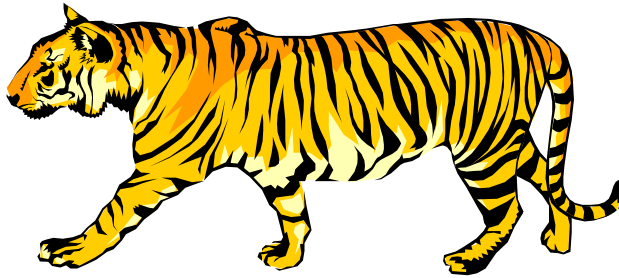


Curriculum Catalog

Valley Southwoods
Freshman High School

2009-10



West Des Moines Community Schools

www.wdmcs.org

Educational Non-Discrimination Statement

The West Des Moines Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability in educational programs and activities.

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VALLEY SOUTHWOODS REGISTRATION

January 2009

Dear Eighth Grade Student,

The purpose of this catalog is to present course offerings to you for your freshman year of high school. Please review the course descriptions on the following pages with your family and thoughtfully consider the electives that are most appropriate for you. We encourage you to visit with your current teachers and counselors as you explore options.

A registration worksheet with your name label will be given to you this month (sample is included in this handbook). This worksheet will prepare you for your on-line registration at school in the near future. Please print your completed schedule, ask your parent/guardian to sign it, and return it to your junior high counselor on or before **Friday, February 13th**.

To graduate from Valley High School, you must have a minimum of forty-eight (48) credits, including four credits from physical education. The Valley High School Curriculum Catalog for grades 10-12 is available online (www.wdmcs.org) as well as in your counselor's office. This information will help you plan your classes for the next four years.

We will make every effort to ensure that you are enrolled in the classes you list on your registration form. If enrollment for a class is not sufficient for it to be offered, if there is a schedule conflict that is not resolvable, or if we need to limit the number of sections offered because of enrollment, we will ask you to choose another course.

Feel free to call us at Valley Southwoods (633-4500) if you have any questions about registration for the 2009-2010 school year.

We look forward to learning with you at Valley Southwoods!

Sincerely,

Mr. Kent Abrahamson, Principal
Ms. Barbara Goetschel, Associate Principal/Team Leader
Mr. Shane Scott, Associate Principal/Team Leader
Mr. Bryan Stearns, Associate Principal/Team Leader

YOUR CLASSES

All Valley Southwoods students must register for four core area full-credit courses, physical education, and at least one elective course each semester.

Required Core Area Courses at Valley Southwoods

You will be assigned to an interdisciplinary team area in which your core courses will be located:

- General Science*
- Geographic Cultural Studies*
- Language and Literature*
- Mathematics (Basic Math 9, Algebra A, Algebra B, or Geometry)

* Eligible students may take advanced courses in one or more core areas to meet the course requirements. See the Accelerated Pathways section.

Required Physical Education Course Each Semester

Physical Education class meets alternating days (1/2 credit per semester). You will be placed in a study hall or another class on days opposite P.E.

Required Elective Course Each Semester

You need to enroll in at least one elective course each semester. If you wish, you may take up to three electives each semester. You will be placed in a study hall for each period you are not in an elective class.

One semester elective course options:

- Art: Photographic Foundations
- Art: Three Dimensional Foundations
- Art: Two Dimensional Foundations
- Consumer Technology
- Keyboarding I
- Speech Communication
- Technology Education
- Theatrics

Full year elective course options:

- Band
- Chorus: Bass Clef, Treble Clef
- Debate I/Public Speaking
- Orchestra
- World Languages (Chinese I (Mandarin), French I and II, German I, Japanese I, Latin I, Spanish I and II, Developmental Spanish, Spanish for Heritage Learners)

Full year elective course earned through audition (generally in the spring):

- Southwoods Singers

Southwoods Singers class meets alternating days (1/2 credit per semester). You will be placed in a study hall or another class on days opposite this class.

Special Programs/Electives

Special programs/electives are offered at Valley Southwoods to help meet individual needs of students. (You will need your teacher's initials on the back of the registration form to be eligible for these classes.)

- ELL Work Study (English Language Learners)
- English as a Second Language
- Extended Learning Program (Gifted and Talented)
- Healthy Dimensions P.E.
- Learning Lab 9 (At Risk Program)
- Peer Partner P.E.
- Peer Partner Art
- Reading Resource
- Spanish for Heritage Learners

DEADLINES

Please complete and return your registration form to your Junior High counselor by Friday, February 13th.

The deadline for requesting a course change is the last day of your eighth grade school year. Changes may be made only if space is available in the class. Mail written requests to:

Valley Southwoods Freshman High School
Attn: Scheduling
625 South 35th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

For students who narrowly miss the eligibility requirements for an accelerated class may appeal the decision to their junior high principal. The deadline for appeals for students currently enrolled in the district is the end of 3rd quarter.

During the first three (3) days of each semester, you may request to "add" a non-required course. You may not add a course after the third day of the semester. You may "drop" a non-required course with no penalty during the first ten (10) days of each semester. If you drop a course between days 11 and 20, your transcript will show a withdrawal. If you choose to drop a class after day 20 in the semester, you will receive a failing grade and you will be assigned to study hall. Exceptions may be approved by the administrator.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: REQUIRED CLASSES

	1 st Sem.	2 nd Sem.
GENERAL SCIENCE	SCI101	SCI102

General Science is a two semester course. All freshmen are required to take both semesters. It is an integrated program of earth, life, physical, and environmental science. The emphasis will be on critical thinking and applications to today's society and environment.

	1 st Sem.	2 nd Sem.
GEOGRAPHIC CULTURAL STUDIES	SOC101	SOC102

Geographic Cultural Studies is a two semester course, and is a broad-based investigation of world regions. The course focuses on the geography and cultures of Latin America, the Middle East, East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Antarctica, and the Pacific World. In addition to these area studies, the course will emphasize the five themes of geography, map skills, research skills, and current global issues. This social studies course will integrate with the ninth grade core courses and electives.

	1 st Sem.	2 nd Sem.
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	ENG101	ENG102

Language and Literature is a two semester course designed to expose students to multiple genres of literature and modes of writing. Literary genres will include: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama, with an emphasis on contemporary multicultural and classic literature, including Homer's *Odyssey* and Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*. This course will focus on vocabulary, writing conventions, multiple novel studies, literature circles, the Hero's Journey, film analysis, and technology integration. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and share their writing with teachers and peers.

MATHEMATICS	1 st Sem.	2 nd Sem.
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BASIC MATH 9	MTH101	MTH102
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Basic Math 9 is a two semester course for students needing additional mathematical skill development before enrolling in Algebra related courses. This course will build on concepts covered in Basic Math 7 and Basic Math 8. Topics will include order of operations, number properties, operations with integers, exponents, simplifying expressions, evaluating expressions and solving equations.

ALGEBRA A	MTH111	MTH102
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Algebra A is a two semester course which uses the same text and course outline as Algebra B. There is, however, less emphasis on enrichment activities. Topics include operations with real numbers, solving equations and inequalities, factoring, and systems of equations, graphing, and quadratic equations.

ALGEBRA B	MTH121	MTH122
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Algebra B is a two semester course which helps the student acquire an understanding of the structure of the number system and a knowledge of algebraic expressions and equations. This course also provides practice in the interpretation of verbal problems and training in logical thinking. Topics include operations with real numbers, solving equations and inequalities, factoring, and systems of equations, graphing, and quadratic equations.

GEOMETRY	MTH141	MTH142
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Prerequisite: Algebra

Geometry is a two semester course, which involves the development and study of a mathematical system. This course is designed to review and strengthen algebraic skills, develop deductive and inductive reasoning ability, and increase spatial perception. The topics include principles of logic, parallelism, congruence, similarity, circles, spheres, constructions and loci, areas, volumes, coordinate geometry, and transformations. Geometry will enable students to move into either Algebra II and Trigonometry B or Algebra II and Trigonometry C.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PHY111

PHY112

The physical education curriculum is designed to provide rigorous physical activities to maintain and enrich the quality of life. The curriculum also helps develop movement skills in activities through which students will acquire, appreciate and maintain physical fitness essential to health and well being throughout life. Physical education at Valley Southwoods is a required course. The curriculum consists of units including health and fitness concepts with basic fitness testing and assessment, volleyball, rhythm and aerobics, and weight training. Letter grades will be assigned and included in the grade point average.

If a student is not able to participate in a physical education class, a note from the parent/ guardian will be honored excusing him or her for one class period only. Absences for more than one class at a time will require a doctor's excuse stating a specific reason. The doctor's excuse must be presented to the school nurse.

Students are required to wear special clothing (black shorts, white tee-shirt, athletic shoes) during class which will be communicated by the physical education teacher. Students are responsible for keeping their clothing in clean and good condition. It is recommended that every article of clothing be plainly marked with the student's first and last name.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: ELECTIVE CLASSES

ART ELECTIVES

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
PHOTOGRAPHIC FOUNDATIONS	ART105	ART106

Photographic Foundations is an introductory-level course and requires no previous photography experience. The course will investigate cameras and basic darkroom skills, including processing and printing black and white images. Material fee covers black and white film, darkroom chemicals and presentation supplies. This course will provide a foundation for further study in Applications Level art courses at Valley High School. This is a one semester course.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
THREE DIMENSIONAL FOUNDATIONS	ART103	ART104

Three Dimensional Foundations is an introductory-level course and requires no previous art experience. The course will investigate ceramic and metal skills, including wheel throwing and metal fabricating. Materials fee covers basic ceramic, metal, and presentation supplies. This course will provide a foundation for further study in Applications Level art courses at Valley High School. This is a one semester course.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
TWO DIMENSIONAL FOUNDATIONS	ART101	ART102

Two Dimensional Foundations is an introductory-level course and requires no previous art experience. The course will investigate the creative process of drawing and painting skills. Materials fee covers basic drawing, painting, and presentation supplies. This course will provide a foundation for further study in Applications Level art courses. This is a one semester course.

BUSINESS ELECTIVE

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
KEYBOARDING I	BUS101	BUS102

This one semester course is designed for students who have had little or no previous keyboarding experience. It is a must for students entering college or the world of work. Students will use microcomputers to learn letter, number, and symbol keys. In addition, students will learn to format term papers and letters to colleges and businesses. This is a one semester course.

ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS ELECTIVES

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
DEBATE I/PUBLIC SPEAKING	ENG225	ENG226

In this year-long course, each student will develop debate and public speaking skills. Debate will include research, preparation, presentation and evaluation of policy debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, public forum and legislative debate. Public speaking will include oratorical and extemporaneous speaking, and interpretation of literature. Students will be required to participate in co-curricular activities beyond the school day. Requiring advanced reading comprehension and analytical skills, this rigorous course is intended for self-motivated students who can work both cooperatively and independently. This course fulfills the Speech graduation requirement. A debate course is required for all debate team members and all members of the class will participate on the debate team. All students will compete in Debate I/Public Speaking in one tournament at no cost to the student.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
SPEECH COMMUNICATION	ENG107	ENG 108

The focus for Speech Communication is not only on presentation in front of a group, but also on student interaction, expression of ideas in large group discussions, and the appropriateness and effectiveness of words chosen to express these ideas clearly. This is a one semester course.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
THEATRICALS	ENG105	ENG 106

This one semester course encourages the development of self and group awareness. It will emphasize theatre culture, performance and appreciation. National Standards for the Arts will be addressed through script writing, oral interpretation, criticism, research, history, movement, ensemble work and careers. This course will satisfy the fine arts requirement for graduation. This is a one semester course.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE ELECTIVE

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY	FAM101	FAM102

Consumer Technology is a one semester course in which students learn life management skills that will help them balance work and family through the use of technology and hands-on experiences. The classroom is divided into 13 modules that the students rotate through on a 6-day rotation. Students will have the opportunity to work through approximately ten of the modules. Basic life skills are taught making the student aware of their role as a family member and a productive member of the work place. Some of the fun activities for the semester include:

- Make spaghetti, mini pizzas and smoothies
- Wire a light switch, doorbell and convenience outlet
- Plumb a kitchen faucet and install a shower fixture
- Embroidery with a computer controlled embroidery machine
- Create a T-shirt design with a graphics program
- Use a treadmill to find out how many calories you have burned
- Plan the purchase of your first car
- Take home the “Baby Think It Over”
- Design a home using a computer aided design program
- Bake bread in a bread machine
- Plan a wardrobe for yourself
- Plan healthy, low fat menus
- Make recycled paper

MUSIC ELECTIVES

BAND	1st Sem. MUS101	2nd Sem. MUS102
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Freshman Band is scheduled daily and covers curriculum including Concert Band, Marching Band and Jazz Band as well as chamber playing. The Concert Band is the focused center of the curriculum with enriched playing opportunities from within this ensemble. Concerts are scheduled throughout the year and are a significant part of the curriculum. All students are provided with lessons as part of continuous improvement of skills and abilities. Students cover a wide range of quality literature appropriate to their level of ability. Instruction on a daily basis includes work within the ensemble as well as sectionals for smaller group instruction. Solo/Ensembles as well as chamber group experiences will be offered to all members. Students will participate second semester in one of several district events as part of the curriculum.

The Jazz Band is selected from members of the Concert Band during the first quarter and rehearses before school. All students who have an interest in jazz are encouraged to participate. Curriculum is based on the study of improvisation as well as ensemble skills at a wide range of levels and abilities. The group will perform at several concerts as well as festivals throughout the year.

The focus on marching fundamentals takes place in the fall and spring through the Marching Band program. All students participate in All City Band Nights as well as spring parade performances. Students with a strong desire for advanced marching experiences may audition for the Valley Marchmasters.

The Valley Marchmasters function during the fall and spring marching seasons. In addition to all home football games, the marching band attends out-of-town performances in the fall and various performing trips out of state. Auditions are held in the spring and require attendance at Fall Band Camp as well as early morning and first-hour rehearsals during the first quarter.

CHORUS---BASS CLEF	1st Sem. MUS105	2nd Sem. MUS106
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Membership in this full year class is open to students who show an interest in singing. The chorus is designed for those who sing in the tenor-bass range. Vocal instruction is directed toward the development of the adolescent changing voice, with careful attention given to the special qualities and problems of the voice at this age level. Vocal lessons are a significant part of the curriculum. Vocal and musical skills developed here can prepare students for participation in A Capella Choir and Valley Singers. This group performs at concerts, contests, conventions, and community functions.

CHORUS--TREBLE CLEF	1st Sem. MUS107	2nd Sem. MUS108
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Membership in this full year class is open to students who show an interest in singing. The chorus is designed for students who sing in the soprano-alto range. Vocal lessons are a significant part of the curriculum. Vocal and musical skills developed here can prepare students for participation in A Capella Choir and Valley Singers. This group performs at concerts, contests, conventions, and community functions.

CHORUS -- SOUTHWOODS SINGERS	1st Sem. MUS109	2nd Sem. MUS110
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Membership in this full year class is limited and earned through audition. Auditions will be held during the spring of the students' eighth-grade year. Prerequisite is membership in Bass or Treble Clef choruses. This select group will explore and perform a variety of select chamber music in addition to gaining a greater understanding of advanced vocal techniques for the mixed ensemble. Included in the curriculum will be the study of the composers and styles of vocal music for the chamber ensemble. The class will meet alternating days throughout the year for a total of one credit. The Southwoods Singers will perform approximately 5 concerts as well as participate in state solo and ensemble contest.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
ORCHESTRA	MUS103	MUS104
<p>Valley Southwoods Orchestra students attend daily string orchestra rehearsals and weekly private and semi-private lessons in this full year course. Symphony Orchestra rehearsals take place before, during and after school depending on student schedules and needs. Orchestra students have the opportunity to perform in chamber ensembles that meet based on student availability. The Valley Southwoods Orchestra students perform in concerts, festivals and contests.</p>		

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION ELECTIVE

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION	TEC101	TEC102
<p>Technology Education is a one semester course in which students use a hands-on approach to explore, develop skills, and apply technology to specific topics. This classroom is divided into several different stations. Each station addresses a specific topic, or unit which requires students to use a variety of high technology tools and instruments. Pairs of students cycle through these stations every 10-12 days. Students will benefit from practical experiences in the operation and application of tools and systems such as computers, CD-ROM, milling machines, technical simulations, and information retrieval systems. Students will gain skills in experimentation, problem solving and communication, as well as exploring personal interests, aptitudes and strengths.</p>		

Examples of these stations are Robotics, Computer Aided Drafting, Aerodynamics, Fluid Power, Electronics, Computer Animation, Aviation, CNC Milling, Graphic Communication, Mechanical Systems, Structural Engineering, and Controls & Sensors.

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
CHINESE I (Mandarin)	FRL109	FRL110
<p>Mandarin Chinese I is a full year introduction to the Mandarin Chinese language and an exploration of the Chinese culture. Students will develop their Mandarin Chinese language foundation in speaking, listening, reading and writing. This is a new course for the 2008-2009 school year.</p>		

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
FRENCH I	FRL101	FRL102
<p>A full year course designed to develop the student's skill in listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Successful completion of first year French should enable the student to engage in simple conversations and to read and write French within reasonable limits. The language lab is an integral part of the course and an important supplement to speaking and listening comprehension. The student will also be exposed to the culture of France.</p>		

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
FRENCH II	FRL201	FRL202
<p>Prerequisite: Successful completion of French I.</p> <p>A full year course with the goal of maintaining and improving the skills acquired in first year French with emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The language lab is an integral part of the course and an important supplement to speaking and listening comprehension. The student will continue to learn about France and other French speaking countries.</p>		

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
GERMAN I	FRL105	FRL106

This full year course is an introduction to the German language and to the culture of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. After one year, the student will be able to converse, read and write standard German at the novice level.

JAPANESE I	FRL111	FRL112
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Japanese I is a full year course, taught at Valley High School, which introduces Japanese language and culture. The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be developed, but emphasis will be on oral proficiency.

LATIN I	FRL107	FRL108
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Latin I is a full year course which involves learning to read and write the Latin language. Although Latin is not spoken in the modern world, this course emphasizes correct pronunciation of conversational idioms based upon ancient authors, its relationship to all the Romance languages and English, as well as providing a structural basis for spoken languages which use case--such as Russian and German. Latin trains the memory, enhances word power, provides the opportunity to develop reasoning ability, and strengthens reading skills. The first year also includes Roman culture, mythology and history.

SPANISH I	FRL103	FRL104
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Spanish I, a full year course, is an introduction to the Spanish language and the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills will be developed through varied classroom activities. Students will gain a basic working vocabulary for communication. Language lab activities, written and oral, are required.

DEVELOPMENTAL SPANISH I	FRL505	FRL506
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Developmental Spanish I is a two year course designed to address the language skills and concepts of a traditional one year Spanish course. It will lead to the development of the students' basic skills and strategies in Spanish. This course is recommended for students who wish to learn and to practice basic oral communication. Students will have the opportunity to explore the cultural practices, products, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking countries. The first year of Developmental Spanish I includes units of study that will lead to beginning vocabulary and engagement in basic communication. The second year of the course completes the major goals and objectives of Spanish I. After successful completion of Developmental Spanish I, students may choose to enroll in Spanish II, thereby completing a two-year foreign language requirement for postsecondary/college admission.

SPANISH II	FRL203	FRL204
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Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I or teacher recommendation

Spanish II is a full year course which emphasizes continued development of listening, reading, speaking and writing skills in addition to appreciation of the various Spanish-speaking cultures. These skills will be further developed through a wide range of activities, individual and class projects, and supplemental books and tapes. Language lab activities, written and oral, are required.

SPANISH FOR HERITAGE LEARNERS	FRL313	FRL314
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Spanish for Heritage Learners is a full year course for students who have been raised in a home where Spanish is spoken and whose oral skills are proficient yet may have difficulty reading and writing Spanish. Students will develop and extend literacy skills in their native language (speaking, listening, reading, writing).

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS: SPECIAL PROGRAMS/ELECTIVES

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
ELL WORK STUDY	MIS107	MIS108

Prerequisite: Student must be enrolled in at least 4 courses, plus an ELL resource and PE.

Description:

A course students may sign up for each semester they are entitled to ELL resources. Students are expected to work at least 15 hours per week and be employed for at least 14 weeks to obtain credit. Students are responsible for obtaining their own employment, as well as providing transportation to/from the job. An ELL teacher will visit the jobsite 2 times/semester. Students will be required to meet with teacher weekly and turn in a time sheet. Students will complete a culminating activity as arranged by the teacher and student. Seniors may waive physical education requirements while enrolled in ELL work study.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL)	ENG201	ENG202

Non-English or limited English speaking students are enrolled in ELL class after a period of evaluation by the ELL teacher. Program objectives are as follows:

1. To teach students the skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing which will allow them to function in high school.
2. To help students understand and participate in American cultural life.
3. To assist students in learning to use English as a natural vehicle of communication.

Two semesters of ELL may be counted as fulfilling two of the six high school language arts requirements, one literature course and one elective. Six semesters of ELL may be counted as elective credits used to fulfill graduation requirements. With the exception of the special provisions stated above, ELL students must meet all graduation requirements of Valley High School in order to receive a diploma.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
ESL LANGUAGE ARTS	ESL333	ES334

This one semester course will use developmentally appropriate materials for English Language Learners to learn and master the major concepts of English literature and writing. The course will provide non-native speakers with an overview of English concepts needed for success in future English classes. Teachers will integrate individualized instruction in word usage, mechanics, parts of speech and syntax into writing assignments and class discussions appropriate for the English language abilities of the students enrolled. Two semesters of this course will fulfill the Language and Literature requirement or an elective credit and will prepare students for Fundamentals of Writing and Speech.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAM (ELP)	MIS101	MIS102

Prerequisite: Invitation and parent permission

This program is designed for identified gifted and talented students (invitation is based upon selection into the gifted and talented program and is limited) who wish to continue their individual development through autonomous enrichment activities. Meeting on alternate days, the course is based upon the Autonomous Learner Model and will allow individual development through self-awareness and in-depth studies. Students may choose to work on special academic needs, to create and present seminars, or to become involved in various academic competitions. Since the program builds on each year, it can be repeated for a maximum of four years and four credits (1/2 credit per semester).

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
HEALTHY DIMENSIONS PE	PHY701	PHY702

In this class, an individualized physical education plan will be created for students with low physical fitness levels or with limited physical or psychological conditions, which limit participation in the regular PE curriculum. The students in this class would not qualify for Peer Partner PE.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
LEARNING LAB 9 (ATR Program)	MIS103	MIS104

A resource teacher will serve identified students in need of academic, social or emotional assistance. The teacher will work with students individually and in small groups as appropriate (1/2 credit per semester).

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
PEER PARTNER PE	PHY601	PHY602

In this class, MD and PD students participate with Valley Southwoods volunteer students in a modified curriculum and level of activity resulting in a safer environment and enhanced learning possibilities. Student volunteers will be chosen through a screening process and will receive ½ elective credit. Volunteers will take their regular PE class in addition.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
PEER PARTNER ART	ART601	ART602

In this class, MD and PD students participate with Valley Southwoods volunteer students in a modified curriculum and level of activity resulting in a safer environment and enhanced learning possibilities. Student volunteers will be chosen through a screening process and will receive ½ elective credit. This course does not meet the art elective credit requirements for graduation.

Curricular Topics Include: Video/Performance Art- different viewpoints, Abstract Art-emphasis on color and texture to express feeling and emotion, Conceptual Art- Meaning/Concepts most important-student choice, Discovering and use of new techniques with traditional art materials, Peer Portraits-using varying art mediums. Classroom Activities Include: Students working collaboratively on art projects. Students using varying art materials-paint, colored pencils, chalk pastels, clay, mixed media, video and digital. Students learning about varying artists with personal and other connections to students in class, and creating collaborative art projects in the community.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
READING RESOURCE	MIS107	MIS108

The Reading Resource teacher assumes an active role by diagnosing reading needs of students and providing a variety of reading, writing, and study strategies and instruction to support student success. The teacher will work with students through individual conferencing and in small groups as appropriate. Students and teacher work together both in the regularly scheduled Reading Resource class and in students' core courses of English, science, and social studies. The teacher collaborates with teachers of core courses to integrate reading strategies with content level materials (1/2 credit per semester).

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education services are determined for individual students by a staffing team consisting of the parents, school staff and Heartland AEA representatives. The district provides a broad continuum of services to assist students with disabilities.

ACCELERATED PATHWAYS

Four advanced core courses are offered for eligible students at Valley Southwoods Freshman High School. These courses provide pathways for students to take AP classes earlier at Valley.

Following are the Valley Southwoods courses, the corresponding advanced courses, and the eligibility requirements for enrollment in the advanced courses.

VSW Course	VSW Advanced Course	Eligibility Requirements
General Science	Biology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The student will have a grade of "A" in 8th grade science first semester (or a grade of "A" or "B" in 8th Grade Advanced Science) AND The student will meet one of the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall GPA of 3.5 in first semester 8th grade and an 8th grade ITBS score of 95% (NPR) on the Science section OR An ITBS score of 98% (NPR) on the 8th grade Science section
Language and Literature	Literature and Composition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The student will have a grade of "A" in 8th grade language arts first semester (or a grade of "A" or "B" in 8th Grade Advanced Language Arts first semester) AND The student will meet one of the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall GPA of 3.5 in the first semester 8th grade and an 8th grade ITBS score of 95% (NPR) on the Reading Comprehension section OR An ITBS score of 98% (NPR) on the 8th grade Reading Comprehension section and 98% for Language Composite section
Geographic Cultural Studies	Global Understanding & Ancient Western Civilization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The student will have a grade of "A" in 8th grade social studies first semester (or a grade of "A" or "B" in 8th Grade Advanced Social Studies first semester) AND The student will meet one of the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall GPA of 3.5 in first semester 8th grade and an 8th grade ITBS score of 95% (NPR) on the Maps and Diagrams section and Reading Comprehension section OR An ITBS score of 98% (NPR) on the 8th grade Maps and Diagrams section and the Reading Comprehension section
Mathematics	Geometry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Successful completion of Algebra.

Appeals: Students who narrowly miss the eligibility requirements may appeal the decision to their junior high principal. The deadline for appeals for students currently enrolled in the district is the end of 3rd quarter. The Junior High principals, in consultation with each other and other district personnel as appropriate, will review the appeals. The review may include the collection of additional data, such as second semester grades, spring standards and benchmark test scores, the 8th grade Iowa Writing Assessment, a student writing portfolio, teacher input, and seventh grade ITBS scores and grades, to make a final determination of eligibility.

Eligibility for the Honors Program at Valley High School: Students who earn a 3.5 GPA and successfully complete the following courses at Valley Southwoods are eligible for participation in the Honors Program* at Valley High School:

- Biology
- Accelerated Language and Literature
- Accelerated Geographic Cultural Studies, Ancient Western Civilization
- Geometry

	<i>1st Sem.</i>	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
BIOLOGY	SCI209	SCI210

Prerequisite: Meets the three following entrance criteria:

1. The student will have a grade of “A” in 8th grade science first semester science (or a grade of "A" or "B" in 8th Grade Advanced Science) first semester AND
2. The student will meet one of the following requirements:
 - An overall GPA of 3.5 in first semester 8th grade and an 8th grade ITBS score of 95% (NPR) on the Science section OR
 - An ITBS score of 98% (NPR) on the 8th grade Science section

Description: This two semester course exposes the student to the variety of living organisms found on the planet. Life functions are studied on the chemical, cellular, organism, and community levels. Genetics, diseases, nutrition, and biotechnology are studied with an emphasis directed toward human concerns. Laboratory participation is a vital component of this course and is expected of all students.

Ninth grade Biology would fulfill the 9th grade General Science graduation requirement.

	<i>1st Sem.</i>
GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING	SOC227

Prerequisite: Meets the following entrance criteria:

1. The student will have a grade of “A” in 8th grade social studies first semester (or a grade of "A" or "B" in 8th Grade Advanced Social Studies first semester) AND
2. The student will meet one of the following requirements:
 - An overall GPA of 3.5 in first semester 8th grade and an 8th grade ITBS score of 95% (NPR) on the Maps and Diagrams section and Reading Comprehension section OR
 - An ITBS score of 98% (NPR) on the 8th grade Maps and Diagrams section and the Reading Comprehension section

Description: This rigorous one-semester course covers the material from both semesters of GCS at the 9th grade level. It will focus on the following regions: Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Pacific World, and the Middle East with emphasis on map skills, place-name location geography, current events and high level questioning including writing, class participation and discussions to develop a better understanding of the modern world. Because this is a one semester course, the pace will be very fast and there is independent Summer mapping and map skills work that is expected to be completed before school begins. Therefore students entering this course must be highly motivated and will be expected to read course materials, take notes, develop study guides, and complete projects outside class time. Students who enroll in this course will also be enrolled in Ancient Western Civilization second semester. Successful completion of this course and other courses may allow students to enroll in the Honors program at Valley High School and/or be able to have a wider social studies course selection as a sophomore.

AND

	<i>2nd Sem.</i>
ANCIENT WESTERN CIVILIZATION	SOC228

Prerequisite: Earned credit in 1st Semester Accelerated Geographical Cultural Studies.

Description: Ancient Western Civilization is offered second semester and will survey the critical eras in European history from the ancient world through the Middle Ages. Students can expect that knowledge in history, art, literature, philosophy, and cultures will be explored during the semester course. Successful completion of this course and the first semester Accelerated Geographic Cultural Studies course will allow students to be eligible for AP Europe in the 10th grade. (Students registered for the class are expected to attend a Spring informational meeting on **Tuesday, May 5th or Wednesday, May 6th at 3:30 p.m.** in the Valley Southwoods Media Center to receive the Summer Coursework Packet, textbooks, and general information. Qualifying students, either from within the district or move-ins, who enroll after the Spring meeting should receive materials and textbooks from Valley Southwoods Team Leaders as soon as possible.)

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**ENG227****ENG228**

Prerequisite: Meets the three following entrance criteria:

1. The student will have a grade of "A" in 8th grade Language Arts first semester (or a grade of "A" or "B" in 8th Grade Advanced Language Arts) AND
2. The student will meet one of the following requirements:
 - An overall GPA of 3.5 in the first semester 8th grade and an 8th grade ITBS score of 95% (NPR) on the Reading Comprehension section OR
 - An ITBS score of 98% (NPR) on the 8th grade Reading Comprehension section and 98% for Language Composite section

Description: Literature and Composition is a compacted two semester course resulting in 2 credits in Language Arts for graduation from Valley High School. This rigorous course exposes advanced students to multiple genres of literature and modes of writing. Literary genres will include: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama with an emphasis on multicultural and world literature, and the Hero's Journey concept. The course will cover the major literary pieces of the Language and Literature class at a much faster pace and a deeper level, and will include other more challenging material. Writing modes will include: expository, persuasive, personal narrative, literary analysis, and research writing. The course will also include a strong emphasis on vocabulary and conventions. Students will be expected to complete independent reading assignments during the school year. A summer independent reading and journaling requirement based on the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and several short reading selections, will be addressed in the curriculum during 1st Quarter. (Students registered for the class are expected to attend a Spring informational meeting on **Tuesday, May 5th or Wednesday, May 6th at 3:30 p.m.** in the Valley Southwoods Media Center to receive the Summer Coursework Packet, textbooks, and general information. Qualifying students, either from within the district or move-ins, who enroll after the Spring meeting should receive materials and textbooks from Valley Southwoods Team Leaders as soon as possible.)

VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL HONORS PROGRAM

The Valley High School Honors Program provides an enriched course of study that includes AP courses in the core areas with a supportive cohort of students. Students who maintain a 3.5 GPA and complete all course work receive the designation of Honors Program Scholar on their Valley diplomas. Additionally, they will earn up to 48 hours of college credit through dual-credit classes.

Students who successfully complete all four advanced courses in the core areas at Valley Southwoods and who earn a 3.5 GPA are eligible for the Valley Honors Program.

The Valley Honors Program closely resembles the International Baccalaureate Degree Program, an honors program offered in high schools throughout the world. The Valley Honors Program will provide recognition and support for the students taking the most rigorous core courses at Valley.

Sophomore Honors Program students will be scheduled into Advanced Placement classes in the core subjects (mathematics, language arts, social studies and science) with a cohort of students also enrolled in the Honors Program. They will also take physical education and two electives of their own choice. (See Course of Studies outline below).

Sophomore students who earn a minimum score of 27 on the ACT test taken in 8th or 9th grade or who are in the ELP program will be eligible to take advantage of the dual-credit option offered by Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

Students are eligible to earn up to 48 hours of college credit during their Valley career through the DMACC dual-credit classes.

Successful completion of all of the Honors Program courses at Valley including the senior exhibition will result in an Honors Program Scholar designation on the Valley Diploma at graduation.

Following is the required course of studies for the Honors Program.

**Valley High School
Honors Program Course of Studies**

Grade	VHS Course	DMACC Credit	DMACC Course
10	1. AP Europe	8	Western Civ
	2. AP Chemistry	8	Gen Inorg Chem
	3. Adv Composition/Adv Contemporary Literature		
	4. Alg. II /Trigonometry C		
	5. World Language		
	6. PE/Sophomore Seminar	1 (for Sophomore Seminar)	Career Planning
	7. Elective		
	8. Elective		
Total 17			
11	1. AP US History	8	American History
	2. AP Lit. and Composition	3	Intro to Literature
	3. AP Biology	8	Biology 1 and 2
	4. Pre Calculus C		
	5. World Language	8*	
	6. PE/Junior Seminar (Philosophy and Literature)		
	7. Elective		
	8. Elective		
Total 36			
12	1. American Political Culture/ Advanced Economics	3	American National Government
	2. AP Language and Composition	3	Composition 1
	3. AP Physics		
	4. AP Calculus BC	5	Calculus
	5. World Language		
	6. PE/Senior Seminar with Exhibition	1	Building Professional Portfolio
	7. Elective		
	8. Elective		
Total 48			

Successful completion of all of the above course of studies at Valley including the senior exhibition = Valley Honors Scholar* designation on the Valley Diploma at graduation.

* The formal title of the program and diploma designation are subject to change.

**The availability of DMACC credit currently is Spanish only.

Up to five (5) elective credits may be transferred in from other institutions if the courses are not offered at Valley High School.

Sophomore Seminar will be an opportunity for students to explore their areas of interest, read books together like 7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens, reflect on their talents/skills, shadow adults in different career pathways, and to create a thoughtful plan for the next three to five years including their “area of concentration.” (This area of concentration can change at any time. It does not lock students into anything, but it provides them with focus or vision and “an end in mind.”)

Junior Seminar will be similar to (mirror) the International Baccalaureate class called “Theories of Knowledge”

Senior Seminar will be an opportunity for students to design a research project in their area of interest. They will select a committee, design the research, have the design approved, perform the research, and then perform their senior exhibition. This is where they will invite their committee, parents, etc. to a 30 minute presentation of their original research findings. They must pass the exhibition in order to earn the VHS Honors diploma. However, students who do not meet the criteria will have the opportunity to present again in order to pass.

Application Process:

1. Successful completion of the following courses at VSW:
 - a. Biology
 - b. Accelerated Language & Literature/Fundamentals of Writing
 - c. Accelerated Global Cultural Studies / Western Civilization
 - d. Geometry or higher level
2. In order to earn DMACC credit at the 10th grade level, the student must have an ACT Score of 27 or be identified in ELP.

A GPA minimum of 3.5 each semester is required to remain in the program.

Note: Students electing to take 8 courses per semester may request a waiver of the PE requirement per Iowa Code.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

To graduate from Valley High School, you must have a minimum of forty-eight (48) credits, starting with the graduating class of 2011 including four credits from physical education. The specific requirements are as follows:

English and Language Arts (Total required credits: Eight for students graduating with the class of 2011 or subsequent years)

Language and Literature or Literature and Composition	Grade 9	2 credits
Speech Communication	Grades 9 or 10	1 credit
Fundamentals of Writing	Grades 10, 11, or 12	1 credit
Language Arts elective	Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12	2 credits
Literature elective	Grades 10, 11, or 12	2 credits

- Literature and Composition (2 credits) fulfills the ninth grade Language & Literature requirement and the tenth grade Fundamentals of Writing; students must meet entrance criteria. This course does not fulfill the speech requirement.
- Debate I/Public Speaking (2 credit course) fulfills the Speech Communication graduation requirement and the Language Arts elective.
- Speech Composition (2 credits) fulfills the Speech requirement and the Fundamentals of Writing requirement.

Fine Arts (Total required credits: One)

Fine Arts elective	Grades, 9, 10, 11, or 12	1 credit
Areas: Art, Drama, Music		

Mathematics (Total required credits: Six, including two credits in Algebra, beginning with the class of 2010. Algebra may be exempted through the IEP process.)

Algebra (or Developmental Algebra in Grades 10, 11, or 12)	Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12	2 credits
Mathematics electives	Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12	4 credits

- 8th grade algebra can be counted toward mathematics high school credits and toward graduation requirements.
- The change of moving from 4 credits to 6 credits for the mathematics graduation requirements goes into effect for the incoming freshman class of 2006-2007.

Physical Education (Total required credits: Four)

(1/2 credit per semester)

- All students will be required to obtain credit in P.E. during each semester of attendance as a requirement for graduation.
- Successful completion of the four required units is mandatory during the sophomore year. Requirements can be completed by choosing from electives during the junior and senior years.

Science (Total required credits: Six for those graduating with the class of 2011 or in subsequent years.)

General Science or Biology	Grade 9	2 credits
Science electives	Grade 10, 11, or 12	4 credits

- Biology in 9th grade fulfills the General Science requirement; students must meet entrance criteria.

Social Studies (Total required credits: Six)

Social Studies electives	Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12	2 credits
U.S. History	Grade 11	2 credits
Economics	Grade 11 or 12	1 credit
Government	Grade 12	1 credit

STUDENT FEES

Fees listed below were for the 2008-09 school year. All fees subject to change pending Board Approval.

Required Fee \$78

Optional Fees:

Activity Ticket (9-12) \$45

District-owned Musical Instruments \$50 (or \$25/semester)

VSW Yearbook \$25

Transportation:

Annual Round-trip \$460

Annual One-Way \$240

Quarterly Round-trip \$115

Quarterly One-Way \$60

Equal Opportunities for Students

The West Des Moines Community Schools Foundation has initiated a program, EqualOp, to “banish barriers for kids.” Economically disadvantaged students, grades K-12, who wish to participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities such as band, orchestra, chorus, debate, language clubs and sports may receive increased assistance through payment of fees, transportation (such as a Metro bus pass) and related expenses (such as shoes or uniforms.) Requests may be made verbally or in writing to the building administrator.

Fee Waiver

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for a waiver should contact the principal for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.