

NORTHBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2010-2011



COURSE LEVELS

College preparatory course names were updated as a result of speaking with college admission counselors and guidance directors throughout Massachusetts. The benefits of this change are as follows:

1. Consistency across each department and school-wide
2. College bound students have transcripts that are more clearly understood by college admission counselors. (Labeling the courses College Preparatory Level 2 is the standard name for most Massachusetts Comprehensive High Schools.)
3. Northbridge High School transcripts are more clearly understood by other guidance counselors for students that transfer to other high schools.



COLLEGE PREP LEVEL 2 COURSES

College Prep Level 2 courses are describe in the Program of Studies (page 5) as follows:

College Prep courses are designed to prepare students for two-year and four-year college programs. Students who enroll in college prep courses must have demonstrated competencies in reading, writing, speaking, comprehension, using concepts, and study skills. Although these courses are challenging, instructors proceed at a more moderate pace. Students are expected to become active, self-directed learners who will work independently and cooperatively. These students will be challenged to focus on gaining a deeper understanding of more complex ideas, theories, and advanced skills and concepts. On average, college prep students can expect up to half an hour of study or activity to re-enforce the day's lesson and/or to prepare for the next class. College prep courses are offered at the standard college prep level 1 and a college prep level 2 course is offered for students needing smaller class sizes and instruction at a more moderate pace. All College prep level 1 and level 2 courses are identified by a course number ending in 1.

Previous Name:

Updated Name:

English:

Humanities 1

English 1 CP-2

Humanities 2

English 2 CP-2

Exploring Literature

English 3 CP-2

Math:

Integrated Math 1

Algebra 1 CP-2

Integrated Math 2

Geometry CP-2

Integrated Math 3

Algebra 2 CP-2

Integrated Math 4

Consumer Accounting

Previous Name:

Updated Name:

Social Studies

Humanities 1

World History 1 CP-2

Humanities 2

American Studies 1 CP-2

American Studies

American Studies 2 CP-2

in the Modern Era

Science:

Living World Gr. 9

Freshman Science CP-2

Living World Gr. 10

Biology CP-2

Integrated Chemistry

Chemistry CP-2

& Biology Concepts

NEW COURSES OFFERED AT NHS

ENGLISH:

- ✓ AP English Language and Composition – Grade level: 11
- ✓ Public Speaking – Grade levels: 9-12

MATH:

- ✓ AP Calculus BC – For grade 11

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING:

- ✓ Pre-AP Biology – For grade 9
- ✓ Engineering & Technology Applications 1 – CP
- ✓ Engineering & Technology Applications 2 – CP
- ✓ Architectural Drafting 1 Honors

SOCIAL STUDIES

- ✓ Foundations of Homeland Security

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

- ✓ Foods and Nutrition 1

COMPUTERS

- ✓ AP COMPUTER SCIENCE



CHANGES TO COURSES INCLUDE:

ENGLISH:

- ✓ America Through Film – Formerly a social studies elective, will now be an English Elective.
- ✓ Course Name Change: Go, Mr. Poe (Formerly Hi, Nice to Meet you Mr. Poe)

MUSIC:

- ✓ The following course names were changed:
 - ✓ Concert Band (Formerly Band)
 - ✓ Concert Choir (Formerly Chorus)
 - ✓ Music Theory 1 & 2 Honors/CP (Formerly Music Technology 1 & 2)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING:

- ✓ Introduction to Geographic Information Systems will now only be offered at the honors level
- ✓ The following course names were changed:
 - ✓ Wood Engineering & Technology (Formerly Wood 1)

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE:

- ✓ The following course names were changed:
 - ✓ Child Development (Formerly Exploring Childhood)
 - ✓ Early Childhood Education (Formerly Careers in Childcare)

MATH:

- ✓ Accounting Honors/CP will now count towards Math credits (Formerly elective credit only)





We have increased the AP courses offered from just 5 up to 8 courses for the 2010/2011 school year. This will put our students at a greater advantage for college admissions and academic & merit based scholarships.

1. AP English Language & Composition
2. AP English Literature
3. AP Calculus (AB)
4. AP Calculus (BC)
5. AP Biology
6. AP Chemistry
7. AP U.S. History
8. AP Computer Science



GUIDANCE UPDATES

In order for students and parents to be more aware and prepared for the admission requirements to our year colleges/universities the following section was added to the Program of Studies:

MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGES AND UMASS MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman Applicants

The admissions standards for freshmen applicants have two main parts:

1. 16 required academic courses.
2. A minimum required grade point average (GPA) earned in college preparatory courses completed at the time of application.

Applicants must also submit an SAT or ACT score (*directly from collegeboard.com or actstudent.org*).

Academic Course Requirement:

16 college preparatory courses distributed as follows are required.

(A course is equivalent to one full school year of study. Courses count toward the distribution only if passed.)

- ◆ English 4 courses
- ◆ Mathematics 3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework)
- ◆ Sciences 3 courses (including 2 courses with laboratory work)
- ◆ Social Sciences 2 courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)
- ◆ Foreign Languages 2 courses (in a single language)
- ◆ Electives 2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)

Minimum Required Grade Point Average (GPA):

The GPA must be achieved based on all college preparatory courses completed at the time of application and should be weighted for accelerated (Honors or AP) courses.

The required minimum weighted high school GPA is 3.0 for the four-year public campuses.

State College GPA: 3.0

University GPA: 3.0



GUIDANCE UPDATES *CONTINUED*

THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WERE ADDED:

SCHEDULE CHANGE PROCEDURE

Add/Drop Period: It is encouraged that students solidify their schedules prior to the start of the each term; but it is understood that circumstances may occur that will require change. Students must make the schedule changes during the add/drop period which is 5 school days from the start of each term. A level change during a term may be permitted if approved by the classroom teacher, department chairperson and a parent/guardian. In order for a student to enter into a college preparatory level 2 course; a meeting may need to take place between the parent/guardian and the specific department chairperson and guidance counselor. All level changes during the term will require a written request from a parent or guardian.

SUMMER SCHOOL POLICY

Eligibility: Students may earn credit for a failed course by attending summer school. Students must receive a minimum average of 50% in the course failed. Written documentation of the summer school program attended will be required if the student attends a program outside of the Northbridge High School District.



GUIDANCE UPDATES *CONTINUED*

HOME SCHOOL POLICY

(Guidelines for students who wish to receive credits toward graduation at NHS)

Home School (Guidelines for children who wish to receive credits toward graduation at NHS)

The following guidelines, which detail how home schooled children may receive credits toward graduation for the work they have done during their high school years, are provided for students who may wish to change from home schooled status and enroll at the high school as full-time students. Students who meet all of the course and credit requirements to be considered a graduate must attend Northbridge High School on a full-time basis for at least one school year in order to receive a Northbridge High School diploma.*

The guidelines that follow refer to students who are home schooled at any time during their high school years and wish to return to Northbridge High School.

If students have been home schooled and decide to return to the high school they may receive credit for their home schooled courses under the following guidelines:

Students who have taken a course(s) at a local college or through an accredited correspondence course may submit an official transcript showing successful completion of the course. Students who have been taught courses at home must submit the course curriculum and evidence of coursework to the building principal for approval. The building principal will make a determination as to whether or not the course has been successfully completed. This will be dependent upon the building principal's review of the assessments provided (e.g., tests, research papers, etc.) and if necessary the passing of an examination, developed and corrected by the appropriate subject area department chairperson. Students must fulfill the graduation requirements of Northbridge High School and the Massachusetts Department of Education as they relate to acceptable performance standards on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment Test (MCAS). Students may Participate in the testing cycle offered through Northbridge High School to satisfy this state requirement once they are enrolled at the high school.

For further information, please contact the high school principal.

*Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the high school principal in cases of extenuating circumstances.



OTHER ADDITIONS

The PAVE program description has been added to the Program of Studies. (Page 7)

Program for Academic and Vocational Excellence (PAVE):

The PAVE program was designed for students who are determined to be in need of a high intensity school retention plan. The program focuses on building personalized trusting relationships with teachers and staff. The program features small class sizes, individualized curriculum, and the integration of vocational education, college preparatory, school-to-career, and social services. Academic and special education teachers' work together to provide a variety of differentiated instructional environments.



OTHER ADDITIONS *CONTINUED*

In an effort to increase enrollment to the Virtual High School & Moodle courses, the descriptions have been modified and added to the Program of Studies (Page 14).



VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL – AP, HONORS, CP

Imagine classrooms without walls, where students are able to attend their classes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Imagine students working cooperatively online with others from a wide variety of ethnicities, backgrounds and geographic locations. These opportunities are available to you through the Virtual High School (VHS) program. VHS courses are also the wave of the future in preparing students for college and a great way to learn more about a specialized area of interest. VHS courses are for independent learners that are self-motivated and in good academic standing. Students may visit www.govhs.org for a full list of courses available. Seats are limited and students must apply early. Students may take a VHS course in addition to their regular schedule or have the course scheduled into their school day. It is preferred that students have internet access from home but not required. For more information and to obtain an application please see the VHS coordinator or your guidance counselor.

MOODLE ONLINE COURSES:



Moodle is an open-source Course Management System. It is an important tool for the 21st century classroom. It allows teachers to include video and audio lectures, class notes, PowerPoint presentations, assignments, glossaries, automated quizzes, forums for sharing class information, wikis, and news flashes. Moodle also gives students the ability to upload their assignments. The Moodle application can be accessed from within the school's network and from home or any computer that has Internet access. No special software is needed to use Moodle, because it is opened in an Internet browser. One of the major features is it gives students the ability to watch, listen or review a Moodle based lecture as many times as they need. Moodle is another tool in helping teachers effectively present and deliver course work to students. If you would like more information about the Moodle software itself, you can visit www.moodle.com.

NHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

While remaining in compliance with the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) Masscore requirements, we have deleted foreign language as graduation requirement.

Credit distribution and graduation requirements are now as follows:

Core Curriculum

English	20.0
Fine & Applied Arts:	
Computers	5.0
Health & Wellness	10.0
Mathematics	20.0
Science	15.0
Social Studies	15.0
Elective Distribution Credits	<u>35.0</u>
	120.0



Credits required for graduation

