

Blue Mountain
Union School



Program of Studies
2016-2017

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Blue Mountain Union School District Mission

The **BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL** mission is to develop citizens who:

RESPECT

others and themselves

THINK

creatively, collaboratively,
and critically

THRIVE

locally and globally

PERSEVERE

through challenges

UNLEASH THEIR POTENTIAL

by finding and using their voice

Creating Your High School Schedule

Freshman Year Counts! And so does your sophomore, junior and senior year!

A student's grades and classes are among the most important factors for determining eligibility for a job or admission to college. Employers, colleges, and scholarship providers will take many other factors into account, such as extracurricular activities and essays but students first need to make sure they have a powerful transcript. The goal is to challenge oneself with academic courses that are helping to prepare for the future. If a student is thinking that college is in their future, they could be asking themselves how do they compare to other students in their school? They could also ask how they compare to other students from around the country?

When students are working on their PLP (see below), they may decide that they want to go into the field of medicine. If this is the case, they should be loading their classes starting the freshman year with challenging science courses and taking as many Dual Enrollment courses as can fit into their schedule. If they want to become a writer, are they taking writing courses? If they want to own their own auto shop one day, they not only need to think about knowing how to fix cars but they need to make sure that they are taking classes to help prepare for the life of a business owner. And if a student doesn't know what they want to do (that's OK, they don't have to know right now!), then they need to be preparing for as many options as possible so that they have lots of choices and are primed for success in whatever career they choose.

Colleges are looking for students who take challenging academic classes throughout their high school career. If Dual Enrollment courses are offered, students wanting to go to college should be considering taking them – and take them seriously! They could be earning quite a few college credits before they even leave high school and this could save thousands of dollars towards one's future education. Good habits are also important to help you be successful! Turning in homework on time, talking to the teacher when questions arise, managing time wisely, and asking for help when it is needed are all important habits to start forming early.

When the student is ready to sit down with their school counselor and start working on his/her schedule, s/he should know his/her strengths and areas that need improvement. Your school's guidance department will have several key points in mind when helping students with their schedules for the upcoming year: 1) Is this student working toward meeting the school's graduation requirements?, 2) Is this schedule in line with the students goals and PLP?, and 3) Will the student be challenged, but not overwhelmed, by this schedule? The scheduling meeting is more than just a meeting... it is a time to pull together all of the student's questions and discuss them together to help best prepare the student for their future success.

Levels

To assist in the course selection process, a rating indicating the difficulty is assigned to each course. The degree of difficulty ranges from I-III.

Level I: Reserved for students who need reinforcement in the basic subject skills.

Level II: Courses concentrate on more demanding academic tasks and are designed for a student who is proficient in the application of the basic learning skills. Successful completion of Level II courses will prepare the student for college and/or career readiness.

Level III: Courses designed for the student who has demonstrated excellent subject ability, discipline and aptitude. These are particularly aimed at students considering a four-year college program.

Drop Course

A student may drop a course, without penalty prior to the 5th school day of school. Students must maintain five (5) credits at all times. A student may not drop a course at any time if he/she is not maintaining five (5) credits. Students may drop a course and substitute a replacement with instructor and administrative approval. Students must maintain a five (5) credit requirement to participate in extracurricular activities and to march at graduation.

After the five-day period has passed, a student may not drop a course even with parent/guardian permission without the approval of the Director of Guidance. Withdrawing from a course after the deadline will result in a “W” grade for the course even if the student is passing the course at the withdrawal date. The student failing at the time of withdrawal will receive a letter grade of “WF”.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Dual Enrollment is a unique enrichment program in which high school junior and senior students are given the opportunity to take college level courses. Students can earn credits that can be used for both high school and college requirements. Students need to work with their guidance counselor to ensure they are taking the appropriate courses. This is a great opportunity for students to earn free or reduced college credits while still in high school. BMU currently offers in house Dual Enrollment courses through Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Please see "SNHU in the High School" for more information.

The credits are transferable and will meet the general education requirements at most colleges and universities.

SNHU in the High School

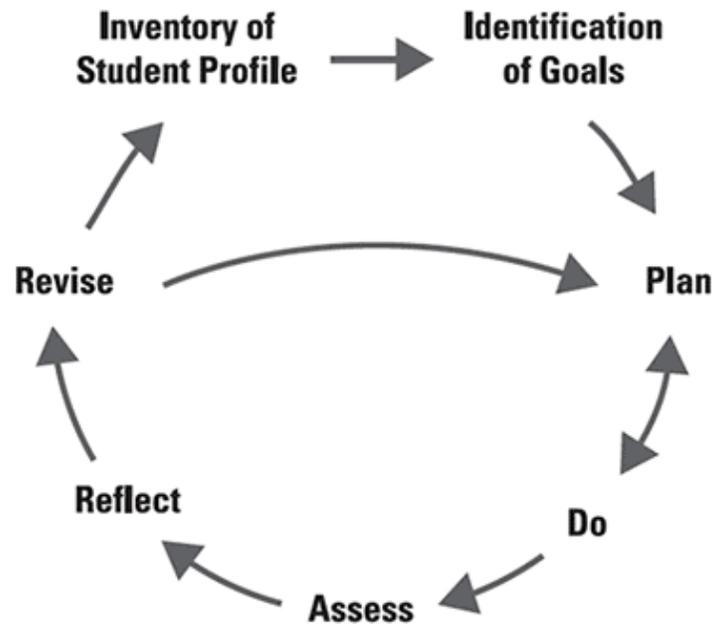
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) in the High School's dual enrollment program allows academically prepared BMU students the opportunity to earn early college credits while still in high school. At Blue Mountain Union, designated courses have been aligned to meet the same content, rigor and learning outcomes as that of SNHU. The high school teachers instructing these courses met the University's adjunct faculty requirements and have been approved by the University. Students will have the opportunity to take advantage of the dual credit opportunities at the beginning of the courses by completing an application and submitting the course registration fee for each class. Once the registration period closes, students will not be allowed to register for college credit. Since these are college courses, grades earned while enrolled in the course are recorded on a SNHU transcript. Portability and transferability of credits rests solely with individual colleges and universities as they have varying policies on accepting transfer credits; thus, it is the students' responsibility to consult with higher educational institutions to determine whether the SNHU course(s) can be transferred. Additional information regarding the program can be directed to the Director of Guidance. Currently, the courses offered for BMU/SNHU dual credit include: *College Biology and Lab, Literature, and Calculus*. It is anticipated that more courses will be added in the near future.

Auditing Courses

Students may request to audit a course in advance, rather than take the course for credit. Such a request may be granted only on a space available basis and will be at the discretion of the principal. Students electing to audit a course are expected to complete all assignments and tests, as required by the teacher. Students will be removed from the class if course work is not completed on time. Audited courses will not be computed into a student's grade point average. Students who are permitted to drop a course at the end of the first grading period may request to audit the course for the remainder of the semester or school year. ***Students may audit a course in which they are currently enrolled; the decision must be made no later than the fifteenth day of the first term of the course.***

Personal Learning Plan

The State of Vermont recently enacted the implementation of Personalized Learning Plan requirements through Act 77 in order to "help students achieve academic success, be prepared for post-secondary opportunities, and engage actively in civic life. Schools will need to ensure that they have designed a PLP process for implementation beginning in the fall of 2015. Schools will be expected to initiate a process for students to identify their goals, learning styles, and abilities and align this with the school's academic expectations and student's pathway toward graduation". (<http://education.vermont.gov/plp-working-group/main>)



This Personalized Learning Plan is a creation that is intended to be updated and modified as students' needs change. This plan will include the student's intentions related to curricular choices, their personal goals, their future career goals, assessment data, work and life experiences, and other relevant information about the student to help form a complete picture that will help lead to success for the individual both during the high school years and beyond. This plan will be helpful to the students, their families, and educators working with the student. This plan serves as an impetus in guiding the student toward their life goals and interests and for educators and administrators for course planning and development. The PLP will include Self Discovery, Career Exploration, Academic Planning, and Post-Secondary Preparation. Students will work on their PLP's during advisory times, in meetings with the VSAC Outreach counselor, and with their school counselor. Parents are not only encouraged to be part of the process, but to understand that their input is valuable and beneficial to their child's future.

At BMU, we use a system called Naviance. To access your students Naviance account, go to www.bmuschool.org, Resources and Links, Choose the student log on link.

Independent Study

Independent Study is a unique program that Blue Mountain offers the 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. Sophomores and juniors are limited to one independent study course per semester. Seniors may undertake up to two independent study courses per semester, depending upon availability and administrative approval. Ninth graders may not enroll in Independent Study unless there are unusual circumstances.

This program broadens the curriculum by offering students an opportunity to pursue an area of academic interest under the guidance of an advisor who has special skills in that

field. Independent Study projects may not replicate the existing curricula at Blue Mountain. Specialized topics contained within existing courses may be pursued at the advanced level after the student has taken the appropriate prerequisites.

It is important that students understand that the workload for an independent study course is equal to a course offered at the high school. Students take responsibility for their own learning in an independent study course.

Proposal Submission Process-Your proposal

- Your proposal needs to include the following: a description of the independent study, your learning goals, your work environment and location, the means of assessing your work and anticipated credits. A learning/time log must be turned in each quarter.

There are a limited number of available Independent Study courses. Students should begin this process immediately upon creating their schedule. This is a first come, first serve basis.

Academic Transcripts

Requests for official transcripts need to be made at the Guidance Office. Transcripts now include a profile of Blue Mountain School as well as personalized extracurricular information about the student when completed during their senior year of high school. Transcripts also include SAT/ACT scores, if applicable. It is important to note that although we include SAT/ACT scores on the transcripts, some colleges require that these score be sent directly from the testing site.

Academic Grading

Grading: Blue Mountain Union School uses the following marking system.

Letter Grade	Percentage Grade
A+	100% - 98%
A	97% - 93%
A-	92% - 90%
B+	89% - 87%
B	86% - 83%
B-	82% - 80%
C+	79% - 77%
C	76% - 73%
C-	72% - 70%
D+	69% - 67%
D	66% - 63%
D-	62% - 60%
F	59% - 0%
P	Passing

Advanced Courses	
The following courses will be given an additional five points towards your GPA:	
Department:	Course Title:
Language Arts	Honors 10 Honors 11 SNHU-Literature of a Place
Math	Pre-Calculus SNHU-Math
Science	SNHU-Biology Chemistry Physics
Social Science	SNHU-Modern World History
VTVLC Honors Courses	
SNHU	
Southern New Hampshire University Course (upon successful completion student will receive 3 college credits)	

Blue Mountain High School Graduation Requirements

Each student shall be required to complete 23 credits in order to graduate.

Students will be creating a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) under the direction of the school counselor. The course requirements may be modified to meet specific individual needs and plans. It should be noted that colleges often require additional, specific credits in mathematics and science (such as physics and algebra II), so working with a plan from freshmen year on will help ensure that future plans can be met.

Students must successfully complete all course requirements for the following:

English	4 Credits
Mathematics	3 Credits (one must be an algebra or geometry offering)
Sciences	3 Credits
Social Sciences	3 Credits (one credit must be U.S. History)
Physical Education	1 ½ Credits
Health	½ Credit
World Language	1 Credit
Fine Arts	1 Credit
Electives	5 Credits
Technology	½ Credit
Senior Seminar	½ Credit
TOTAL	23 Credits

Each student shall maintain a minimum of five (5) credits each year.

The PLP has state mandates which will be increased as it is being incorporated into our school system. Students and their parents/guardians are encouraged to meet with the guidance office staff to ensure the PLP is directly relevant to students desired goals and needs for their future. This may mean that requests for variances to the above requirements may be necessary to meet a particular career plan.

Students enrolled in a two year vocational program will be required to complete 22 credits.

Determining GPA

Unweighted System

All subjects are given equal weight and value (this is in effect for ALL students). Every course a student takes and the grade in the course is included in determining grade point average (GPA). This includes courses that are repeated to make up failure or to improve grade. This ranking procedure treats all subjects equally in value, regardless of academic challenge or academic difficulty.

Weighted System

Only the core subjects English, Math, Science, Social Sciences and Foreign Language are used in this system. The GPA's in these courses are averaged. This is used for class ranking and on college applications.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian

For the determination of valedictorian, salutatorian, and the top 10% of the students, BMU uses the average grades in English, Math, Science, History/Social Science and World Language courses, two of which must be weighted courses. In addition, the valedictorian and salutatorian must be a member of the graduating class their junior and senior year and completed two weighted courses.

Green and Gold Scholarship

The University of Vermont Green and Gold Scholarship is an academic merit scholarship awarded to the academically strongest rising high school senior from every Vermont public secondary school. The scholarship fund was established through a gift made by the family of the late Genevieve Patrick. Determination of the scholarship recipient is determined by the principal. In the event of a tie GPA, the Director of Guidance and/or Principal will determine the recipient.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

There are many different types of schedules. Below is a sample of a more traditional schedule.

Student Schedule

Freshman Year	Sophomore Year
English	English
Math	Math
Science	Science
Social Science	Social Science (U.S.History)
World Language	World Language
Physical Education	Physical Education
Fine Arts	Drivers Education
	Health
	Elective

Junior Year	Senior Year
English	English
Math	Math
Science	Science
Social Science	Social Science
Technology	Senior Seminar
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Senior Seminar– Grade 12

Senior Capstone – Grade 12

1 Credit (22106)

Seminar courses vary widely, but typically offer a small peer group the opportunity to investigate areas of interest. Course objectives may include improvement of research and investigatory skills, presentation skills, interpersonal skills, group process skills, and problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Seminars aimed at juniors and seniors often include a college and career exploration and planning component.

World Language

Spanish I

1 Credit (06101)

Level II

Designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, Spanish I courses emphasize basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level within predictable areas of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking people.

Spanish II

1 Credit (06102)

Level II

Prerequisite-Successful completion of Spanish I

Spanish II courses build upon skills developed in Spanish I, extending students' ability to understand and express themselves in Spanish and increasing their vocabulary. Typically, students learn how to engage in discourse for informative or social purposes, write expressions or passages that show understanding of sentence construction and the rules of grammar, and comprehend the language when spoken slowly. Students usually explore the customs, history, and art forms of Spanish-speaking people to deepen their understanding of the culture(s).

Spanish III

1 Credit (06103)

Level III

Prerequisite-Successful completion of Spanish II

Spanish III courses focus on having students express increasingly complex concepts both verbally and in writing while showing some spontaneity. Comprehension goals for students may include attaining more facility and faster understanding when listening to the language spoken at normal rates, being able to paraphrase or summarize written passages, and conversing easily within limited situations.

Spanish IV*1 Credit (06104)**Level III*

Prerequisite-Successful completion of Spanish III

Spanish V courses extend students' facility with the language so that they are able to understand, initiate, and sustain general conversations on topics beyond basic survival needs. Reading and writing tasks will usually include all normal verb tenses (present, past, and future).

Language Arts

English 9 (English/Language Arts I)

1 Credit (01001)

Level II

English/Language Arts I (9th grade) courses build upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing and usually include the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Typically, these courses introduce and define various genres of literature, with writing exercises often linked to reading selections.

English 10 (English/Language Arts II)

1 Credit (01002)

Level II

English/Language Arts II (10th grade) courses usually offer a balanced focus on composition and literature. Typically, students learn about the alternate aims and audiences of written compositions by writing persuasive, critical, and creative multi-paragraph essays and compositions. Through the study of various genres of literature, students can improve their reading rate and comprehension. Students can also develop the skills to determine the author's intent and/or theme and to recognize the techniques used by the author to deliver his or her message.

English 9/10 (World Literature)

1 Credit (01058)

Level III

Examines the theme of coming of age through classics in World Literature such as *The Odyssey*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *First They Killed My Father*, and short stories, essays, and poetry from around the globe, as well as a research project on a special topic, TBD each term based on class interest.

Journalism

1 Credit (11101)

Level II

Journalism courses (typically associated with the production of a school newspaper, yearbook, or literary magazine) emphasize writing style and technique as well as production values and organization. Journalism courses introduce students to the concepts of newsworthiness and press responsibility; develop students' skills in writing and editing stories, headlines, and captions; and teach students the principles of production design, layout, and printing. Photography and photojournalism skills may be included.

Memoir (Creative Writing)

1 Credit (01104)

Level III

Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose. The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively

on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

YATST Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together (Research/Technical Writing)

1 Credit (01105)

Level II

Research/Technical Writing classes prepare students to write research papers and/or technical reports. These classes emphasize researching (primary and secondary sources), organizing (material, thoughts, and arguments), and writing in a persuasive or technical style. Instructor permission required.

YOGA (Composition)

1 Credit (01149)

Level I

This course is open to any student who wishes to experience the pleasures and benefits of an ancient practice that is now pervasive throughout the world. Students will participate in a daily physical yoga practice that encourages the exploration of a range of postures designed to increase strength, flexibility, and balance in the body while developing the mind's capacity to attend, concentrate, and focus. Concurrent with the physical practice, students will complete weekly readings and frequent short writings that explore the diverse aspects of the yoga practice and the culture in which it originated. Students will also keep an updated log that traces the development of their own practice throughout the semester; this log may include narrative writing, visual art, interviews, and synthesis of research conducted in the class.

SNHU – English

2 Credits (01063)

Level III

This course introduces students to the study and appreciation of literature. It explores the literary genres of short story, poetry, drama and novel. There is an option for nonfiction prose as well. The course covers an introduction to literary terminology and an introduction to critical analysis of literature. The emphasis in this course is on contemporary literature. This course is writing intensive.

Literature of War (Literature of a Genre)

1 Credit (01104)

Level II

These courses have the same aim as general literature courses (to improve students' language arts and critical-thinking skills), focusing on one or several genres, such as poetry, essay, biography, short story, drama, and so on. Students determine the underlying assumptions and values within the selected works and also examine the structure, techniques, and intentions of the genre being studied. Oral discussion is an integral part of these genre-oriented courses, and written compositions are often required.

Math

Business Math – Grades 9-12

1 Credit (02154)

Level I

Business Math courses reinforce general math skills, emphasize speed and accuracy in computations, and these skills in a variety of business applications. Business Math courses reinforce general math topics (e.g., arithmetic, measurement, statistics, ratio and proportion, exponents, formulas, and simple equations) by applying these skills to business problems and situations; applications might include wages, hourly rates, payroll deductions, sales, receipts, accounts payable and receivable, financial reports, discounts, and interest.

Algebra I – Grades 9-12

1 Credit (02052)

Level II

Algebra I courses include the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations.

Geometry – Grades 9-12

1 Credit (02072)

Level II

Geometry courses, emphasizing an abstract, formal approach to the study of geometry, typically include topics such as properties of plane and solid figures; deductive methods of reasoning and use of logic; geometry as an axiomatic system including the study of postulates, theorems, and formal proofs; concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportion; and rules of angle measurement in triangles.

Algebra II – Grades 10-12

1 Credit (02056)

Level II

Prerequisite-Successful completion of Algebra I

Algebra II course topics typically include field properties and theorems; set theory; operations with rational and irrational expressions; factoring of rational expressions; in-depth study of linear equations and inequalities; quadratic equations; solving systems of linear and quadratic equations; graphing of constant, linear, and quadratic equations; properties of higher degree equations; and operations with rational and irrational exponents.

SNHU - Pre-Calculus – Grades 11-12

2 Credit (02110)

Level III

Prerequisite-Successful completion of Algebra II

This course emphasizes the algebra and concepts of functions. Students will learn the properties and graphing techniques for different types of functions including: linear, polynomial, rational, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Students will also learn to solve a variety of real world problems that rely on a number of different problem solving strategies and an understanding of these different types of functions. This course is intended for those students who wish to prepare for Calculus.

Science

Earth Science – Grades 9-12

1 Credit (03001)

Level I

Earth Science courses offer insight into the environment on earth and the earth's environment in space. While presenting the concepts and principles essential to students' understanding of the dynamics and history of the earth, these courses usually explore oceanography, geology, astronomy, meteorology, and geography.

Biology – Grades 9-12

1 Credit (03052)

Level II

Usually taken after a comprehensive initial study of biology, Biology—Advanced Studies courses cover biological systems in more detail. Topics that may be explored include cell organization, function, and reproduction; energy transformation; human anatomy and physiology; and the evolution and adaptation of organisms.

SNHU-Biology – Grades 11-12

3 Credit (03056)

Level III

Prerequisite: Biology

Adhering to the curricula recommended by the College Board and designed to parallel college-level introductory biology courses, AP Biology courses stress basic facts and their synthesis into major biological concepts and themes. These courses cover three general areas: molecules and cells (including biological chemistry and energy transformation); genetics and evolution; and organisms and populations (i.e., taxonomy, plants, animals, and ecology). AP Biology courses include college-level laboratory experiments.

Chemistry – Grades 10-12

1 Credit (03101)

Level II

Prerequisite-Enrolled in Algebra II and successful completion of Biology OR Teacher approval

Chemistry courses involve studying the composition, properties, and reactions of substances. These courses typically explore such concepts as the behaviors of solids, liquids, and gases; acid/base and oxidation/reduction reactions; and atomic structure. Chemical formulas and equations and nuclear reactions are also studied.

Applied Physics – Grades 10-12

1 Credit (03152)

Level I

Prerequisites-Algebra II

Physics courses involve the study of the forces and laws of nature affecting matter, such as equilibrium, motion, momentum, and the relationships between matter and energy. The study of physics includes examination of sound, light, and magnetic and electric phenomena.

Physics – Grades 10-12

1 Credit (03152)

Level II

Prerequisites-Algebra II

Usually taken after a comprehensive initial study of physics, Physics—Advanced Studies courses provide instruction in laws of conservation, thermodynamics, and kinetics; wave and particle phenomena; electromagnetic fields; and fluid dynamics.

Social Sciences

US History

1 Credit (US History credit) (04103) Level II

Modern U.S. History courses examine the history of the United States from the Civil War or Reconstruction era (some courses begin at a later period) through the present time. These courses typically include a historical review of political, military, scientific, and social developments.

Psychology

1 Credit (04254) Level III

Psychology courses introduce students to the study of individual human behavior. Course content typically includes (but is not limited to) an overview of the field of psychology, topics in human growth and development, personality and behavior, and abnormal psychology.

US Elections

1 Credit (04254) Level II

This course will analyze the 2012 U.S. presidential election as it unfolds. We will take a current events approach to studying the process of how a president is elected. Topics will include: political ideology, campaign strategies, voting demographics, polls, and the Electoral College. Activities will include debate, role play, a mock campaign, and a mock election. This course is open to any student interested in watching and understanding the selection of an American president.

YATST (Particular Topics in Sociology)

1 Credit (04259) Level II

These courses examine a particular topic in sociology, such as culture and society or the individual in society, rather than provide an overview of the field of sociology. Instructor permission required.

YOGA – Social Science

1 Credit (04399) Level I

Social Science courses provide students with an introduction to the various disciplines in the social sciences, including anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. Typically, these courses emphasize the methodologies of the social sciences and the differences among the various disciplines.

SNHU History: HIS 114: United States History II: 1865 to the Present

1 High School Credit/3 College Credits (US History credit) (04103)

Level III

This course will focus on the second half of the United States History covering the period following the Civil War. The economic, political and ideological development that allowed the United States to attain a position of world leadership are closely examined. A major focus will be on the historical events specifically from the post Civil War period of Reconstruction through the outbreak of World War I. Post World War I events will be examined through more of a sociological focus looking at the impact of significant historical events on the everyday lives of people and impacts to society. A summer reading book and accompanying assignments are required for this course.

Personal Finance & Economics

1 Credit (04201)

Level I

Economics courses provide students with an overview of economics with primary emphasis on the principles of microeconomics and the U.S. economic system. These courses may also cover topics such as principles of macroeconomics, international economics, and comparative economics. Economic principles may be presented in formal theoretical contexts, applied contexts, or both.

Music

Chorus – Grades 9-12

½ Credit (05110)

Prerequisite- Teacher approval

Chorus is offered so that students may develop a full appreciation of music through active participation. Music will be chosen from Baroque, Classical, Romantic and contemporary periods. The chorus will take part in the following performances throughout the year, Holiday Concert, Spring Concert and Graduation Ceremonies. More advanced students will be chosen for the Newport district Music Festival and the All State Music Festival Auditions. Auditions will be held for the select ensemble, which is a group of eight to sixteen performers that sing at various community functions. In the spring students will work with choreographer, Molly Winter Stewart on either short musical works or a major musical show.

Band – Grades 9-12

½ Credit (05101)

Prerequisite- Teacher approval

Band is designed to develop instrumental technique and a comprehensive understanding of music concepts through group study and performance.

The BMU School band is comprised of students from grades 7-12 with at least one year of previous instrumental music experience. Classical and Contemporary styles of music will be performed throughout the year. The Holiday Concert, Spring Concert and Graduation Ceremonies are among the performances scheduled each year.

Advanced students will be asked to perform in the Pit Orchestra for the musical or short musical works. All juniors and seniors are required to audition for the Northeast Music Festival (All State Auditions are optional). It is optional for freshman and sophomores to audition. Students are recommended to take private lessons and form small chamber ensembles of like- instruments. See the Director for more information.

Music Theory – Grades 9-12

½ Credit (05113)

Prerequisite- Teacher approval

Music Theory courses provide students with an understanding of the fundamentals of music and include one or more of the following topics: composition, arrangement, analysis, aural development, and sight reading.

Art

Basic Drawing - Grades 9-12 (Creative Art – Drawing)

½ Credit (05156)

Creative Art—Drawing courses cover the same topics as Creative Art—Drawing/Painting, but focus on drawing. In keeping with this attention on two-dimensional work, students typically work with several media (such as pen-and-ink, pencil, chalk, and so on), but some courses may focus on only one medium.

Ceramics/Pottery – Grades 9-12

½ Credit (05159)

Ceramics/Pottery courses cover the same topics as Creative Art—Comprehensive courses, but focus on creating three-dimensional works out of clay and ceramic material. Particular attention is paid to the characteristics of the raw materials, their transformation under heat, and the various methods used to create and finish objects.

Acrylic Painting – Grades 9-12 (Creative Art – Drawing/Painting)

1 Credit (05155)

Creative Art—Drawing/Painting courses cover the same topics as Creative Art—Comprehensive courses, but focus on drawing and painting. In keeping with this attention on two-dimensional work, students typically work with several media (such as pen-and-ink, pencil, chalk, watercolor, tempera, oils, acrylics, and so on), but some courses may focus on only one medium.

Integrated Fine Arts – Grades 9-12 (Art & Education)

1 Credit (05201)

Integrated Fine arts courses explore self-expression across the fine arts: any subset or all of the visual arts, music, drama, theater, and literature may be included in the curriculum for these courses. Students both study and critique the works of others and participate in or produce art themselves. These courses often include comparative study of various art forms over time (i.e., the interrelationship of literature, music, and the performing arts of a particular time period and culture).

Technology

Computer Graphics – Grades 9-12

½ Credit Quarter 2 (10202)

In this semester long course students will learn the tools and techniques of computer graphic art. It is very exciting time in technology where as the creation of high-resolution digital artwork is accessible to any computer user. Digital art has many special qualities and is only confined by the limits on one's imagination and technical abilities. While it is a technical challenge to learn the "how" of computer graphics, it is equally engaging to be creative in the process. This is a demanding course for both sides of the brain. Students will learn the fundamentals of design and will work hands-on the computer with powerful software programs developing their skills and talent. Finished portfolio-quality artwork will be expected from each student.

Web Page Design – Grades 9-12

½ Credit Quarter 1(10201)

In this semester long course students will begin to learn the language of the World Wide Web: HTML (Hyper-Text Mark-up Language). This is one of the most readily understandable computer languages and in this course students will use it to create their own web-pages. Students will also assist in the design and development of the school's own website, learn the fuller capability of the popular web-browsers and utilize various multi-media tools to enhance web-pages. In addition, we will explore emerging web technologies such as blogging. Get in on the action of the World Wide Web and learn to speak the language.

Robotics-Emerging Technologies

½ Credit Quarter 3 (21053)

In this quarter long course, high school students will be introduced to Robotics. This will be a 'hands on' course where students will build robots in teams. They will apply principals of mechanical engineering and learn how to control the robots through programming. The many ways in which robotics shape our society will be examined in the course. Students will also develop skills in programming (coding), which is the way in which robots, and all our digital devices, are controlled and made to provide the services for which we depend on in this age.

Digital Video Editing and Production – Grades 9-12 (Audio Visual Production)

½ Credit Quarter 4 (11051)

In this course students continue to develop computer graphic skills. The specific thrust of the course is the exploration of digital video editing and production. As a course requirement each student will create a high quality five-minute digital movie. In order to successfully create this movie, students will study both technical and creative aspects of film-making. Students will attain a comprehensive grounding in film appreciation in the process. Students will become proficient in using cameras, setting up shots and editing video clips. The software programs Windows Movie Maker and Adobe Premier will be used. This is both a fun and challenging course.

Physical Education

Physical Education – Grades 9-12

½ Credit Semester 1 and/or 2(08001)

Physical Education courses provide students with knowledge, experience, and an opportunity to develop skills in more than one of the following sports or activities: team sports, individual/dual sports, recreational sports, and fitness/conditioning activities.

YOGA – Physical Education – Other

½ Credit Semester 1 and/or 2(08049)

This course is open to any student who wishes to experience the pleasures and benefits of an ancient practice that is now pervasive throughout the world. Students will participate in a daily physical yoga practice that encourages the exploration of a range of postures designed to increase strength, flexibility, and balance in the body while developing the mind's capacity to attend, concentrate, and focus. Concurrent with the physical practice, students will complete weekly readings and frequent short writings that explore the diverse aspects of the yoga practice and the culture in which it originated. Students will also keep an updated log that traces the development of their own practice throughout the semester; this log may include narrative writing, visual art, interviews, and synthesis of research conducted in the class.

Drivers Education

Drivers Education– Grades 10-12

1 Credit (08152)

Prerequisite: Students absolutely **MUST** have a valid Vermont Learners Permit before the first day of class. You must give the guidance department secretary a copy of your permit as soon as you receive it.

Drivers' Education—Classroom and Laboratory courses provide students with the knowledge and experience to become safe drivers on America's roadways. Topics in these courses cover legal obligations and responsibility, rules of the road and traffic procedures, safe driving strategies and practices, and the physical and mental factors affecting the driver's capability (including alcohol and other drugs). Experience in driving a vehicle is an essential component of these courses.

Health

Health – Grades 9-12

½ Credit (08051)

This course is mandatory for graduation.

Topics covered within Health Education courses may vary widely, but typically include personal health (nutrition, mental health and stress management, drug/alcohol abuse prevention, disease prevention, and first aid) and consumer health issues. The courses may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development, and/or community resources.

Vermont Virtual Learning Community (VTVLC)

VTVLC was founded in 2010 as Vermont's first state-wide online program offering programs and courses to K-12 students by partnering with public and independent schools. Today, VTVLC serves hundreds of middle and high school students with more than 70 online courses. Enrollment is open to public, private and home school students. Students from non-partner schools and from outside Vermont enroll on a tuition basis.

Blue Mountain Union has partnered with VTVLC for the 2016-17 school year. Students will be able to access courses not offered at Blue Mountain in areas such as math, English, science, social studies as well as elective courses on a space available basis. These courses will appear on the student's Blue Mountain transcript. To be enrolled in a VTVLC course, students must work with their school counselor as well as the site administrator to complete the registration process. For more information and a list of course offerings visit: www.VTVLC.org, see the school counselor, or visit the site administrator.

Students and their parent/guardians are asked to review and sign a document outlining the basic elements and format of a VTVLC course before their student starts the course. Please see the guidance staff for the form.

River Bend Career & Technical Center Courses

River Bend Career and Technical Center partners with Blue Mountain Union School to provide a technical education as well as a full range of services which include assistance with academic and skill development, career planning, and in decision making. The following programs are available at River Bend Career and Technical Center.

- Automotive Technology – Grades 11-12
- Construction Technology & Residential Energy - Grades 11-12
- Cosmetology – Grades 11-12
- Culinary Arts – Grades 11-12
- Diversified Agriculture/Natural Resources – Grades 11-12
- Emergency Services & Fire Management – Grades 11-12
- Gaming, Animation & Web Design – Grades 11-12
- Health Sciences Technology – Grades 11-12
- Heavy Equipment Operators& Maintenance – Grades 11-12
- Small Engines & Power Equipment - Grades 11-12

Please refer to the River Bend Career and Technical Center Program of Studies Admission Procedures and Requirements for any questions in regard to placement or intake criteria considerations. Interested individuals can go to River Bend's website, www.rbctc.org for more information.