

# 2024-2025 Course Description Booklet



East Kentwood  
Freshman Campus

6170 Valley Lane SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508  
616-698-9292

## MISSION STATEMENT

The East Kentwood Freshman Campus, through a collaborative learning environment, will develop the characteristics of Adaptability, Integrity, and Perseverance in all students for the purpose of becoming successful and productive citizens.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Rob Stacey (A-L)

Mrs. Kelly Keimig (M-Z)

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### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS – SUBJECT AREAS

REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS	TOTAL REQUIRED
<b>1. ENGLISH</b>		<b>4 credits</b>
a. English 9 A/B or Advanced English 9 A/B	1	
b. English 10 A/B or Advanced English 10 A/B	1	
c. English 11 A/B or AP Language 11 A/B	1	
d. 2 Senior English electives or AP Language or AP literature	1	
<b>2. SCIENCE</b>		<b>3 credits</b>
a. BioPhysics A/B	1	
b. Chemistry A	.5	
c. Chemistry B, Earth Science A or Environmental Science A	.5	
d. Biology 2	.5	
e. Science Elective	.5	
<b>3. MATHEMATICS</b>		<b>4 credits</b>
a. Algebra 1 A/B	1	
b. Geometry A/B	1	
c. Algebra 2 A/B	1	
d. Additional Math or Math related course taken senior year.	1	
<b>4. SOCIAL STUDIES</b>		<b>3 credits</b>
a. U.S. History A/B	1	
b. World History A/B	1	
c. Civics or AP Government	.5	
d. Economics or AP Economics	.5	
<b>5. PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>		<b>1 credit</b>
a. Health	.5	
b. Physical Education	.5	
<b>6. Visual/Performing/Applied Arts</b>		<b>1 credit</b>
<b>7. World Language Experience (2 Yrs Same Language)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 Credits</b>
<b>8. Other Electives</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6 Credits</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.0</b>

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

GPA's are figured cumulatively at the end of each semester. Credit (CR) and No Credit (NC) are **not** calculated into the formula for GPA's. The following is the grading policy implemented by the Board of Education:

A	93-100 (4.0)	C	73-76 (2.0)	CR	Credit
A-	90-92 (3.7)	C-	70-72 (1.7)	NC	No Credit
B+	87-89 (3.3)	D+	67-69 (1.3)	AU	Audit (No credit)
B	83-86 (3.0)	D	63-66 (1.0)	EA	Zero GPA, but credit
B-	80-82 (2.7)	D-	60-62 ( .7)		
C+	77-79 (2.3)	E	0-59 ( 0)		

## **STUDENT VUE/PARENT VUE ACCESS**

Students and parents are given access to an online portal which allows them to see grades, attendance and discipline. Account signup information is given by the school in which your student attends. Accounts are set up one time and are valid throughout a student's entire enrollment in Kentwood Public Schools. If you have not yet set up an account, please contact the school office. If you have an account and are having trouble accessing it, please email [vuesupport@kentwoodps.org](mailto:vuesupport@kentwoodps.org). Log in access can be found at [kentwoodps.org](http://kentwoodps.org) by clicking on "Academics" then on "Parent VUE/Student VUE".

## **CLASS PLACEMENT**

Class placement is based on the total number of credits a student has earned during high school by the start of the current school year. We do not promote students mid-year.

Freshman = Less than 4 credits  
Sophomore = 4 to less than 10 credits  
Junior = 10 to less than 16 credits  
Senior = 16 or more credits

## **TESTING OUT**

Students who have acquired knowledge or skills in certain areas may have the opportunity to demonstrate reasonable mastery in a course for the purpose of "testing out".

A student currently enrolled in high school will be permitted to "test out" of any class in which they are not currently enrolled per State of Michigan legislation.

- Classes a student has already taken for grade and/or credit are exempt from testing out.

A waiver for the course will be earned based on successful mastery of the required assessment:

1. The student must receive a grade equivalent of a "C+" or better on a comprehensive final examination. Students may also be required to demonstrate mastery through basic assessments used in class.
2. The course will appear on the transcript as "TO" (Tested Out-Passed), however, **will not** be computed into the student's grade point average and **will not** count as credit toward graduation, but will meet a specific graduation requirement.

Students interested in testing out should visit the following website -

<https://sites.google.com/kentwoodps.org/ektestingout/home>

### **REPEATED COURSES FOR GRADE IMPROVEMENT**

If a student elects to repeat a course, the following procedure must be used:

1. A parent/student/counselor discussion will be held to consider the advantages and disadvantages to repeating a course.
2. The proper documentation/paperwork must be completed and signed by parent, student and guidance counselor prior to repeating the course.
3. Upon completion of the repeated class, the student's cumulative grade point average will be computed using only the higher of the two grades - credit will only be issued once for any repeated course.

**IF A STUDENT FAILS A REQUIRED COURSE, HE/SHE WILL NEED TO REPEAT THE COURSE IN A FUTURE SEMESTER. THE "E" WILL PERMANENTLY REMAIN ON THE STUDENT'S OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT AND WILL BE CALCULATED INTO THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE.**

### **NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship and/or personal sense of self-worth.

As such, the Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its educational programs or activities.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of Protected Classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students, and does not tolerate harassment of any kind.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to the Protected Classes, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.

## ART DEPARTMENT

### ALL ART COURSES MEET THE VISUAL/PERFORMING/APPLIED ARTS REQUIREMENT

#### AR 101 – 1 Semester .5 Credit

#### ART 1

This beginning studio art will encompass a variety of methods and materials as students explore the worlds of drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. From learning to see and render to exercising one's creativity, this introductory course will provide students with the opportunity to work with a variety of media within each category as well as explore art in the digital age. Students will study historical and contemporary artists and theories, and will gain an understanding of how artists are influenced by and shape the world. The material covered in this course will develop the technical and critical thinking skills they will need as artists.

#### AR 121 - 1 Semester .5 Credit

#### CERAMICS & SCULPTURE

The material covered in this course will provide a foundation for all 3-D art courses. The student will study form, volume, and space relationships through the exploration of decorative, utilitarian, and conceptual approaches to sculpture. Sculptural work will focus on the additive, subtractive, and assemblage techniques to construct works of art. Exploration of traditional and contemporary ceramic hand-building (slabs, pinching, coil building) and the creation of functional containers and sculptural work. The course teaches glazing, clay composition, aesthetics of form, surface decoration, and historical and contemporary ceramics from around the world.

#### AR 111 - 1 Semester .5 Credit

#### DRAWING 1

The skill of drawing realistically is developed in Drawing 1. This course emphasizes the application of the elements and principles of design in two-dimensional artwork. An in-depth study of the Renaissance and Surrealism is covered in this class. Students will explore a variety of drawing mediums: pencil, charcoal, pastel and ink.

## BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

#### BU 101 –1 Semester .5 Credit

#### BUSINESS BASICS

This class exposes students to the variety of classes offered by the Business Department. Students will sample assorted content from computers, video communication, marketing, finance, webpage design and computer programming courses. By taking this class, students should be able to decide which area(s) of business will help them prepare for classes at the 10-12 building, college or their career.

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

#### EN 102A/B– 2 Semesters 1 Credit

#### ENGLISH 9 - REQUIRED

English 9 is a two semester survey course designed to review language, vocabulary, and introduce students to the study of all areas of literature that will be further explored in grades 10 and 11. Writing is used throughout the course. Semester 1 focuses on fiction, including William Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet whereas Semester 2 focuses on nonfiction, poetry, research paper, and speech.

#### EN112A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit

#### ADV ENG 9A/B

This course is a thorough study of American and British Literature. There is a heavy emphasis on writing and essay-based assessments. In addition to the comprehensive literature program with an emphasis on all genres, students will receive formal instruction in speaking and writing utilizing grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary skills. This course is designed for students who plan on beginning the Advanced Placement Program immediately after the completion of this course.

## WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

### **FL 152A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit**

### **FRENCH 1** Meets World Language Requirement

The student learns the sound system, the basic elementary vocabulary and basic elementary grammar. The student is taught to understand, speak, read, and write elementary French with an emphasis on comprehension. The student gains an understanding of French people, culture and civilization, uses commands, and creates and presents skits.

### **FL 162A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit**

### **GERMAN 1** Meets World Language Requirement

In German 1 the student studies the German sound system, the German influence on English, and basic vocabulary and grammar. The student learns to use basic German through questions, direct dialogues, skits, and presentations with an emphasis on comprehension and speaking. The student gains an understanding of German people and culture.

### **FL 172A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit**

### **LATIN 1** Meets World Language Requirement

Latin 1 is an introduction to the language and culture of Ancient Rome. Students will improve English writing skills through the study of vocabulary and grammar. They will explore Roman history, geography, and mythology. They explore the Coliseum, gladiators, and the way Romans lived 2000 years ago.

### **FL 182A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit**

### **SPANISH 1** Meets World Language Requirement

Spanish 1 is a two semester course designed for students in grades 9-12. The student is taught to understand, speak, read, and write elementary Spanish through experiences and activities which are designed to help them deal with practical everyday situations. Tapes, dialogues, films, cultural "realia", original videotapes, games and a look at a myriad of Hispanic cultures are all part of Spanish 1. Some basic grammatical structures of the Spanish language will be introduced, but the main emphasis is on comprehension and oral production skills. Memorization of vocabulary is an integral part of the curriculum.

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

### **MT 102A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit**

### **ALGEBRA 1**

This course is generally considered the first course in a college prep sequence. In this course the student will study Number Systems, Number Sense, Expressions, Equations, Inequalities, Functions, Linear Functions, Quadratic Equations and Functions, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, and Polynomial Functions.

### **MT 112A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit**

### **GEOMETRY** **Prerequisite:** Credit in Algebra 1

Geometry introduces formal proofs and explanations involving deductive reasoning. Topics include Mathematical Reasoning, Lines, Angles, Constructions, Triangles and Trigonometry, Quadrilaterals, Circles, Solids, and Transformations.

### **MT 122A/B – 2 Semesters 1 Credit**

### **ALGEBRA 2** **Prerequisite:** Credit in Geometry

Algebra 2 reviews and extends previously studied algebraic concepts. In addition the student will study Polynomials, Functions, Trigonometric Functions, Conics, Sequences and Series, Counting Principles and Probability, and Statistics.

**MT 401 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**MATH MENTORSHIP**

The goal of this course is to strengthen students' math skills. It is designed to support learning and understanding of Algebra concepts. It allows you to practice your new skills as well as gain the confidence in mathematics to be successful. If you have previously struggled in math, this class is a good elective option to help deepen your understanding of math and help support you with your work in Algebra 1. This class can be taken both semesters.

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**ALL MUSIC COURSES MEET THE VISUAL/PERFORMING/APPLIED ARTS REQUIREMENT**

**MU 103 – 2 Semesters  
1 Credit**

**FRESHMAN BAND**

**Pre-requisite:** Prior Middle School Band Experience  
Or Director approval

This course is designed for students who wish to further their skills gained from playing in middle school band and the next course for most ninth grade students. Students enrolled in this course during the first semester are members of the Falcon Marching Band. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester this band functions as an independent ensemble focused on presenting quality concert music. Students who enroll in the course are expected to attend band camp, and all scheduled rehearsals, including one weeknight rehearsal during marching season. Attendance at concerts/performance is a part of the assessment process. Many band students also participate in EKHS athletic programs throughout the school year without major conflicts between schedules.

**MU 201 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**INSTRUMENTAL TECHNIQUES**

**Pre-requisite:** Prior Middle School Band Experience &  
must enroll in Freshman Band 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

The focus of this class is on individual skill building for those students who want to learn a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument or those students who did not attend band camp. Students enrolled in this class will be required to secure an instrument which is in good working order prior to the first day of class. The condition of instruments will be assessed the first two days of class. If you are interested in playing a large instrument, contact the band directors for more details. A variety of instructional materials will be used and each student will be supplied with necessary music and text. The final assessment will include a public performance which demonstrates the student's progress. Students who enroll in his class will then be placed into freshman band for the second semester.

**MU 273 – 2 Semester  
1 Credit**

**JAZZ BAND**

This class meets during zero hour

Students will study jazz harmony/theory and improvisation in a traditional jazz band setting. However, no prior jazz experience is necessary for enrollment. Jazz instruments include trumpet, saxophone, trombone, bass, piano, drum set, guitar. This group will give numerous performances throughout the school year and participate in several festivals. This class meets before school during zero hour. Transportation not provided by KPS Bussing.

**MU 123 – 2 Semesters  
1 Credit**

**PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

Philharmonic is a non-auditioned string orchestra; however, students enrolled must have at least 3 years of prior experience in orchestra. Students in this course will study intermediate high school string literature and techniques. Performances are scheduled throughout the school year. Attendance at concerts/performances is a part of the assessment process.

**MU 113 – 2 Semesters  
1 Credit**

**9TH GRADE CHOIR**

There are two beginning choirs at the high school level: Freshman women and Freshman men. This choir is non-auditioned; however, there is an expectation that students will make a commitment in effort and citizenship commensurate with the high level of performance expected of all vocal students. Students will be introduced to fundamental techniques in quality vocal production, basic theoretical concepts of note reading, time signatures and key signatures, and an introduction to solfeggio and sight singing. Students will be introduced to a variety of music from various periods, styles and cultures. Students are required to participate in evening performances and festivals.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (WELLNESS AND ESSENTIAL LIVING SKILLS)

**PE 111 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**  
Meets Physical Education Requirement

If you are looking for something entertaining and competitive that will get you on the road to fitness, this course is for you. All students taking this class will participate in activities such as basketball, flag football, floor hockey, volleyball, soccer, and team handball. This class is also designed to expose students to a variety of leisure time pursuits. Activities will be selected from, but not limited to, the following: badminton, tennis, golf, archery, table tennis, and aerobic fitness.

**PE 112 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**FITNESS TRENDS**

This course is open to students who are looking to learn the key concepts of lifelong fitness. Students will gain knowledge and skills related to building cardiovascular fitness and endurance, muscular strength and flexibility and nutritional practices to fuel a healthy lifestyle. This 16 week course will challenge and encourage students each day. Most class time will be spent exercising in a variety of pilates, aerobics, cardio and interval exercises. Students will also have the opportunity to build understanding of nutrition with meal planning and food preparation in a classroom kitchen space. Students will measure and track their progress towards their fitness goals, while building healthy habits for their lifetime.

**PE 281 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**WEIGHT TRAINING**  
Meets Physical Education Requirement

This course is open to all students and is designed for those who want to improve their fitness at a high level. This class introduces and reinforces the proper guidelines, principles, and techniques of weight lifting, and the development of muscular strength, endurance, and power. Allows each student to progress at his/her individual level of experience. Students may take this course more than one semester based on availability. Regular PE will be substituted if schedule conflicts arise. Advanced PE is located at the 10/12 building.

**PE 121 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**HEALTH**  
Meets Health Requirement

Health is a one semester course, which focuses on positive decision making with emphasis upon physical, mental, and social wellness. Respect and responsibility form the groundwork for students in first aid, CPR, stress management, decision making skills, fitness and nutrition awareness, adolescence, communicable diseases, relationships and prejudice, and substance abuse.

## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

**SC155 - 2 Semesters  
1 Credit**

**BIO/PHYSICS - REQUIRED**

The crosscutting concept of energy and matter is foundational to the natural sciences. This course studies physical interactions of matter and changes in energy and the applications to living and non-living systems. The course develops an understanding of Newton's Laws and applies them to interactions at the macro and atomic-molecular scales. Interactions between atoms/molecules as well as energy changes are used to explain carbon-transforming processes including photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and carbon-cycling in ecosystems. The course also considers how human activities affect Earth systems. This integrated course develops foundational ideas for future coursework in physics, chemistry, biology, and earth science.



## SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

**SS 102A/B – 2 Semesters  
1 Credit**

**U.S. HISTORY - REQUIRED**

This required course is designed to give the students a broad perspective on the forces and events that shaped the nation in the twentieth century.

**SS 403A/B - 2 Semesters  
1 Credit**

**AP U.S. HISTORY**

Admission into this class is based on current 8th grade English and Social Studies grades, test scores and availability.

This course is a college level class which prepares the student to pass the national US History test given in May for college credit. It requires some summer work before the fall class begins. It lasts both semesters. It covers the period Exploration through the Reagan Presidency. It may be substituted for regular US History. Pre Qualification criteria applies. Limited seats available for Freshman students.

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

**TL101 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**TEEN LEADERSHIP**

This course is offered to all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students looking to work on becoming responsible community members. This course helps build self-confidence and hope, helps students acquire the skills they need to succeed, teaches leadership and develops effective public speaking skills.

**TL 301 - 1 Semester  
.5 Credit  
(can be taken more than one semester)**

**LINKS MENTORSHIP**

Meets VPA Requirement  
**Prerequisite:** Application process.

EK LINKS Mentorship is an elective course that enables the student to make a difference in another person's life. Students enrolled in the LINKS course will be mentors, role models, and friends to students with a diverse range of social and academic needs. There is a focus on leadership skills, understanding and adapting to individual differences in the school setting, written and verbal communication skills, modeling social experiences, and advocating for others. The curriculum includes and evaluations are based on: journaling, online lessons, pre/post assessments, attendance, classroom participation with peers, and a final project.

**BU 231 - 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

**COMPUTER PROGRAMMING**  
Math Related Elective

Computer Programming is a class that exposes students to Visual Basic, one programming language in the Visual Studio suite. Students learn programming concepts such as: treating data as an object, using methods to manipulate those objects, and classes to create templates for those objects; variable value and types; means to visualize data as conditional or iterative; and means to store information like arrays and strings. This class is very project driven.

**BU 432 - 2 Semesters  
1 Credit**

**AP COMPUTER PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES**  
Math Related Elective

AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

## THEATRE DEPARTMENT

### ALL THEATRE COURSES MEET THE VISUAL/PERFORMING/APPLIED ARTS REQUIREMENT

**TH 201 – 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE**

This is an introductory Theatre course. It is intended for students with a curiosity, but no past experience, in the performing arts. Basic lessons on theatrical elements, performance, design, and interpretation will be covered. Reading, writing, drawing, speaking and memorization will be used to complete this course of study. This class is an excellent opportunity for the student who wishes to experience the basic concepts of Theatre and gain a new appreciation for the fine arts.

**TH 211 - 1 Semester  
.5 Credit**

#### **THEATRE ARTS**

This is an introductory Theatre course intended for students who, with experience, are considering the option to continue their studies with Theatre 2 and 3. If you have performed as an actor, singer or dancer or have an interest in design or scriptwriting, this class is for you! A detailed approach to stagecraft will be covered as we explore the elements that create a theatrical production. Students will be required to read, interpret, and design using the playwright's words as the blueprint. Written work, performances, and design projects will all be used to complete this course of study.