

**INSIGHT SCHOOL  
OF  
MICHIGAN  
COURSE CURRICULUM GUIDE  
2016-2017**



**This curriculum guide contains information concerning the requirements for graduation and current written descriptions of the courses.**

**It is important to remember these courses are used as guides and a number of different unforeseen circumstances could alter the course offerings and description.**

**There is always a chance of course conflicts due to teacher assignments, number of sections offered, etc.**

**Our mission is to provide students who are struggling with their education an alternative learning program that helps them stay in school, achieve a high school diploma, and prepare for success in college, life and work.**

**“The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.”**

**Confucius**

## Course Descriptions

### **Career Planning:**

Students use an informative interactive process to explore career and life options. They begin with a thorough examination of their own interests, aptitudes, achievements, and personality styles. Instructional materials then helps them match job market information, interview techniques, training requirements, and educational paths to potential careers that suit their strengths and personal priorities. Successfully completing this course gives students the ability to identify and describe their personal interests, aptitudes, and lifestyle goals; locate and evaluate information about different careers; identify the skills and knowledge needed for careers of interest and how to obtain them; and create an entrepreneurial plan.

Course Length: One quarter

### **English Language Arts:**

ENG102: Literary Analysis and Composition I

In this course, students work on their written and oral communication skills, while strengthening their ability to understand and analyze works of literature, both classic and modern.

**Literature:** Students read short stories, poetry, drama, novels, essays, and informative articles. The course sharpens reading comprehension skills and engages readers in literary analysis as they consider important human issues and challenging ideas. Students also learn to read for information in nonfiction texts.

**Language Skills:** Students learn to express their ideas effectively. They sharpen their composition skills through focus on writing good paragraphs and essays in a variety of genres such as persuasive and research essays. Students plan, organize, and revise written works in response to feedback on drafts. In grammar, usage, and mechanics lessons, students expand their understanding of parts of speech, phrases and clauses, sentence analysis and structure, agreement, punctuation, and other conventions.

Vocabulary lessons build knowledge of Greek and Latin words that form the roots of many English words. Students use word origins and derivations to determine the meaning of new words as they increase their vocabularies.

Course Length: Two semesters

ENG106: Literary Analysis and Composition I (Credit Recovery)

In the course, students read a variety of literary works to sharpen reading comprehension and literary analysis skills. They review composition skills and expand their understanding of parts of speech, phrases and clauses, sentence analysis and structure, agreement, punctuation, and other conventions. Vocabulary lessons build knowledge of Greek and Latin words that form the roots of many English

words. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### ENG202: Literary Analysis and Composition II

In this course, students build on their language skills while reading classic and modern works of literature and improving their writing skills.

Literature: Students read short stories, poetry, drama, and novels, sharpening their reading comprehension skills and analyzing important human issues.

Language Skills: Students continue to work on their oral and written expression skills, writing a variety of essays, including persuasive and research essays. Students plan, organize, and revise their essays in response to feedback. They build on their skills in grammar, usage, and mechanics by studying parts of speech, phrases and clauses, sentence analysis and structure, agreement, punctuation, and other conventions.

Thematic units focus on word roots, suffixes and prefixes, context clues, and other strategies to help students strengthen their vocabularies.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### ENG206: Literary Analysis and Composition II (Credit Recovery)

In this course, students read classic and modern works of literature, sharpening their reading comprehension skills and analyzing important human issues. They review effective strategies for oral and written expression, grammar, usage, and mechanics. Thematic units focus on word roots, suffixes and prefixes, context clues, and other strategies that help students strengthen their vocabularies.

Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### ENG302: American Literature

In this genre-based course, students sharpen their reading comprehension skills and analyze important themes in classic and modern works of American literature, including short stories, poetry, drama, and novels. Students refine their skills of written expression by writing memoirs, persuasive essays, research essays, workplace documentation, and more. They develop vocabulary skills and refresh their knowledge of grammar, usage, and mechanics in preparation for standardized tests.

Literature: Students read short stories, poetry, drama, and novels, sharpening their reading comprehension skills and analyzing important themes in American literature.

Language Skills: Students continue to work on their oral and written expression skills, writing a variety of essays, including memoirs, persuasive and research essays, and workplace documentation. Students plan, organize, and revise their essays in response to feedback.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### ENG306: American Literature (Credit Recovery)

Students sharpen their reading comprehension skills and analyze important themes in classic and modern works of American literature. They review effective strategies for written expression. They develop vocabulary skills and refresh their knowledge of grammar, usage, and mechanics in preparation for standardized tests. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### ENG402: British and World Literature

This course engages students in selections from British and world literature from the ancient world through modern times. They practice analytical writing and have opportunities for creative expression. Students also practice test-taking skills for standardized assessments in critical reading and writing.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### ENG406: British and World Literature (Credit Recovery)

This course engages students in selections from British and world literature from the ancient world through modern times. They practice analytical writing and have opportunities for creative expression. Students also practice test-taking skills for standardized assessments in critical reading and writing. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

### **Mathematics:**

#### MTH112: Pre-Algebra

In this course, students learn computational and problem-solving skills and the language of algebra. Students translate word phrases and sentences into mathematical expressions; analyze geometric figures; solve problems involving percentages, ratios, and proportions; graph different kinds of equations and inequalities; calculate statistical measures and probabilities; apply the Pythagorean Theorem; and explain strategies for solving real-world problems. The textbook provides students with a

ready reference and explanations that supplement the online material. Online lessons provide demonstrations of concepts, as well as interactive problems with contextual feedback.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### MTH122: Algebra I

In this course, students explore the tools of algebra. Students learn to identify the structure and properties of the real number system; complete operations with integers and other rational numbers; work with square roots and irrational numbers; graph linear equations; solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable; solve systems of linear equations; use ratios, proportions, and percentages to solve problems; use algebraic applications in geometry, including the Pythagorean theorem and formulas for measuring area and volume; complete an introduction to polynomials; and understand logic and reasoning.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### MTH126: Algebra I (Credit Recovery)

In this course, students review the tools of algebra. Topics include the structure and properties of real numbers; operations with integers and other rational numbers; square roots and irrational numbers; linear equations; ratios, proportions, and percentages; the Pythagorean theorem; polynomials; and logic and reasoning. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### MTH202: Geometry

Students learn to recognize and work with core geometric concepts in various contexts. They develop sound ideas of inductive and deductive reasoning, logic, concepts, and techniques of Euclidean plane and solid geometry, as well as a solid, basic understanding of mathematical structure, method, and applications of Euclidean plane and solid geometry. Students use visualizations, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems. Topics of study include points, lines, and angles; triangles; right triangles; quadrilaterals and other polygons; circles; coordinate geometry; three-dimensional solids; geometric constructions; symmetry; and the use of transformations.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### MTH206: Geometry (Credit Recovery)

Students review core geometric concepts as they develop sound ideas of inductive and deductive reasoning, logic, concepts, and techniques and applications of Euclidean plane and solid geometry.

Students use visualizations, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems. Topics include points, lines, and angles; triangles, polygons, and circles; coordinate geometry; three-dimensional solids; geometric constructions; symmetry; and the use of transformations. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### MTH302: Algebra II

This course builds upon algebraic concepts covered in Algebra I. Students solve open-ended problems and learn to think critically. Topics include conic sections; functions and their graphs; quadratic functions; inverse functions; and advanced polynomial functions. Students are introduced to rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions; sequences and series; and data analysis.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### MTH306: Algebra II (Credit Recovery)

This course builds upon algebraic concepts covered in Algebra I. Students solve open-ended problems and learn to think critically. Topics include conic sections; functions and their graphs; quadratic functions; inverse functions; and advanced polynomial functions. Students review rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions; sequences and series; and data analysis. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### MTH322: Consumer Math

In Consumer Math, students study and review arithmetic skills they can apply in their personal lives and in their future careers. The first semester of the course begins with a focus on occupational topics; it includes details on jobs, wages, deductions, taxes, insurance, recreation and spending, and transportation. In the second semester, students learn about personal finances, checking and savings accounts, loans and buying on credit, automobile expenses, and housing expenses. Narrated slideshows help illustrate some of the more difficult content. Throughout the course, students participate in online discussions with each other and their teacher.

Course Length: Two semesters

### MTH403: Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry

Pre-calculus weaves together previous study of algebra, geometry, and functions into a preparatory course for calculus. The course focuses on the mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. Topics include linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, polynomial, and rational functions; systems of equations; and conic sections in the first semester. The second semester covers trigonometric ratios and functions; inverse trigonometric functions; applications of trigonometry, including vectors and laws of cosine and sine; polar functions and notation; and arithmetic of complex numbers.

Cross-curricular connections are made throughout the course to calculus, art, history, and a variety of other fields related to mathematics.

Course Length: Two semesters

### **Science:**

#### Physical Science

Physical Science serves as an introductory course that prepares students for high school Biology, Chemistry, and Physics courses. In this course, students learn about the nature of science, including scientific processes, the scientific method, and scientific inquiry. The course covers safety in the lab and the field, principles for conducting experiments, and the need for scientific communication. Instructional content includes the atomic nature of matter, classification of the elements, the periodic table, acids, and bases. Students explore the various forms of energy and energy transformations and discuss the production of electricity. The course concludes with a unit on the composition and structure of the universe, the life cycles of stars, and space exploration.

Course Length: One quarter

#### SCI106: Physical Science (Credit Recovery)

Students explore the relationship between matter and energy by investigating force and motion, the structure of atoms, the structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, and the interactions of energy and matter. They review strategies for describing and measuring scientific concepts. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: Two semesters

#### Environmental Science

Environmental Science is a multidisciplinary field that draws from the physical sciences in addition to other fields. This course teaches the connection between all living organisms within an ecosystem. It helps students better understand the impact humans have on the world around them and ways in which



individuals can influence the environment through their actions. Environmental Science explains the concept of biome as a region defined by a specific climate, plant life, and animal community. Content highlights the critical value of clean water, the impact of pollution, agricultural and population issues, and various types of existing and future energy resources and technologies.

Course Length: One quarter

#### SCI202: Biology

In this course, students focus on the chemistry of living things: the cell, genetics, evolution, the structure and function of living things, and ecology. The program consists of online lessons, including extensive animations, an associated reference book, collaborative activities, virtual laboratories, and hands-on laboratory experiments students can conduct at home.

Course Length: One quarter

#### SCI206: Biology (Credit Recovery)

Topics include the scientific method, characteristics of living things, energy, organic compounds, and water. Students review the structure and function of living things, the cell, genetics, DNA, RNA, and proteins. They review evolution and natural selection; digestive, respiratory, nervous, reproductive, and muscular systems; and ecology and the environment. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: One quarter

#### Chemistry

This course surveys all key areas of chemistry, including atomic structure, chemical bonding and reactions, solutions, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, organic chemistry, and nuclear chemistry. The course includes direct online instruction, virtual laboratories, and related assessments, used with a problem-solving book.

Course Length: One quarter

#### SCI306: Chemistry (Credit Recovery)

Students review concepts of matter, energy, the metric system, and the scientific method. Other topics include the atom; the periodic table; ionic and covalent bonds; chemical reactions; stoichiometry; gases, liquids, and solids; solutions; and acids and bases. Students review chemical thermodynamics; reaction rates and system equilibria; electrochemical processes; organic chemistry and biochemistry; and nuclear chemistry. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: One quarter

### Forensic Science

This course surveys key topics in forensic science, including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Through online lessons, virtual and hands-on labs, and analysis of fictional crime scenarios, students learn about forensic tools, technical resources, forming and testing hypotheses, proper data collection, and responsible conclusions.

Course Length: One quarter

### **History & Social Sciences:**

#### World History

In this survey of world history from prehistoric to modern times, students focus on the key developments and events that have shaped civilization across time.

The course is organized chronologically and, within broad eras, regionally. Lessons address developments in religion, philosophy, the arts, science and technology, and political history. The course also introduces geography concepts and skills within the context of the historical narrative. Online lessons and assessments complement *World History: Our Human Story*, a textbook written and published by K<sup>12</sup>. Students analyze primary sources and maps, create timelines, and complete other projects— practicing historical thinking and writing skills as they explore the broad themes and big ideas of human history.

Course Length: One quarter

#### HST106: World History (Credit Recovery)

This course traces the development of civilizations around the world from prehistory to the present, with a special emphasis on key periods and primary sources. The course covers major events in world history, including the development and influence of human-geographic relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts. Students investigate the major religions and belief systems throughout history and learn about the importance of trade and cultural exchange. Other topics include the development of agriculture, the spread of democracy, the rise of nation-states, the industrial era, the spread of imperialism, and the issues and conflicts of the twentieth century. Diagnostic tests assess students' current knowledge and generate individualized study plans, so students can focus on topics that need review.

Course Length: One quarter

## American History

The instructional content of this course spans the length and breadth of American history from the origins of the nation's democratic principles through the contemporary domestic and world issues affecting America's security and prosperity. Students analyze key documents and events that have shaped the nation's development. They also identify and examine political leaders and other individuals who have played a major role in U.S. History. This course is organized into ten units: Settling America, Forming the Republic, The Civil War, A Growing Nation, America as a World Power, The Twenties, World War II and Beyond, The Sixties, The Road to the Modern Era, and Charting a New Course.

Course Length: One quarter

## American History (Credit Recovery)

This course gives students a basic understanding of American history. The course begins with the settling of America and continues through present-day domestic and foreign issues that affect American society. In this course, students analyze influential documents and learn about significant individuals who contributed to the nation's development. They study the causes and effects of the various wars in which Americans have fought, and they use critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they take part in interactive discussions and complete a variety of assignments. By the end of the course, students have the knowledge to discuss the characteristics that define the United States as a world power.

Course Length: One quarter

## American Government

This course covers the historical background, guiding principles, and political institutions that together constitute the government of the United States. Students examine the structure, function, and power of government at the local, state, and national levels. They gain an understanding of the principals of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, republicanism, federalism, individual rights, and the roles of individuals and groups, in the American political system. Instructional material is presented in seven units; Introduction to Government and Politics, Roots of American Constitution, Principals of American Government, The Federal System, Civil Rights and Liberties, Participation in a Democracy, and Institutions of Government.

Course Length: One quarter

## HST406: American Government (Credit Recovery)

This one-semester credit recovery course covers the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the government of the United States. The focus is on the principles and beliefs that the United States was founded on and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. In American Government, students examine the principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, republicanism, federalism, and individual rights.

They also learn about the roles of individuals and groups in the American political system. Students compare the American system of government with other modern systems and assess the strengths and problems associated with the American version.

Course Length: One quarter

#### HST030: Economics

Students are introduced to the basics of economic principles, and they will learn the importance of understanding different economic systems. They will also investigate how to think like an economist. Students will explore different economic systems, including the American Free Enterprise System, and they will analyze and interpret data to understand the laws of supply and demand. Students will also be presented with economic applications in today's world. From economics in the world of business, money, banking, and finance, students will see how economics is applied both domestically and globally. Students will also study how the government is involved in establishing economic stability in the American Free Enterprise System as well as the how the U.S. economy has a global impact.

Course Length: One quarter

#### HST416: Economics (Credit Recovery)

In this one-semester credit recovery course, students gain a basic understanding of economics. The course uses real-world economic applications to help students' better grasp a range of economic concepts, including macro- and microeconomic concepts. The course covers the American free enterprise system and addresses how this system affects the global economy. Students learn how to think like economists as they study economic principles and different economic systems. They analyze and interpret data to understand the laws of supply and demand. Examining the world of business, money, banking, and finance helps students understand how economics is applied both domestically and globally.

Course Length: One quarter

#### **World Languages:**

##### WLG100: Spanish I

Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of world language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar

patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course Length: One quarter

#### WLG200: Spanish II

Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. By Semester 2, the course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course Length: One quarter

#### WLG110: French I

Students begin their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of world language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course Length: One quarter

## WLG210: French II

Students continue their study of French by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. By semester 2, the course is conducted almost entirely in French. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

Course Length: One quarter

### **Visual Performing & Applied Arts:**

#### Music Appreciation

Students receive an introduction to the elements, instrumentation, and history of music in this one-semester course. Instructional materials emphasize the significance of surroundings and time periods and how they influenced the music of the day. Students listen to and evaluate several types of music and are assessed on their comprehension through projects, presentations, and exams. After completing the course, students have the skills to identify basic musical elements, compare and contrast elements in different musical genres, identify key musical time periods and their characteristics, identify significant composers and musicians from different time periods, describe different instrumentations in music, and develop critiques of musical pieces based on information in the course.

Course Length: One quarter

#### Art Appreciation:

The Art Appreciation course is a survey of painting, sculpture, architecture, and the elements of design. The history and art of past and present world cultures is introduced. The course is designed to enable students to identify, evaluate, and comprehend various forms and styles of art. The course also explores career opportunities in the various fields of art.

Course Length: One quarter

### TCH028: Digital Arts I

In this exploratory course, students learn the elements and principles of design, as well as foundational concepts of visual communication. While surveying a variety of media and art, students use image editing, animation, and digital drawing to put into practice the art principles they've learned. They explore career opportunities in the design, production, display, and presentation of digital artwork. They respond to the artwork of others, and learn how to combine artistic elements to create finished pieces that effectively communicate their ideas.

Course Length: One quarter

### TCH029: Digital Arts II

Students build on the skills and concepts they learned in Digital Arts I as they develop their vocabulary of digital design elements. By the end of the course, they will have created a collection of digital art projects for their digital design portfolio.

Course Length: One quarter

### TCH030: Image Design and Editing

This introductory design course is for students who want to create compelling, professional-looking graphic designs and photos. Students learn the basics of composition, color, and layout through the use of hands-on projects that allow them to use their creativity while developing important foundational skills. They use GIMP software to create a graphic design portfolio with a wide variety of projects involving the mastery of technical topics such as working with layers and masks, adding special effects, and effectively using typefaces to create visual impact. The projects help students develop the skills they need to create and edit images of their own.

Course Length: One quarter

### TCH101: Digital Photography

This course focuses on the basics of photography, including building an understanding of aperture, shutter speed, lighting, and composition. Students are introduced to the history of photography and basic camera functions. They use the basic techniques of composition and camera functions to build a portfolio of images, capturing people, landscapes, close-ups, and action photographs.

Course Length: One quarter

## **Physical Education & Health:**

### Physical Education

This course focuses on the fundamental components and principles of fitness. Physical Education examines safety guidelines, proper technique, and exercise principles such as FITT: Frequency (how often you exercise), Intensity (how hard you work during exercise), Time (how long you exercise), and Type (what type of activity you do). Students assess their current level of fitness in relation to the five components of physical fitness: flexibility, cardiovascular health, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and body composition. This two-semester course equips students with strategies to help them begin, design, and maintain an exercise program to keep them fit for life.

Course Length: One quarter

### Health

This course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions that allow them to stay active, safe, and informed. Student learn about the components of a healthy lifestyle and learn the strategies for making healthy choices. Instructional material introduces students to the concepts of mental health, emotional health, social health, consumer health, and physical health. It presents opportunities for students to apply their value systems to decisions concerning their own health. Students develop communication skills that allow them to demonstrate healthy choices with respect for self, family, and others.

Course Length: One quarter

## **Electives:**

### ENG010: Journalism

Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

Course Length: One quarter

### ENG020: Public Speaking

Students are introduced to public speaking as an important component of their academic, work, and social lives. They study public speaking occasions and develop skills as fair and critical listeners, or consumers, of spoken information and persuasion. Students study types of speeches (informative, persuasive, dramatic, and special occasion), read and listen to models of speeches, and prepare and present their own speeches to diverse audiences. Students learn to choose speaking topics and adapt them for specific audiences, to research and support their ideas, and to benefit from listener feedback. They study how to incorporate well-designed visual and multimedia aids in presentations and how to



maintain a credible presence in the digital world. Students also learn about the ethics of public speaking and about techniques for managing communication anxiety.

Course Length: One quarter

#### Environmental Science

This course surveys key topic areas, including the application of scientific process to environmental analysis; ecology; energy flow; ecological structures; earth systems; and atmospheric, land, and water science. Topics also include the management of natural resources and analysis of private and governmental decisions involving the environment. Students explore actual case studies and conduct five hands-on, unit-long research activities, learning that political and private decisions about the environment and the use of resources require accurate application of scientific processes, including proper data collection and responsible conclusions.

Course Length: One quarter

#### SCI030: Forensic Science

This course surveys key topics in forensic science, including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Through online lessons, virtual and hands-on labs, and analysis of fictional crime scenarios, students learn about forensic tools, technical resources, forming and testing hypotheses, proper data collection, and responsible conclusions.

Course Length: One quarter

#### HST010: Anthropology

Anthropologists research the characteristics and origins of the cultural, social, and physical development of humans and consider why some cultures change and others come to an end. In this course, students are introduced to the five main branches of anthropology: physical, cultural, linguistic, social, and archeological. Through instruction and their own investigation and analysis, students explore these topics, considering their relationship to other social sciences such as history, geography, sociology, economics, political science, and psychology. Emulating professional anthropologists, students apply their knowledge and observational skills to the real-life study of cultures in the United States and around the world. The content in this course meets or exceeds the standards of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS).

Course Length: One quarter

### HST020: Psychology

In this one-semester course, students investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course that broadly covers several areas of psychology. Instructional material presents theories and current research for students to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit introduces terminology, theories, and research that are critical to the understanding of psychology and includes tutorials and interactive exercises. Students learn how to define and use key terms of psychology and how to apply psychological principles to their own lives. Unit topics include: Methods of Study, Biological Basis for Behavior, Learning and Memory, Development and Individual Differences, and Psychological Disorders.

Course Length: One quarter

### OTH031: Archaeology

George Santayana once said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The field of archaeology helps us better understand the events and societies of the past that have helped shape our modern world. This course focuses on the techniques, methods, and theories that guide the study of the past. Students learn how archaeological research is conducted and interpreted, as well as how artifacts are located and preserved. Finally, students learn about the relationship of material items to culture and what we can learn about past societies from these items.

Course Length: One quarter

### OTH080: Nutrition and Wellness

This one-semester elective course provides students with an overview of good nutrition principles that are necessary for physical and mental wellness and a long, healthy life. Instructional materials include discussions of digestion, basic nutrients, weight management, sports and fitness, and life-span nutrition. The Nutrition and Wellness course emphasizes an understanding of today’s food and eating trends and gives students the capacity to intelligently evaluate all available sources of nutrition information and make informed decisions. The course is organized in six units: Course Introduction; Wellness and Food Choices in Today’s World; Digestion and Major Nutrients; Body Size and Weight Management; Physical Fitness, Sports Nutrition, and Stress; and Life Cycle Nutrition.

Course Length: One quarter

### TCH010: Computer Literacy

Students must be able to effectively use technology to research, organize, create, and evaluate information. In this introductory course, students become familiar with the basic principles of a personal computer, including the internal hardware, operating system, and software applications. Students gain practice in using key applications such as word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software, as well as understand social and ethical issues around the Internet, information, and security. In the first

part of the course, the focus is on the fundamentals: learning and using the applications, and understanding the basic roles and responsibilities of the software, hardware, and operating system. In the second part, the focus is on gathering and analyzing data, and using the right tools and methods to collect and present data. This course should not be taken if the student has already completed Computer Fundamentals.

Course Length: One quarter

#### TCH036: Computer Science

This course introduces students to computer science concepts such as computer architecture, networks, and the Internet. Students use object-oriented programming, event-driven processes, modular computer programming, and data manipulation algorithms to produce finished software programs. They use the design process to create many programs by determining specifications, designing the software, and testing and improving the product until it meets the specifications. By the end of this course, students will have a solid foundation for further study in this subject.

Course Length: One quarter

#### Music Appreciation

Students receive an introduction to the elements, instrumentation, and history of music in this one-semester course. Instructional materials emphasize the significance of surroundings and time periods and how they influenced the music of the day. Students listen to and evaluate several types of music and are assessed on their comprehension through projects, presentations, and exams. After completing the course, students have the skills to identify basic musical elements, compare and contrast elements in different musical genres, identify key musical time periods and their characteristics, identify significant composers and musicians from different time periods, describe different instrumentations in music, and develop critiques of musical pieces based on information in the course.

Course Length: One quarter

#### Art Appreciation:

The Art Appreciation course is a survey of painting, sculpture, architecture, and the elements of design. The history and art of past and present world cultures is introduced. The course is designed to enable students to identify, evaluate, and comprehend various forms and styles of art. The course also explores career opportunities in the various fields of art.

Course Length: One quarter

#### TCH028: Digital Arts I

In this exploratory course, students learn the elements and principles of design, as well as foundational concepts of visual communication. While surveying a variety of media and art, students use image editing, animation, and digital drawing to put into practice the art principles they've learned. They explore career opportunities in the design, production, display, and presentation of digital artwork. They respond to the artwork of others, and learn how to combine artistic elements to create finished pieces that effectively communicate their ideas.

Course Length: One quarter

#### TCH029: Digital Arts II

Students build on the skills and concepts they learned in Digital Arts I as they develop their vocabulary of digital design elements. By the end of the course, they will have created a collection of digital art projects for their digital design portfolio.

Course Length: One quarter

#### TCH030: Image Design and Editing

This introductory design course is for students who want to create compelling, professional-looking graphic designs and photos. Students learn the basics of composition, color, and layout through the use of hands-on projects that allow them to use their creativity while developing important foundational skills. They use GIMP software to create a graphic design portfolio with a wide variety of projects involving the mastery of technical topics such as working with layers and masks, adding special effects, and effectively using typefaces to create visual impact. The projects help students develop the skills they need to create and edit images of their own.

Course Length: One quarter

#### TCH101: Digital Photography (Elective)

This course focuses on the basics of photography, including building an understanding of aperture, shutter speed, lighting, and composition. Students are introduced to the history of photography and basic camera functions. They use the basic techniques of composition and camera functions to build a portfolio of images, capturing people, landscapes, close-ups, and action photographs.

Course Length: One quarter

#### BUS030: Personal Finance

In this introductory finance course, students learn basic principles of economics and best practices for managing their own finances. Students learn core skills in creating budgets, developing long-term

financial plans to meet their goals, and making responsible choices about income and expenses. They gain a deeper understanding of capitalism and other systems so they can better understand their role in the economy of society. Students are inspired by experiences of finance professionals and stories of everyday people and the choices they make to manage their money.

Course Length: One quarter

#### BUS040: Introduction to Entrepreneurship I

In this introductory business course, students learn the basics of planning and launching their own successful business. Whether they want to start their own money-making business or create a non-profit to help others, this course helps students develop the core skills they need to be successful. They learn how to come up with new business ideas, attract investors, market their business, and manage expenses. Students hear inspirational stories of teen entrepreneurs who have turned their ideas into reality, and then they plan and execute their own business.

Course Length: One quarter

#### OTH038: Careers in Criminal Justice

Do you want to help prevent crime and maintain order in society? The criminal justice system may be a good career option. The criminal justice system offers a wide range of career opportunities, from law enforcement to forensic scientists to lawyers and judges. In this course, students will explore different areas of the criminal justice system, including the trial process, the juvenile justice system, and the correctional system. Careers in each area will be explored and students will learn more about the expectations and training required for various career options in the criminal justice field.

Course Length: One quarter

**Insight School of Michigan (ISMI) requires the following courses be completed within a student's academic career in order to receive an ISMI diploma:**

#### ORN010: Online Learning

The Online Learning course explains to students how the K12 high school program works, and provides tips on successful online learning. Students are introduced to the online tools they will use during their high school experience, including the Learning Management System that delivers course assignments. Students take part in online discussions and practice submitting computer-scored assessments and other assignments to teachers. Lifelong learning skills such as time management and study habits are also covered. By the end of the course, students will be fully prepared to begin their K12 high school courses.

Course Length: 6–8 hours

Advisory-Finding Your Path

ORN100: Finding Your Path I

ORN200: Finding Your Path II

ORN300: Finding Your Path III

ORN400: Finding Your Path IV

Students begin each school year with a course specifically targeted to the unique concerns of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. This orientation course is unique for each student—as school counselors guide them through an in-depth exploration of their interests, abilities, and skills. Students explore their education and career interests, define goals, and create a path through high school that will get them there. In addition, this course serves as a “home base” where students and school counselors can address topics that are critical to ensuring success in high school and beyond.

Course Length: Year long

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Michigan Revised School Code 380.1278a and b and Insight School of Michigan academic standards, all students must complete all course requirements. Please pay close attention to the new credit breakdown and where you need to earn credits.

## **4 Credits of English**

- 1 credit of Freshman English
- 1 credit of Sophomore English
- 1 credit of American Literature
- 1 credit of British Literature

## **4 Credits of Math**

- 1 credit of Algebra I
- 1 credit of Geometry
- 1 credit of Algebra II
- 1 credit of math-related class in last year of high school

## **3 Credits of Science**

- 1 credit of Science Elective
- 1 credit of Biology
- 1 credit of Chemistry or Physics

## **3 Credits of Social Sciences**

- 1 credit of World History/Geography
- 1 credit of U.S. History/Geography
- .5 credit of Economics
- .5 credit of Civics

**1 Credit Health & PE**

.5 Credit of Health

.5 Credit of Physical Education

**2 Credits of World Language**

Spanish I & II

French I & II

**1 Credit of Visual, Performing and Applied Arts**

**.5 Credit of Career Planning**

**3.5 Elective Credits**

**Total number of credits required for graduation: 22**



## GRADING SCALE

A	4.0	93-100%
A-	3.7	90-92%
B+	3.3	87-89%
B	3.0	83-86%
B-	2.7	80-82%
C+	2.3	77-79%
C	2.0	73-76%
C-	1.7	70-72%
D+	1.3	67-69%
D	1.0	63-66%
D-	0.7	60-62%
F	0.0	0-59%

## CREDITS

All students will be placed in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade using the credit scale below.

0-4.99 Credits	=	9th Grade
5-10.99 Credits	=	10th Grade
11-15.99 Credits	=	11th Grade
16- 22 Credits	=	12th Grade

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

1. Students may change their schedule two weeks into the start of a semester for the following reasons:
  - a. Needs to be put into a more difficult or easier class as recommended by their teacher.
  - b. Student was scheduled into a class, which he/she has already successfully completed.
  - c. A change in school program, example: programs and/or classes being dropped or added by the administration.

- d. The student has an incomplete schedule, example: the student has less than four classes printed on his/her schedule.
  - e. The student does not have the prerequisites for a course.
2. All requests for schedule changes must be initiated with the counselors.
  3. Students who stop attending class without an approved schedule change will be considered truant.

## **PERSONAL CURRICULUM**

The personal curriculum is available to students to accelerate or modify the learning environment to succeed with the Michigan Merit Curriculum\*. If you are interested in learning more about a personal curriculum, contact your counselor.

Why request a Personal Curriculum to the Michigan Merit Curriculum?

- To modify the mathematics requirements.
- To substitute additional mathematics, science, English language arts or world languages credit.
- To modify credit requirements due to a disability as outlined in a student's IEP.
- To properly place a student transferring into a local school district from out-of-state or a non-public school.

## **TESTING OUT**

Any high school student who wishes to test-out of a course in which s/he is not enrolled may do so by taking the final examination for the entire course and receiving a grade of at least C+ or by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter as determined by the assessment used in lieu of a final examination. Credit for a course earned by a student through this process may be used to fulfill a course or course-sequence requirement and be counted toward the required number of credits needed for graduation but may not be used to determine the student's GPA.

Once credit is earned under this section, a pupil may not receive credit thereafter for a course lower in course sequence concerning the same subject area. (MCL 380. 1279b)

Students can apply to test out prior to ONE WEEK FROM THE LAST DAY OF EACH SEMESTER. Testing out will take place in person with a school proctor the week after the final exams are taken at the end of each semester. Applications are available by contacting the counselor.

Students will not be required, as part of the school program or District curriculum, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information of a personal nature in accordance with Board policy and Federal guidelines.

Depending on the type of testing and specific information requested, parent (or student) consent may need to be obtained. Insight will not violate the rights of consent and privacy of a student participating in any form of evaluation.

### **ACCELERATED GRADUATION**

Graduation at an accelerated rate will be considered when:

1. The student has successfully completed a minimum of one quarter at Insight School of Michigan.
2. The Student has, in writing, petitioned for early graduation to the Head of School at Insight School of Michigan stating the reason for accelerated graduation, how he/she will meet the graduation credit requirements and post-secondary plans.
3. The Head of School approves the students accelerated graduation request.

### **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

Counselors are available for help with scheduling of classes, career planning, personal problems, armed services information, planning for college, financial aid, and much more. For an appointment with a counselor, students should e-mail their counselor. Issues discussed with the counselor are confidential. However, the counselor will call parents if the student reveals information that indicates he or she is a risk to him/herself or others.