designing using Microsoft's MakeCode block-based coding environment. This course is project-based with a maker philosophy at its core.

Computer Science 1 – An introductory course to familiarize students with the general concepts and thinking practices of computing, computer science, and information science. Students will focus on the “big CS ideas” that emphasize conceptual knowledge and thinking practices rather than on programming alone.

CompTIA IT Fundamentals - This introductory course provides students with the knowledge of the basics of computing, IT infrastructure, application, software development, database fundamentals, and security. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and skills to install software, establish basic network connectivity, identify/prevent basic security risks, explain troubleshooting theory and preventative maintenance of devices.

Technology, Engineering and Design - Through engaging activities and hands-on project-based activities, students are introduced to elements and principles of design, basic engineering, problem solving, and teaming.

Adobe Visual Design - This course is a project-based course that develops ICT, career, and communication skills in print and graphic design using Adobe tools. This course is aligned to Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator certification.

Adobe Visual Design – Work collaboratively to conceive, plan, and execute video production plans to create audio and video assets. Use Adobe Premiere Pro features to edit audio and video clips to create and publish a range of video products.