

Course Scheduling Example For:

Build a schedule for each year. What courses would you want to take given the choices provided? Remember some are required...

Period	8 th Grade (current)	9 th grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
Science					
Math					
Social Studies					
Foreign Language					
English/Writing					
Elective 1					
Elective 2					

February 18, 2015

Dear Valley Scholars and Families,

Before you know it the end of the 8th grade year will be upon us. This means that preparation for the transition to high school should begin sooner rather than later. An important component of the Valley Scholars Program is advising students on the high school courses necessary for college preparation. Being prepared for college means challenging yourself academically by taking advanced math, science, composition, and social science classes such as history and government. High school classes are taught at various levels of difficulty and come with different expectations of the students enrolled. Here is one example.

There may be several English classes offered: English 9 or English 9 honors or advanced. Later in high school, students will have a choice of taking US History, AP (Advanced Placement) US History or maybe dual enrollment US History. AP is an advanced class offering college credit through a year-end examination while the dual enrollment class is offered through the local community college for credit. The choices can be confusing at times but our program is here to help and to offer support when it comes time to choose your classes.

Our general expectations for students in high school are as follows:

Each student will take: **4 years of English, 4 years of Mathematics, 4 years of Lab Science, 3 years of Foreign Language and 4 years of Social Science (history, government).**

If your Valley Scholar is enrolled in Algebra I or a foreign language class then completion of the above criteria has already begun. Remember that courses taken in middle school count for high school credit in these areas. Below is an outline of how a class schedule each year may look. Remember that sometimes not all classes are available, and sometimes classes are offered at the same time requiring a choice.

On our Valley Scholars webpage, www.jmu.edu/valleyscholars we have posted a worksheet that you may print off that will assist you in planning a course schedule each year. If you have questions about this information or would like more information about course scheduling and expectations please contact our office. We look forward to seeing the students on the 28th of February!

Sample Course Plan 9th-12th grade

9 th Grade	10 th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (required) • Foreign Language • Math • Science • Social Studies/History/Government • Elective 1 or 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (required) • Foreign Language • Math • Science • Social Studies/History/Government • Elective 1 or 2
11 th Grade	12 th Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (required) • Foreign Language • Math • Science • Social/Studies/History/Government • Elective 1 or 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (required) • Foreign Language (4th year) • Math • Science • Social Studies/History/Government • Elective 1 or 2 (Electives may be another science, math, or academic subject area)

Course Descriptions

Honors classes – Honors classes in any subject are generally accelerated courses designed to provide students with advanced instruction and college preparation. Honors courses lead to courses that are labeled AP or DE (dual enrollment) in grades 10th through 12th. Students with strong skills and preparation in a particular subject area should take the class at the honors level if offered.

AP (Advanced Placement) Classes- Advanced Placement (**AP**) is a program in the United States and Canada, created by the College Board, which offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. American colleges and universities often grant placement and **course** credit to students who obtain high scores on the examinations. AP classes assist in preparing students for college level classes.

Dual Enrollment Classes- A program through which high school students may enroll in college courses while still enrolled in high school. Students taking dual enrollment classes may or may not receive credit for the course from a college or university upon admission and attendance. Dual enrollment courses are designed to provide instruction that exposes students to college level work and expectations. Dual enrollment courses may be taught in the high school, online, or on a college or university campus.

Governor's School- (application required by school) Governor's Schools give gifted students academic and visual and performing arts opportunities beyond those normally available in the students' home schools. Students are able to focus on a specific area of intellectual or artistic strength and interest and to study in a way that best suits the gifted learner's needs. For example, small-group instruction, hands-on-experiences, research, field studies, or realistic or artistic productions are major elements in the instructional design at all schools. In Virginia there are three types of Governors School programs: Academic Year Governor's Schools, Summer Residential Governor's Schools, summer regional Governor's Schools.