

# MSSPA



MAIN STREET SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

## 2016 - 2017 Course Selection Guide

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## Mission Statement

To cultivate, challenge and expand each high school learner’s intellectual and expressive potential in a vibrant and socially diverse community of rigorous academics and performing arts.

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# GRADUATION GUIDELINES

- A full time student at Main Street School of Performing Arts will take four classes per day.
- One credit is earned for each quarter length class.
- Throughout the four years of high school, a student must earn credits in the following areas to graduate:

<b>English</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>credit</b>
<b>Fine Arts</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Electives</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>credits</b>

- Students planning to attend a **College or University** are strongly recommended to complete a more rigorous course load. Post secondary institutions are becoming more competitive each year and students are being compared to one another, not to the minimums for application to the institution. A typical course load for admission is similar to the following:

<b>English</b>	<b>8+</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>8+</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>8+</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Single Foreign Language</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Fine Arts</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Additional Academics</b>		

- Although 56 credits in four years is the minimum students must earn in order to graduate, most students earn more.
- Students must have earned a minimum number of credits to move on to the next grade level. The following are the minimum number of credits needed to be in the grade listed:

<b>Sophomore (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Junior (11<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>credits</b>
<b>Senior (12<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>credits</b>

- Some courses, including music, dance, theatre, math, and Advanced Placement courses require special placement criteria to be completed before registration.
- Many courses have a length of two quarters. Grades are awarded at the end of each quarter and these grades will appear on the student's transcript (the document that colleges will see).
- Students are required to take both quarters of a two-quarter class, unless they have counselor or instructor permission to take only one. (Indicated by Sections "A" and "B". For example, Biology A & Biology B)
- The state of MN has required standardized assessment criteria be met for graduation. The graduating class of 2016 must take the ACT+ writing during statewide administration or a comparable. The graduating class of 2017 and beyond does not currently have a standardized test requirement.
- **Credit by Assessment (CbA)**  
MSSPA provides students the opportunity to receive credit for previous learning in required academic courses. To download the CbA policy document and the CbA application, please discuss with the Gifted and Talented Coordinator.

# SCHEDULING OF CLASSES

Due to the small enrollment at MSSPA and our comparatively diverse course options, scheduling classes is challenging. The number of single section classes further complicates the scheduling process. Any student who is requesting more than one single section course (AP courses, many arts courses, etc) or who is “out of grade level” (i.e. a freshman taking Pre-Calculus) **will not likely be able to schedule all their first choice classes** in a single year. This is why it is important to consider different course options. A student will likely be required to make a choice between two single section courses.

# SCHEDULE CHANGES & DROP/ADD DURING THE YEAR

Once students complete the course selection process for the next school year, it will be difficult to make changes to schedules. Please carefully consider your course choices with this fact in mind. Teacher schedules, the hiring of teachers, the number of sections, section sizes, and the ordering of textbooks and supplies are determined by initial student selection and registration. For these reasons all non-substantive reasons for schedule changes such as: changing blocks, “I prefer to take it next year,” or “I changed my mind,” etc. will not be considered. We are aware that occasionally circumstances change between the time of registration and the beginning of class that necessitates changing a schedule.

Changes to courses should be made prior to one week before the beginning of each quarter. If a course is dropped, students must maintain a minimum of four credits. Any student wishing to drop or add a course must complete and submit documentation available from the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Courses dropped after the first five days will result in an “F” recorded on the student’s transcript for that course. **MSSPA reserves the right to modify/cancel courses based on the number of students enrolled in individual courses.**

# TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

**Advanced Placement (AP) course:** Requires students to work at a high level of achievement and involves extra work outside of class. Students who take the national Advanced Placement examinations associated with these courses may receive college credit.

**Elective course:** A course chosen by students to fulfill the graduation requirements.

**Prerequisite course:** A course that students must **pass** before registering for a specific course.

**Required course:** A course students must **pass** in order to graduate from MSSPA.

**Technique course:** A dance course in either the Ballet or Modern course progression.

# MSSPA Credit Check Worksheet Class of 2016 & beyond

Each box equals ONE credit – check off one box for each credit you have earned.

Circle credits you are earning this semester.

1. Students must fulfill the following course requirements.

2. Students must earn a total of 56 credits.

Credits required for graduation: 56

## English (8 credits required)

- English I A
- English I B
- English II A/American Studies English A/B
- English II B/American Studies English C/D
- English III A or AP Literature A
- English III B or AP Literature B
- English IV A or AP Composition A
- English IV B or AP Composition B

## Mathematics (6 credits required)

- Intermediate Algebra A (or higher)
- Intermediate Algebra B (or higher)
- Geometry A (or higher)
- Geometry B (or higher)
- Advanced Algebra Essentials A or Advanced Algebra A (or higher)
- Advanced Algebra Essentials B or Advanced Algebra B (or higher)

*If a student starts above Intermediate Algebra, they will need to take courses beyond Advanced Algebra to meet 6 credit requirements.*

## Electives (27 credits required)

*Includes Arts, World Language, and other Academic Electives*

\_\_\_\_\_ / 15 Arts (for endorsement)

\_\_\_\_\_ / 12 Additional

## Social Studies (8 credits required)

- Civics
- Geography
- American Studies History A/B (former: ModernUS A) or AP US History A
- American Studies History C/D(former: ModernUS B) or AP US History B
- World Studies A or AP European History A
- World Studies B or AP European History B
- Economics
- Elective (AP-part C, Early American History, Sociology, Psychology, Art History, Current Events)

## Science (6 credits required)

- Biology A
- Biology B
- Chemistry A or Physics A
- Chemistry B or Physics B
- Elective
- Elective

## Physical Education Requirement (1 credit)

- Any movement-based dance class  
*(Theatre Movement between 11-14 )*

Total Credits you have earned: \_\_\_\_\_

This includes courses above and all other electives.  
*(see the bottom of your transcript for this number).*

Credits you still need to earn: \_\_\_\_\_

Includes Semester 2 courses(subtract earned credits from 56)

# ARTS ENDORSEMENT

An MSSPA Arts endorsement is earned by passing 15 specific arts classes in your major area (Music, Theatre, Dance, Musical Theatre) and also complete and pass all Juries in their art major. Students who have earned their endorsement are recognized at the Senior Awards Reception, and are presented with a stole to wear at graduation. Some transfer students may not be able to earn an arts endorsement due to scheduling and transfer credits. An additional credit and Honors Endorsement is earned through an optional Capstone Project (see Arts section for further explanation.)

## DANCE ENDORSEMENT - 15 CREDITS

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballet & Modern Technique I, II, or III | <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning Improvisation and Composition | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballet & Modern Technique I, II, or III | <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Improv and Composition     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballet & Modern Technique I, II, or III | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Improv and Composition         | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballet & Modern Technique I, II, or III | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Careers                           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballet & Modern Technique III, IV       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Wellness                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballet & Modern Technique III, IV       | <input type="checkbox"/> World Dance                             |  |

**Dance Electives Include:**

*Jazz I & II; Special Topics in Ballet; Show Choir A & B; Dance Pedagogy; Dance Repertoire; Stretch & Strengthen*

## MUSIC ENDORSEMENT - 15 CREDITS

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory I A                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Choirs/Ensembles | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory I B                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Choirs/Ensembles | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory II A                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Choirs/Ensembles | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory II B                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Choirs/Ensembles | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> World Musics OR Music History OR Music Composition | <input type="checkbox"/> Choirs/Ensembles |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Choirs/Ensembles |  |

**Music Electives Include:**

*Choirs/Ensembles (past required 6); AP Music Theory A, B, C; World Music; Music History; Composition; Voice Class; History of Contemporary Music; Fundamentals of Guitar*

## THEATRE ENDORSEMENT - 15 CREDITS

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improvisation                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting II A  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voice & Diction I             | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting II B  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration on a Global Stage | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting III A | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Movement I            | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting III B | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting I A                    |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Elective: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting I B                    |                                       |  |

**Theatre Electives Include:**

*Advanced Improvisation; Theatre Movement II; Acting IV A & B; History of Film; Art of Film; Voice & Diction II; Costume Design: Theatre*

## MUSICAL THEATRE ENDORSEMENT - 15 CREDITS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Technique (by placement) | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir or Chamber Singers | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting for Musical Theatre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Technique (by placement) | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir or Chamber Singers | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Theatre Repertoire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting I A                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Show Choir A             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabaret                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acting I B                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Show Choir B             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory I A               | <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz I                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Theory I B               | <input type="checkbox"/> Jazz II                  |   |

# WEIGHTED GRADE PROCEDURE

MSSPA uses both weighted and unweighted grades to calculate GPA and class rank and will present both on all transcripts. The dual ranking is provided to assure all students are shown in the best possible light for the purposes of college admissions and scholarship opportunities.

Only Advanced Placement (AP) courses are weighted, as these courses engage students in college level curriculum and have an external component that requires additional teacher training and assessment.

MSSPA uses a 4.0 grading scale. For the weighted GPA and class rank, regular point values for letter grades are multiplied by 1.20:

Grade	Regular Point	Weighted Point
A+	4	4.8
A	4	4.8
A-	3.67	4.4
B+	3.33	4
B	3	3.6
B-	2.67	3.2
C+	2.33	2.8
C	2	2.4
C-	1.67	2
D+	1.33	1.6
D	1	1.2
D-	.67	.8

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# REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

1. Student Credit Check & Course selection materials are distributed to for review in Homeroom.
2. Read through the course selection guide to learn what courses are available, aware of prerequisites and grade level recommendations.
3. Students create and review four-year plans with Homeroom advisors.
4. Students and parents discuss elective and required course offerings, aware of post-secondary options after high school and requirements for each institution.
5. Complete the Course Request form provided with the registration guide. Follow additional instructions on course selection form.
6. Teachers sign approval of course choices on Request form (initials required for most class/dept).
7. Homeroom teachers will look over course selections for completeness.
8. Students Requests are registered with oversight from HR advisors, school counselor, and Director of Teaching and Learning.
9. Contact the counselor with any additional questions.



# 2016-2017 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## ARTS CURRICULUM

MSSPA has advanced level classes in all arts areas and offers the option of a college preparatory arts endorsement at graduation. The expansive performance calendar opportunities complement the work that students engage in daily in classes. An MSSPA Arts endorsement is a valuable concentration of effort which reflects artistic vision, self-discipline, rigor, and mastery. Students who have earned their endorsement are recognized at the Senior Awards Reception, and are presented with a stole to wear at graduation. An additional credit and Honors Endorsement is earned through an optional Capstone Project, a performance project that demonstrates your work and growth as an artist. This earns one credit, which may be earned as a self-directed study or outside the school day.

All Capstone performance projects must have a clear proposal with tentative rehearsal calendar, artistic vision/statement to earn advisor approval. To be eligible for Senior Capstone and to earn an honors endorsement, you must be on track for your regular endorsement, and work with your advisor to develop the project and the expectations.

## DANCE

### 15 credits required for Endorsement

Students must pass all of the following courses AND complete their Capstone to earn an Honors Arts Endorsement.

Dance Technique I, II, or III	Beginning Improvisation and Composition	Dance Elective
Dance Technique I, II, or III	Intermediate Improvisation and Composition	Dance Elective
Dance Technique I, II, or III	Advanced Improv and Comp	Dance Elective
Dance Technique I, II, or III	Dance Careers	
Dance Technique III or IV	Dance Wellness	
Dance Technique III or IV	World Dance	

### Dance Electives Include:

*Jazz I & II; Special Topics in Ballet; Show Choir A & B; Dance Pedagogy; Dance Repertoire; Stretch & Strengthen; Careers; others as designed*

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### Stretch & Strengthen

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None.

Description: The course emphasizes fundamental body wisdom to provide healthy bodies, safe practices and improved technique in all areas of the performing arts. Students are expected to participate daily in yoga, Pilates, aerobics and other somatic activities. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

### Ballet and Modern Dance Technique I (ABCD) *This course can be repeated for additional credit. (formerly Beginning Dance)*

Length of course: 1-4 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: This introductory level dance course focus on ballet and modern dance for the novice dancer. Correct alignment, developmental strength and phrasing in both ballet and modern are emphasized. This is a participatory class; students will dance everyday. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

### Ballet and Modern Technique II (ABCD) *This course can be repeated for additional credit.*

Length of course: 1-4 quarters

Prerequisites: Technique I and/or instructor approval

Description: For students who have successfully completed Technique I or have previous dance experience, but require additional and progressive development of alignment, strength, vocabulary and phrasing. This is a participatory class; students will dance everyday. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

**Ballet and Modern Technique III (ABCD)** *This course may be repeated for additional credit. (formerly Intermediate Dance)*

Length of course: 1-4 quarters

Prerequisites: Technique II and/or instructor approval

Description: Continued emphasis will be placed on the expansion of ballet and modern technique and theory, phrasing, alignment, and development of strength. This is a participatory class; students will dance everyday. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

**Ballet and Modern Technique IV (ABCD)** *This course may be repeated for additional credit. (formerly Advanced Dance)*

Length of course: 1-4 quarters

Prerequisites: Technique III and/or instructor approval

Description: Continued study of ballet and modern technique and theory, vocabulary, phrasing, alignment, and developmental strength. Additional emphasis will be placed on artistic development and physical stamina. Students will continue to explore the relationship of human anatomy to movement. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirement).*

**Beginning Improvisation & Composition (I)**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: One dance technique class at MSSPA

Description: Through improvisation and exploration students learn and put into practice the utilization of choreographic elements and devices used to create choreographic works as a movement form of expression.

**Intermediate Improvisation & Composition (II)**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Beginning Improvisation and Composition

Description: Grade 10-11. Students continue to apply choreographic components of dance creation such as structure, style and rhythm to develop their personal creative voice. In addition, students will analyze and evaluate the works of master choreographers, as well as, their own peer's studies.

**Advanced Improvisation & Composition (III)**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Intermediate Improvisation & Composition

Description: Grade 12. Students expand their choreographic prowess applying principles, performance awareness and critical evaluation skills in larger works for production. Additional study into film and other venues beyond the main stage will also be explored.

**Dance Wellness (A) and Lab (B)**

Length of course: 1-2 quarters

Pre-requisites: Dance majors only with a minimum of one quarter of beginning dance and/or instructor approval.

Description: Grades 10-12. An examination of anatomy, nutrition, injury prevention, conditioning, somatics and other health related topics specific to dancers will be explored to increase the longevity of the dancer. This course will include lecture, exploratory movement activities and observations. Lab will also include various projects and research that to demonstrate learning concepts.

**Jazz Dance I** *(Technique course) (formerly called Jazz & Musical Theatre I)*

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Introduction to Jazz Dance and Musical Theatre is a beginning-level technique class designed for non-dancers. Students will learn classical jazz technique, swing dance and excerpts from various Broadway musicals. This is a performance-based class; students will participate in daily warm-ups, across the floor phrases and center combinations. All students must have jazz shoes for this class. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirement for Music and Theatre Majors).*

**Jazz Dance II** *(formerly called Jazz & Musical Theatre II)*

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisites: Jazz Dance and Musical Theatre I and/or approval by instructor

Description: An upper level-jazz class designed for Dance and Musical Theatre majors. Students will continue to expand their classical and musical theatre jazz technique foundation. Continued emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, movement phrasing and performance, musical theatre repertoire, improvisation, and classical jazz and musical theatre history. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirements.)*

### **Special Topics in Ballet 1** (*Technique course*)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisites: Audition and/or placement by the department and the student must be at an intermediate or higher ballet level.

Description: This course is designed to provide female students an opportunity to develop pointe work and male students an opportunity to develop movement specific to men such as pirouettes, batterie, ballone, and grand allegro. This class will be differentiated, so as to accommodate the various skill levels and so that each student can make appropriate progress. This class is also designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn various ballet repertoire and variations, as well as the opportunity, when there is male participation, to learn basic-advanced partnering skills and variations. This is a participatory class where students will be physically active every day. (*This course meets the physical education requirements.*)

### **Special Topics in Ballet 2** (*Technique course*)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisites: Special Topics in Ballet 1, or audition and/or placement by the department.

Description: This course designed to continue to build upon point and men's skills learned in Special Topics in Ballet I. This class will be differentiated, so as to accommodate the various skill levels and so that each student can make appropriate progress. This class will also continue to provide students with the opportunity to learn various ballet repertoire and variations, as well as the opportunity, when there is male participation, to learn basic-advanced partnering skills and variations. This is a participatory class, students will be physically active every day. (*This course meets the physical education requirements.*)

### **World Dance**

Note: This course **is not** offered in 2016-17, continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None.

Description: Exploration of dance forms from around the world, such as West African dance, kabuki, bharatnayam, capoeira, and others. Students will read about dance cultures, watch video and live representations of different dance forms, and participate in dance classes to learn about specific dance forms from around the world. This is an upper-level lecture-based class.

### **Dance Production and Design**

Note: This course **is** offered in 2015-16, continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Research history of costume, lighting and set design specific to dance performances. Students will also have hands-on experience of designing and constructing costumes and/or lights for a dance concert.

### **Dance Pedagogy**

Note: Course **is available 2016-2017**, continued in alternate years.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisites: Dance majors only and must be at an Intermediate level or higher and/or placement by the department.

Description: Theory and practice of effective dance instruction; including planning and preparation, communication/ instructional skills, learning styles, levels, technique and methods. Students will be required to teach several classes to community members of various levels and ages youth to adult.

### **Careers**

#### **Grade 12**

An exploration and research of higher education and career related options and professional practices. Practical audition and application items will be developed: resume, cover letter, and portfolio building. Grant writing, fundraising, arts administration, education, company operation and support careers will be explored. Students will work in projects and with professionals in various fields.

# MUSIC

## 15 credits required for Endorsement

Students must pass all of the following courses and complete their CAPSTONE to earn an HONORS Arts Endorsement.

Music Theory I A	Choirs/Ensembles	Music Elective
Music Theory I B	Choirs/Ensembles	Music Elective
Music Theory II A	Choirs/Ensembles	Music Elective
Music Theory II B	Choirs/Ensembles	Music Elective
World Musics OR Music History OR Music Composition	Choirs/Ensembles	
	Choirs/Ensembles	

### Music Electives Include:

*Choirs/Ensembles (you are encouraged to take additional credits); Post-Tonal Music Theory; AP Music Theory A, B, C; World Music; Music History;; Voice Class I or II; History of Rock; Fundamentals of Guitar; Careers*

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### Traditional Ensemble (ABCD) *This course may be repeated for additional credit.*

Length of course: 1-4 quarters

Prerequisites: Students who play woodwind, brass, string, and percussion instruments. Guitarists are welcome to enroll, but must be able to read from traditional music notation (not tab).

Description: This ensemble will allow students to explore performance of music in the classical (Western Art) music tradition. Students will perform in a large ensemble, in smaller chamber ensembles, listen and aesthetically evaluate music, and write and arrange music.

### Fundamentals of Guitar

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None.

Description: This is a basic guitar course for students who are new to guitar. Concepts covered include learning good tone production, power chords, basic chord progressions, scales, and soloing. Students will learn how to read tab and standard notation. Students must provide their own guitar.

This class fulfills one quarter of an ensemble requirement for music endorsement.

### Contemporary Ensemble (ABCD) *This course can be repeated for additional credit.*

Length of course: 1-4 quarters

Prerequisites: Students must take concurrently or have taken Theory 1. Fundamentals of Guitar or instructor approval is required. Instrumentalist.

Description: Students engage with music through creating and evaluating music from different contemporary styles. Students will perform covers and original works, studying melody, harmonic progressions, scale patterns, and analyze song forms.

### Jazz Ensemble (ABCD) *This course may be repeated for additional credit.*

Length of course: 1-4 quarters

Prerequisite: Music Theory 1; Students who play traditional jazz instrumentation or instructor approval. Students will be asked to play by ear & read musical notation.

Description: Students will learn a handful of jazz standards, listen to important recordings from the genre to understand stylistic details, rehearse jazz repertoire in small groups to understand how chords, scales, and using one's ear influences improvisation.

### Choir (ABCD) *This course may be repeated for additional credit.*

Prerequisites: None

Length: 2 or 4 Quarters. Students should register for either AB or CD or ALL (ABCD).

Description: Students will rehearse daily in preparation for at minimum of two major concerts. Students will study a variety of choral literature of all genres from Renaissance to the 21st Century. In addition, students will study sight-reading using Solfege syllables to increase note-reading abilities. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

Women's and/or Men's Choir (NEW!) may run based on enrollment.

### **Voice Class I**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisite: Enrolled in a MSSPA choral ensemble for at least one quarter during the same school year.

Description: Students will learn the basics of solo singing and standard solo repertoire. \*All students will be expected to perform individually for the class on a regular basis, receiving public feedback and coaching from instructor. Additional topics covered will be: International Phonetic Alphabet, vocal health, vocal anatomy, and performance etiquette, specifically for singers. Each student will perform a variety of genres including, but limited to, classical art song, musical theatre, folk, and jazz. Students will perform at least one art song in Italian and learn the basics of Italian diction as well as German, French, etc if applicable. All abilities are welcome as this class is focused on individual progress.

### **Voice Class II**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisite: Voice Class I or instructor approval

Description: Students will learn more advanced vocal technique of solo singing and standard solo repertoire. \*All students will be expected to perform in a public recital showcasing the repertoire they have mastered during this course.

**Advanced Ensemble** (CD) This course may be repeated for additional credit.

Instructor Placement with prerequisites: Contemporary Jazz, Traditional Ensembles

Audition Dates: April or May 2016. Date will be posted early April. - **See appendix C for more information.**

Length of Course: 2 Quarters. Students are strongly encouraged to do Jazz or Traditional Ensembles semester 1.

Description: Students will rehearse daily in preparation for major concerts. Students will also study the specific technique of authentic steel drumming. Students will develop part-reading skills on their specific instrument. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

**Chamber Singers** (ABCD) This course may be repeated for additional credit.

Prerequisites: 1 year of Choir or comparable voice study. **Audition required - See appendix C for more information.**

Audition Dates: April or May 2015. Date will be posted early April.

You may only self-enroll in Chamber Singers at time of registration if you were enrolled in the year prior.

Length: 2 or 4 quarters. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in all 4 quarters if possible.

Description: Students will rehearse daily in preparation for at minimum of two major concerts. Students will study a variety of advanced choral literature of all genres from Renaissance to the 21st Century. In addition, students will study sight-reading using Solfege syllables to increase note-reading abilities. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Students will also study some standard vocal jazz literature.

### **History of Rock** (*formerly called History of Contemporary Music*)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None.

Description: This course will study the major developments of rock and related music since the 1950s, examining inter-cultural relationships and historical contexts in addition to stylistic characteristics and changes. Movements examined include but are not limited to soul, folk rock, British rock, psychedelic, metal, disco, punk, and rap. Students will be expected to listen, analyze, read and write about, and perform the genres studied.

### **Music Composition**

Note: This course **is not offered in 2016-17**, course will be offered in 2017-2018.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Music Theory II

Description: This course is for theory students who have a thorough knowledge of basic compositional techniques. This course will go into depth on the topics of musical form, instrumentation, transpositions, specific compositional techniques, arranging, and the study of prominent composers of all time periods. Students will compose original music and analyze peers' compositions. This class will utilize digital audio workstations (DAWs) as well as notation software.

### **World Music**

Note: Course **is available 2016-2017**, continue in alternate years.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Music Theory I

Description: Students explore music from different world cultures, analyzing musical elements and cultural contexts, gaining an understanding of music as a form of expression. Students examine musical examples from the perspective of musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure) and focus on in-depth case studies of a few world regions.

## **Music History**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Music Theory I

Description: Students explore music from the Western Art music tradition, analyzing musical elements and historical contexts, gaining an understanding of music as a form of expression. Students examine musical examples from the perspective of musical elements (rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure) and study one major work from each historical era in depth.

## **Music Theory I A&B**

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: 1st level music theory course. Students will learn the basic language of western music. Students will study basic music theory, simple notation, basic composition skills, and beginning ear-training skills. Students will perform in small groups and alone on several performance projects.

## **Music Theory II A&B**

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Music Theory I

Description: 2nd Level of music theory study. Students learn the language of western music including notation, chord structure, composition, ear training and sight singing. Students may perform individually and in groups on their instruments and vocally.

## **Post Tonal Music Theory**

Length of course: 1 quarters

Prerequisites: Music Theory II

Description: Students will learn about 20th and 21st Century composers and compositional techniques of western classical music. Students will listen, analyze, compose, and write about styles including serialism, minimalism, and the avant-garde.

## **Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory (ABC)**

Length of course: 3 quarters

Prerequisites: Music Theory I and II, Instructor approval and signed AP contract.

Description: Advanced level of music theory study. Students learn the advanced language of western music including notation, melodic and harmonic dictation, chord structure, composition, sight singing and ear training. NOTE: All enrolled students will take the AP exam at the end of this course. Grades are weighted for this course (see page 7).

## **Careers**

### **Grade 12**

An exploration and research of higher education and career related options and professional practices. Practical audition and application items will be developed: resume, cover letter, and portfolio building. Grant writing, fundraising, arts administration, education, company operation and support careers will be explored. Students will work in projects and with professionals in various fields.

# MUSICAL THEATRE

## 15 credits required for Endorsement

Students must pass all of the following courses AND complete their Capstone to earn an Honors Arts Endorsement.

Beginning Dance A	Choir or Chamber Singers	Acting for Musical Theatre
Beginning Dance B	Choir or Chamber Singers	Musical Theatre Repertoire
Acting I A	Show Choir A	Cabaret
Acting I B	Show Choir B	
Music Theory I A	Jazz & Musical Theatre I	
Music Theory I B	Jazz & Musical Theatre II	

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### **Beginning Dance A&B**

Length of course: 4 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: This introductory level dance course teaches beginning-level students about both modern dance and ballet. Students will meet year long to learn ballet technique with an emphasis on correct alignment, developmental strength and an understanding of basic ballet vocabulary. Students will also learn modern technique; emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, anatomy and phrasing. This is a participatory class; students will dance everyday. This course can be repeated for additional credit. (This course meets the Physical Education requirement).

### **Acting I A&B**

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Script analysis, cold reading, character exploration, auditions, scene work, monologues, and making choices in theatre are the core of the acting curriculum. Acting one lays the ground work and vocabulary for the serious acting student. Self-discovery and stage fundamentals lay the foundation of this class.

### **Choir A&B** *This course can be repeated for additional credit.*

Prerequisites: None

Length: 2 or 4 Quarters. Students should register for either AB or CD or BOTH.

Description: Students will rehearse daily in preparation for at minimum of two majors concerts. Students will study a variety of choral literature of all genres from Renaissance to the 21st Century. In addition, students will study sight-reading using solfege syllables to increase note-reading abilities. Attendance at all dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory.

### **Music Theory I A&B**

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: 1st level music theory course. Students will learn the basic language of western music. Students will study basic music theory, simple notation, basic composition skills, and beginning ear-training skills. Students will perform in small groups and alone on several performance projects.

### **Show Choir A&B**

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course is an introductory class to the elements of show choir. In this class you will be combining vocal excellence with the visual aspects of choreography to create a musical dance ensemble. The music selection will include, but not is limited to, pop and Broadway show tunes. Please note this is a physical class and you will be stretching, doing aerobic activity to build stamina, as well as dancing. You are required to perform in a Music Concert and/or Dance Concert and/or a No Shame. (This course meets the physical education requirement for Music and Theatre Majors.)

### **Jazz Dance I** (formerly called Jazz & Musical Theatre I)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Students will learn classical jazz technique, swing dance and excerpts from various Broadway musicals. This is a performance-based class; students will participate in daily warm-ups, across the floor phrases and center combinations. All students must have jazz shoes for this class. *(This class meets the Physical Education requirements.)*

### **Jazz Dance II** (formerly called Jazz & Musical Theatre II)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisites: Jazz Dance and Musical Theatre I and/or approval by instructor

Description: An upper level-jazz class designed for Dance and Musical Theatre majors. Students will continue to expand their classical and musical theatre jazz technique foundation. Continued emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, movement phrasing and performance, musical theatre repertoire, improvisation, and classical jazz and musical theatre history. *(This course meets the Physical Education requirements.)*

### **Acting for Musical Theatre**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Acting I.

Description: Students will continue working with the building blocks established in Acting 1, focusing on the style used in American Musical Theatre. The actor in a musical is building to the song and the intention and focus is heightened. The goal of the class is to understand the relationship of character to song and a world where the largest expression of emotion comes with orchestration.

### **Musical Theatre Repertoire**

Note: Course is available 2016-2017, continuing in alternate years

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: 2 quarters of Choir, Music Theory 1.

Description: Students will learn several standards from the musical theatre repertoire. Composers studied will include, but is not limited to: Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen Schwartz. The goal of the class is to increase the number of pieces in each singer's performance and audition repertoire. Students will perform in class regularly and receive feedback from both classmates and instructor. Final performance project will be a small song set of the student's most polished pieces.

### **Cabaret**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Musical Theatre Repertoire.

Description: The goal of this performance-based course is to stage a small showcase of Broadway standards. When musical theatre performers are looking for work, one way to be seen is to perform, in New York many of these Cabaret Showcases perform nightly showcasing new talent. The student will perform two showcases in individual and group pieces with other members of the course.

### **Careers**

#### **Grade 12**

An exploration and research of higher education and career related options and professional practices. Practical audition and application items will be developed: resume, cover letter, and portfolio building. Grant writing, fundraising, arts administration, education, company operation and support careers will be explored. Students will work in projects and with professionals in various fields.



# THEATRE

## 15 credits required for Endorsement

Students must pass all of the following courses AND complete their Capstone to earn an Honors Arts Endorsement.

Improvisation	Acting II A	Theatre Elective
Voice & Diction I	Acting II B	Theatre Elective
Exploration on a Global Stage	Acting III A	Theatre Elective
Theatre Movement I	Acting III B	Theatre Elective
Acting I A		Theatre Elective
Acting I B		

### Theatre Electives include:

*Advanced Improvisation; Theatre Movement II; Acting IV A, B; Art of Film; History of Film; Voice & Diction II; Costume Design: Theatre; Careers*

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### **Improvisation (ABCD)** *This course may be repeated for additional credit.*

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Students learn and practice the fundamental rules of improvisation through a variety of improvisational icebreakers, warmups, handles, and improv exercises. Students explore the rules and styles of improvisation and how improv is more than humor and jokes.

### **Advanced Improvisation A&B** *This course may be repeated for additional credit.*

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Improv and Instructor Approval

Description: Students review and practice the fundamental rules of improvisation using both short and long form improvisation. Extensive sketch generation, development and revision are explored and worshipped with small audiences until there is enough material for a one hour show.

### **Voice and Diction I**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Students learn the basic foundation of how a performer's voice works. The connection between breathing, relaxation, physical health, and vocal production are explored. The mind/body connection is the key in how to use your body and not hurt your voice. Connections to all areas of performance are addressed.

### **Voice and Diction II**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Students continue to practice healthy performance voice, with an emphasis on dialect, verse and the actor's stage voice. Proper technique, placement and care of the voice are the main focus. The student performs several monologues and scenes using such dialects as Irish, Standard British, Cockney, American Southern and New York dialect, as well as the rhyming and blank verse of Shakespeare and Molière.

### **Theatre Movement I**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course focuses on using the body to communicate. Students will heighten their observation skills, attention to detail, and their ability to work collectively as a group. This class also requires students to be physically active.

### **Theatre Movement II**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Theatre Movement 1

Description: Movement based theatre is explored. This class strives to connect a sense of control to the actor's body as they work through some of the more physically demanding things required from an actor, such as stage combat or puppetry. Precision and control are the goals and an open exploration and expansion of what an actor's body can do.

### **Acting I A&B**

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Script analysis, cold reading, character exploration, auditions, scene work, monologues, and making choices in theatre are the core of the acting curriculum. Acting one lays the ground work and vocabulary for the serious acting student. Self-discovery and stage fundamentals lay the foundation of this class. Shurtleff's Guideposts 1-5 are explored.

### **Acting II A&B**

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I

Description: We will expand on the tools we gathered in Acting I, by continuing an exploration of Shurtleff's guideposts six through twelve. Using new techniques including Viewpoints and Hagen's object exercises, students will begin to examine how the actor is simultaneously the character and oneself. Students will also begin to look at theater as a medium for social change via script analysis, scene study, and creation of original work.

### **Acting III A&B**

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I, II

Description: Using techniques and processes learned in Acting II, students create work using their unique artistic process which incorporates in-depth scene study, monologue work and physical vocal and emotional connections. Students will be exposed to different contemporary theories of acting so they are able to discover their own. Students will strive to further their repertoire as they prepare for college auditions.

### **Acting IV A&B**

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Acting I, II, III

Description: In the A section of Acting IV students begin to look at work onstage from the other side of the table, and start looking at Directing. Students learn how to create tension and emotion from blocking and tempo, how to dissect a script intoactable moments and the art of communication and collaboration. This quarter long class will give students a nice introduction and prepare them for college courses in directing.

In Acting IV B, students are introduced to the different demands of acting for the camera in contrast to acting in the theater. Students learn how to read screenplay scripts and approach the text working across "real space". Various exercises allow students to experience lessons about identifying stimulus, understanding needs, making adjustments, and how to work spontaneously when immediate changes are required from moment to moment in the world of film and television.

### **Art of Film**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: How is a film put together to tell a story? What techniques are used to aid the storytellers that are only available in film? In History of Film, the student will learn how to take a film apart and critique it from both an artistic and technical point of view. Terminology and some basic hands-on work are addressed in working with a camera, angles, shots and digital editing. The course focuses on the art of visual communication and how we as performing artists can tell our stories through this medium.

### **History of Film**

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

This course focuses on film as a cultural and historical document. Students will explore the contributions of filmmakers whose experimentation and establishment of significant "firsts" in the cinematic landscape have influenced future generations. Students will also view films deemed culturally or historically significant based on their depiction of social, economic, and political environments that influenced events and people in a particular time and place.

### **Costume Design: Theatre**

Length of Course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Students will learn about the role of the costumer and how their coordination with other production artists influences the creative design process from concept to fitting. Students will design costumes based on script analysis, time period, and the multiple dimensions of character. How do you create visual unity amongst a cast that is aesthetically pleasing while maintaining individuality of characters? How do design choices communicate with an audience about a production's overall intent?

## Exploration on a Global Stage

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: The theatre that a culture creates says something about its people's lives, how they lived and what they believed. Students explore theatre through a global lens. How does Eastern Theatre differ from Western Theatre? At what points are they the same? What can be brought into our craft by exploring how other cultures and communities express themselves in theatre, drama, ritual and ceremony?

## Careers

### Grade 12

An exploration and research of higher education and career related options and professional practices. Practical audition and application items will be developed: resume, cover letter, and portfolio building. Grant writing, fundraising, arts administration, education, company operation and support careers will be explored. Students will work in projects and with professionals in various fields.

# ACADEMICS CURRICULUM

MSSPA provides courses from introductory level to Advanced Placement with consideration of the artistic minds of our students. We meet graduation requirements plus provide many electives to deepen learning and engage in critical thinking and response.

<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	English I A & B
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	American Studies A B C D
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	English III A & B AP Language & Composition
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	English IV A & B AP Literature

## LANGUAGE ARTS

**8 credits required for**

**graduation**

### Language Arts electives include

*Contemporary Media Studies; Art Writing and Criticism; Playwriting I; Playwriting II; Interpersonal Communications; Creative Writing*

### English I A&B (Required)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: English I is a semester long course that reviews and elaborates on elements of fiction. The first quarter places particular concentration on plot, characterization, symbol and theme with *Of Mice and Men*, *The Color Purple*, and a play by William Shakespeare. The second quarter emphasizes satire and social commentary with *The Crucible* and *1984*. Compositions are generally analytical and academic, focusing on the creation of an assertive thesis statement and the development of strong, focused support for the thesis. Grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and academic writing and conventions are studied and implemented into student writings.

**American Studies A/B/ & C/D - The American Experience** (Required unless planning to take AP US History A/B/C)

Length of course: 4 quarters (half a credit earned per quarter)

Prerequisites: English I A&B

Description: This is year long co-curricular Humanities course covering US history and literature from the Revolution to the contemporary. This course will be team taught by an English teacher and a Social Studies teacher and it will integrate both English and Social Studies skills into class everyday. Students will read primary sources, novels, essays, poems, lyrics, and short stories to better understand their historical context. The course will end with an all class performance of the history of the United States. This course covers the requirements for English IIA and IIB and the US History requirements.

**English II A&B** (Required if taking AP US History A/B/C)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: English I

Description: Students enrolled in this course study literature from the United States, gathering multiple literary viewpoints to answer the question: "What does it mean to be an American?" Readings include *A Raisin the Sun*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Things They Carried*, *Lakota Woman*, *The Great Gatsby* and many other passages, short stories, and poems by American writers. Students in this course will also study writing across a wide spectrum of composition types, including: the expository essay, the persuasive essay, and the narrative essay. Grammar, vocabulary, spelling and writing conventions are reviewed and implemented into student writings.

**English III A&B** (Required)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: English II

Description: English III asks students to consider what it means to be a member of a global community. Students will improve their reading skills and their appreciation of the literature by reading short stories, poems, novels, and plays written by authors around the world with a humanities unit in 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century British Literature. Students are asked to engage in both creative and analytical writing connected to the literature as well as practicing effective communication skills and public speaking. Texts have been selected to engage students on a global level and may include *Antigone*, *The Odyssey*, *Things Fall Apart*, *The Metamorphosis*, and *A Tale of Two Cities*.

**English IV A&B** (Required)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: English III

Description: This course introduces students to nonfiction stories in the form of biographies, autobiographies, adventure and survival stories, and memoirs. Texts may include *In Cold Blood*, *Into the Wild*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted*, *Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, and *Funny in Farsi*. There is a focus on research writing where the students will answer questions such as: Why research? How do I narrow my topic? How do I avoid plagiarism? Students will have the opportunity to explore various forms of nonfiction and implement the learned skills and techniques into their own writing. This class involves a higher level understanding of the writing process.

**Advanced Placement Language & Composition A&B** (fulfills the English IV graduation requirement)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: English I and II, Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Description: This is a writing course for juniors and seniors who are college bound and considering taking the Advanced Placement writing test. Centered on academic writing and analytical reading, students will be able to identify successful rhetoric in nonfiction writing and implement these techniques in their own writing. This class also includes the practice of writing essay responses to former test questions and mastering the vocabulary and critical reading skills required on the exam. In order to fulfill graduation requirements, juniors in AP Composition will be required to complete a research paper. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

**Advanced Placement Literature & Composition A&B** (fulfills the English III graduation requirement)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: English I and II, Advanced Placement Language & Composition, Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Description: This is a literature course for juniors and seniors who are ready to be challenged intellectually and academically. Canonized works of literature will be studied with special emphasis on themes, style and rhetorical strategies. Students will learn strategies for planning and producing written responses to literature and will prepare for college level literature courses. Additionally, students will apply their understanding of styles and rhetoric to the study of Communications—both public and interpersonal. In order to fulfill graduation requirements, students in AP Literature will be required to complete a communication component. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

**Art Writing and Criticism** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: none

Description: This course focuses on how we as individuals, a community and a society view, understand, and evaluate the arts, including music, dance, drama, film, and other works. Students will read and write about the current art culture as well as past artistic events. Experiences of authentic works of art will happen inside and outside of the classroom. Anyone taking this class should be ready to experience new art and prepared to have discussions and write papers about it.

**Contemporary Media Studies** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisite: English 1

Description: How does our media (books, music, social media, advertisements, TV, news, newspapers, the internet, etc.) intake affect the way we view the world? What are some of the messages being conveyed to the audience? Who is the audience? This course will explore the answers to those questions and the students will be asked to interpret multi-media through verbal and written analysis, creation of media, and performance.

**Playwriting I** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisite: None

Description: Playwriting skills are explored in the context of performance theatre; specific focus is placed on scene building through action, conflict, character, dialogue and structure. This course culminates with the creation of a 10 minute one-act play.

**Playwriting II** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Playwriting I

Description: Students in Playwriting II will continue to explore playwriting from multiple approaches. Basic skills are extended when students write within multiple genres, including Surrealism, Expressionism and Absurdism. Adaptation and screenwriting are also explored in this course.

**Creative Writing** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: English I and English II

Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to discover and develop the ability to write poems, stories, creative essays, and other types of writing. Students will participate in processes of writing, which require risk-taking and revision. Students will receive feedback from both classmates and the teacher. The focus will be on the development of the student's voice as a creative writer and the implementation of creative writing techniques that will be learned throughout the quarter.

**Interpersonal Communications** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: English I and English II

Description: This is a nine-week course that explores relationships – both personal and professional – through the lens of communication studies. Through exploration of the self, relationship dynamics and social influence, students will work to discover appropriate strategies for communicating the self, managing conflicts and building relationships. Students will also explore the professional realm of communication through speech-writing and performance.

**Introduction to Literature** (Elective) This course may be repeated for additional credit.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Students may be assigned to this course based on established criteria.

Description: This course focuses on the basics of literature and writing. This course focuses on fiction, nonfiction, and essay writing. Texts may include *Fat Kid Rules the World*, *Breathing Underwater*, *Rainbow Boys*, *Slam!*, *The Maze Runner*, and *Speak*. Short nonfiction and current issues are also covered in the class. Students aim to improve reading comprehension, vocabulary, discussion skills and writing skills in this course.

# MATHEMATICS

**6 credits required for graduation, including Geometry and Advanced Algebra.**

**Mathematics Sequence:** Students should register for the next course in the sequence.

**Intro to Algebra** (Math Elective, does NOT meet Math graduation requirement)

Length of Course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Placement test and/or teacher recommendation

Description: This course will provide a strong preparatory background for Intermediate Algebra. Pre-algebra and Linear Algebra concepts will be covered. Since this course is considered a pre-high school level math class, it does not count toward the six required math credits for graduation; it does count as elective credits toward graduation. A calculator is required (TI-30 SX Multiview suggested).

**Intermediate Algebra A&B** (Required)

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Linear Algebra

Description: Students will be actively engaged in discovering algebraic principles, including function notation, exponents, radicals and functions. Other topics to be studied include probability, statistics, transformations, and the Pythagorean Theorem. A scientific calculator is also required although a graphing calculator is strongly recommended.

**Geometry A&B** (Required)

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Intermediate Algebra

Description: Students will be actively engaged in investigations which lead to discovery of geometric properties. Students will develop communication and logical reasoning skills in order to prove these properties. Concepts to be studied include properties of shapes, geometric constructions, and trigonometry. A compass, protractor, and straightedge ruler are required tools. A scientific calculator is also required although a graphing calculator is strongly recommended.

**Advanced Algebra Essentials A&B** (Required)

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Intermediate Algebra, Geometry AND Teacher recommendation

Description: This course covers the same topics that are covered in Advanced Algebra in a more simplistic format. The topics of this course are directly related to the Algebra standards that students need to pass the MCA exam. It is designed for students who have passed both Intermediate Algebra and Geometry with some difficulty, and who do not plan to continue in the Mathematics sequence. A graphing calculator is required. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI-84 calculators.

**Advanced Algebra A&B** (Required)

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Intermediate Algebra, Geometry

Description: This course provides further study in algebraic topics such as Quadratic functions, transformations, exponents, and sequences and series, and conic sections. The study of statistics and probability is also included with topics such as standard deviation normal distributions, combinations, permutations and compound probability. A graphing calculator is required. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI-84 calculators.

**Pre-Calculus A & B** (Elective)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Advanced Algebra

Description: Pre-Calculus will prepare students for more advanced coursework by using technology and an investigative approach to problem solving in real-world situations. Topics include: inverse functions, logarithmic functions, composite functions. Quarter B focus on trigonometric functions and identities, parametric functions, and polar coordinates. A graphing calculator is required. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI 84 calculators.

**Statistics** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisite: Advanced Algebra

Description: Discover statistical principles in a hands-on application based class. This class expands on concepts introduced in Algebra courses, covering the following topics: Displays of data, one and two variable statistics, binomial and normal distributions, linear correlation and regression, sampling methods and errors, and formal probability. This class also includes a significant writing component.

**Discrete Math** (Elective) (NEW!)

**Note: Course is not offered in 2016-2017**, and will be first available in 2017-2018.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisite: Pre-Calculus A

Description: The course serves as an introduction to broader mathematical topics, including vectors and determinants, sequences and series, mathematical induction, matrices, and combinatorics. A graphing calculator is required. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI 84 calculators.

**Fundamentals of Computer Programming in JAVA** (Elective) (NEW!)

**Note: Course is offered in 2016-2017**, and will be first available in 2017-2018.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Pre-requisite: Intermediate Algebra

Description: The course introduces computer programming and problem solving in a structured program logic environment. Topics include language syntax, data types, program organization, problem-solving methods, algorithm design, and logic control structures.

**Advanced Placement Statistics A&B** (Elective)

Note: Course **is available 2016-2017**, continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus A (Statistics recommended), Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Description: AP Statistics focuses on descriptive statistics. Topics include exploring data, normal distributions, bivariate data, linear & non-linear regression, sample design, and probability. Students focus on inferential statistics. Topics include random variables, binomial and geometric distributions, sample distributions, tests of significance, and inference of means, proportions, two-way tables and regression. This class and the AP Statistics test both require formal writing skills. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

**Advanced Placement Calculus A&B** (Elective)

Note: Course **is not offered in 2016-2017** continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus, Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Description: AP Calculus is a course in single-variable calculus that includes techniques and applications of the derivative and the definite integral with the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. This course is equivalent to at least one semester of calculus at most colleges and universities. Algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations are emphasized throughout this course. Students will better appreciate the connection among various representations. Students are required to have access to graphing calculators in class and at home. These calculators are required on portions of the AP exam. MSSPA uses TI-83+ and TI-84 calculators. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

# SCIENCE

6 credits required for graduation

<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	Physical Science A & B Forensic Science Earth Science
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	<i>Any of the above, plus</i> Biology A & B Anatomy & Physiology A & B
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	<i>Any of the above, plus</i> Chemistry A & B Physics A & B AP Chemistry A & B AP Biology A, B, C
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	<i>Any of the above</i>

## **Physical Science A&B** (Recommended Elective\*) *formerly Intro to Science*

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: \*Placement determined by Science department upon enrollment to MSSPA

Description: Provides a solid foundation for chemistry and physics. We will be studying experimental design and research, introductory physics (motion, energy, and forces), introductory chemistry (atomic structure, periodicity, states of matter, and reactions), and engineering (design process, materials, and cost analysis).

## **Biology A&B** (Required, AP Biology also satisfies this graduation requirement)

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course introduces the vast and broad topics involved in Biology. Including, biochemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Students will learn through lectures, labs, research, and presentations.

## **Chemistry A&B** (Chemistry or Physics Required for graduation)

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Biology and Intermediate Algebra

Description: Designed for college-bound students, this course involves practical experience in the laboratory, research, and class projects to explore: atomic theory, bonding, periodicity, solutions, chemical reactions, behavior of gases, interaction of energy and matter, and brief history of chemistry.

## **Physics A&B** (Chemistry or Physics Required for graduation)

Length of Course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Biology and Advanced Algebra

Description: The study of how and why objects move the way they do, fall down, spin, and crash. Sound, electricity, light, waves, lenses, and the Universe's quantum reality are studied. This course is intended to finely tune your perceptions of your world.

## **Astronomy** (Elective)

Note: Course **is available 2016-2017**, continuing in alternate years.

Length of Course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course is aligned with Minnesota standards for Earth Science. Course topics include: Earth-Moon-Sun System, The Solar System, Stars and the Universe.

## **Geology** (Elective)

Note: Course **is not available 2016-2017**, and will be **offered in 2017-2018**.

Length of Course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course is aligned with Minnesota standards for Earth Science. Course topics include: Minerals and rocks, the history of Earth, Earth processes, and Plate Tectonics.



**Forensic Science** (Elective)

Length of Course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Lab Fee: \$10

Description: This course introduces students to some of the specialized fields of forensic science, the principles of science and technology upon which they are based, and the application of these principles to various analyses of crime scene evidence.

**Environmental Science** (Elective)

Length of Course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary science that examines human impacts upon the world. Students will become familiar with the history of the science, then will examine structures of ecosystems and the impact of living things, especially humans, on the environment. Students will also investigate the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and agriculture systems as impacted by human behavior.

**Anatomy & Physiology A and/or B** (Elective)

Length of Course: 2 quarters, each may be taken independently

Prerequisites: Biology

Lab Fee: \$10

Description: This course is designed for students who want to explore, in detail, the human body. The course will focus on examining human body systems in terms of structure and function. Anatomy & Physiology A explores: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and digestive systems. B explores the immune, respiratory, circulatory, nervous, endocrine, and reproductive systems. Students will learn through lectures, labs, dissections, research, and presentations.

**Advanced Placement Biology ABC** (Elective)Note: Course **is offered in 2016-17**; continuing in alternate years.

Length of Course: 3 quarters, meets the Biology requirement for graduation

Prerequisites: Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Lab Fee: \$20

Description: AP Biology is a college-level survey course for motivated students who want to delve deeper into the mysteries of life. The course highlights all the major topics of a first-year college biology course. Students apply biology and chemistry concepts to challenging laboratory experiences, research, and discussion. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

**Advanced Placement Chemistry ABC** (Elective)Note: Course **is NOT available in 2016-17**, and will be next available in 2017-18.

Length of Course: 3 quarters

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Algebra, Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Lab Fee: \$20

Description: The AP Chemistry course is a course designed for those who wish to pursue college credit in Chemistry by taking the AP Exam. Course topics include: atomic theory, chemical bonding, nuclear chemistry, gas laws, kinetic-molecular theory, solutions, reaction types (oxidation-reduction, acid-base, and precipitation), equilibrium, kinetics, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, and basic Organic Chemistry. These topics will be learned at an enhanced level in the following regards: 1) Quantitative calculation of chemical quantities. 2) Quantitative laboratories. 3) Detailed record keeping of all labs in a laboratory notebook. Students must be prepared to devote substantial time and effort to this course outside of school. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

# SOCIAL STUDIES

<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	Civics Geography Current Events- elective
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	<i>Any of the above, plus</i> American Studies A/B & C/D: The American Experience
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	<i>Any of the above, plus</i> World Studies A&B or AP European History A/B/C Modern US History (if missed in 10th grade) Art History Psychology Sociology
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Options</b>	<i>Any of the above, plus</i> Economics

## 8 credits required for graduation

### **Civics** (Required)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: The course is designed to offer students a comprehensive study of the United States governmental and political systems and will use the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as a framework to understand how American government is organized. The students will become familiar with political parties and the voting process, the historical foundations of American democracy, comparing political systems, the system of federalism, the rights of citizens, the federal legislative branch, the federal executive branch, the federal judicial branch and state and local governments. Also, through a variety of activities, students will become knowledgeable about current national and world events.

### **Geography** (Required)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: None

Description: This course builds on global knowledge in three areas: political geography, physical geography, and human geography. The course centers on the five major themes of geography. Given that framework, students will develop an understanding of the influence the physical earth has on cultural and political structures as well as the impact of human behavior.

### **American Studies A/B/ & C/D - The American Experience** (*Required unless planning to take AP US History A/B/C*)

Length of course: 4 quarters (half a credit earned per quarter)

Prerequisites: Civics

Description: This is year long co-curricular Humanities course covering US history and literature from the Revolution to the contemporary. This course will be team taught by an English teacher and a Social Studies teacher and it will integrate both English and Social Studies skills into class everyday. Students will read primary sources, novels, essays, poems, lyrics, and short stories to better understand their historical context. The course will end with an all class performance of the history of the United States. This course covers the requirements for English IIA and IIB and the US History requirements.

### **Modern United States History A&B**

*Note: This course is for students who do not plan for AP US History, did not take Modern US in sophomore year, and have completed credits in English II.*

Final Year offering

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics

Description: In this course the turning points in 20<sup>th</sup> century American History and civic participation are taught. Students will study: the United States' emergence as a world power, the Roaring 20's and the Great Depression of the 1930's, World War II, the Cold War, and the social and political changes from the 1950's to the present.

### **Advanced Placement United States History A,B,C** (Offered in lieu of American Studies or Modern US History)

Note: Course **is available 2016-2017**, continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 3 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics, Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Description: Advanced Placement U.S. History is the equivalent to an introductory college course in U.S. History. It will provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with materials and challenges in U.S. history. Topics span colonization through society and culture at the end of the 20th century. In addition to learning historical content, students will be trained in analyzing and interpreting primary and secondary sources and expressing their historical understanding in writing. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

### **World Studies A&B** (Required)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics and American Studies or Modern United States History

Description: World studies students investigate areas of the world both past and present using interdisciplinary approaches. Students use concepts and methods from history, anthropology, sociology, political science, geography and economics to learn about cultures other than our own. Students will also be encouraged to analyze current international issues from a variety of view points using skills they learn and practice in the course.

### **Advanced Placement European History ABC** (Offered in lieu of World Studies)

Note: **Course is not offered in 2016-2017**, continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 3 quarters

Prerequisites: Civics, The American Experience or Modern United States History or AP United States History, Instructor approval and signed AP Contract

Description: The study of European history since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which we live. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of the AP program in European History are to develop a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretations, and c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing. NOTE: Student is expected to take the AP exam at the end of this course. *Grades are weighted for this course (see page 8).*

### **Economics** (Required)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Civics, Early American History, Modern United States History, recommended World Studies

Description: This course emphasizes the definition of economics as the study of choices people make with their resources. In this class students will be exposed to the issues caused by a world full of unlimited wants and limited resources. Students will also recognize economics as a diverse field seen differently from all over the globe. In addition to core concepts of the discipline, students will learn basic, but often overlooked components such as: the importance of credit, personal finance, and the significance of interest rates.

### **Current Events** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: Civics

Description: This introductory elective course will take an historical and contemporary look at issues in international politics, US foreign relations and domestic policy, and the global economy. This course provides students an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the issues that frequent newspapers, television news, and other popular media which fuel the divisive controversies within our population and around the globe. This course content is flexible to accommodate significant current events.

### **Sociology** (Elective)

Note: This course **is available in 2016-17**, continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: US History or World Studies

Description: Grade 11-12. This introductory elective course examines the ways people interact and relate to one another in society. Students will develop a sociological perspective as they analyze society through the three sociological paradigms. Specific topics covered will include: culture, socialization, social interaction, groups and organizations, deviance, race and ethnicity, relationships and gender.

### **Art History** (Elective)

Note: this course will run yearly if there is sufficient interest.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: World Studies or AP European History

Description: Grade 11-12. This elective course attempts to understand social, political, and cultural history as context for visual art. In contemplation, observation, and practice- students will learn to see the power of art, its impact on history, arts meaning, and arts legacy. Students will learn the history of art, artistic technique, and art appreciation with a culminating project at the end of the course.

## **Psychology** (Elective)

Note: Note: This course **is not offered in 2016-17**, continuing in alternate years.

Length of course: 1 quarter

Prerequisites: US History or World Studies

Description: Grade 11-12. This course is designed to introduce the student to a survey of current topics in psychology: historical background, sensation and perception, emotions, learning, developmental psychology, motivation, personality and abnormal behavior.

# WORLD LANGUAGE

## **4+ credits are recommended for students planning college/university application**

A grade of C or higher indicates readiness for the next level of Spanish. Students with lower grades need instructor approval to proceed.

### **Spanish I A&B** (Elective)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: None

Description: Introduction to the study of the Spanish language and cultures. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Spanish II A&B** (Elective)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language and cultures. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Spanish III A&B** (Elective)

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Spanish I, II

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language and cultures. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Spanish IV A&B** (Elective)

NOTE: This course may be offered at the same time and in the same classroom as Spanish V depending on demand.

Length of course: 2 quarters

Prerequisites: Spanish I, II, III

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language through the reading of different genres of literature and studying the history of various Spanish-speaking countries. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Spanish V A&B** (Elective)

NOTE: This course may be offered at the same time and in the same classroom as Spanish IV depending on demand and/or as a self-directed study with teacher agreement. Please speak to the Spanish teacher for details.

Prerequisites: Spanish I, II, III, IV

Description: Continuing study of the Spanish language through the reading of different genres of literature and studying the history of various Spanish-speaking countries. Focus on oral communication (speaking and listening), written communication (reading and writing), and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Special Topics in Spanish** (Elective)

Length of course: 1 quarters

Prerequisites: Spanish I and II

Description: This course will focus on cultural topics (i.e. art, history, geography) from the Spanish-speaking world. The course, taught entirely in Spanish, is designed to deepen students' understanding and communicative ability through the exploration of culture.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our Special Education team provides support to students with IEPs. Some opportunities students have are courses provided within the department. Special Education teachers will advise placement in these classes.

**Prerequisite: Student must have an Individualized Education Plan**

## **Study Strategies**

Length of Course: 1 quarter, may be taken more than once

Description: This course is comprised of study skills and transition preparation. Students will practice study skills to support classroom work and IEP goals. Teachers will provide resources to assist them with post-secondary options, responsible citizenship, achieving independence through organization, socially responsible behaviors, managing personal finances/household, and getting into and around the community.

## **Resource Math**

Length of Course: 1 quarter, may be taken more than once

Description: Students will be supported in skill-building math practice to prepare them for success in the math department course offerings. Real life situations will be emphasized in the study of math operations, place values, fractions, algebra, integers, percentages, measurements, and exponential equations.

# OTHER

## **Physical Education Credit Requirement**

Necessary for graduation, students meet this requirement in any movement prevalent dance or musical Theatre offering. See specific course descriptions. Options for theatre and music majors include, but are not limited to Stretch & Strengthen; Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced Dance, Jazz & Musical Theatre, Special Topics in Ballet, Show Choir. If a Theatre Movement credit was earned between 2011- Spring 2014, the Phys Ed req has been met.

## **Health**

Prerequisites: none

Course Description: An embedded grade-level curriculum seminar that explores the impact of stress, drugs and alcohol, nutrition, diet, sexual activity, disease, safety, violence, and community health factors on the health and well-being of teenagers. A major teaching tool will be discussions between students, health instructor, HR Advisor, and various guest experts. Students will earn a quarter credit each school year in health education.

## **Gifted and Talented Enrichment**

At MSSPA we realize that the most efficient way to meet the needs of our top students is in the classroom. The teachers, administration, and support staff are continuing their work with implementing and improving differentiation in each classroom. If you have concerns about your student needing more challenge, please contact the classroom teacher who will be happy to address any questions or concerns. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator provides the leadership and support for a variety of services and programs that address the distinctive intellectual and affective needs of gifted and talented students. These will include, but are not limited to, identification, staff development, Advanced Placement classes, counseling, resource center, competitions, mentoring, and independent study. Any student or parent can request gifted assessment.

## **AP Courses**

In college-level AP courses, you gain skills and knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school. Through AP Exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most colleges and universities. At MSSPA we offer a number of AP courses. Some are offered every year, others are offered in alternate years, see individual courses for schedule. Offerings include English Composition, English Literature, Music Theory, European History, US History, Biology, Chemistry, Statistics, and Calculus. Contract is required, and course is weighted. (see Appendix B for contract)

## **Academic Lettering**

Students are encouraged to strive in academically-oriented classwork, extra-curricular, and service. Students document points to earn an Academic letter. The guidelines and documentation form are available in the office or with Ms Miller. Students are invited to submit documentation at conference dates.

## **Arts Lettering**

Students are encouraged to strive in arts performances, Juries, and service. Students document points to earn an Arts letter. The guidelines and documentation form are available from arts advisors. Students are invited to submit documentation at conference dates.

*The following opportunities have limitations, require administrative approval, and may require application and teacher collaboration.*

### **Self-Directed Studies**

Length of Course: 1 quarter, credit

Consideration is given to 11th and 12th graders, on track for graduation.

This option gives motivated and independent students a unique opportunity to pursue a course of study of special interest not readily available through conventional course offerings at MSSPA. A student is limited to two SDSs, with exception granted by the Gifted and Talented coordinator. Application for study must be submitted no later than five school days before the start of the intended term. The process is detailed so students should see Ms. Miller or the office for application materials well before the deadline.

### **Teacher Assistant**

Length of Course: 1 quarter, no credit

For Seniors and Juniors (seniors have priority)

Motivated and independent students may apply to assist teachers or the office during one block in tasks that support educational goals, and provide an exploratory opportunity to students considering a career in education. Work may include tutoring students, designing activities, and other basic support tasks. Applications available in office and must be submitted no later than five school days before the start of the intended term, for approval by the Director of Teaching & Learning. Application submission does not guarantee approval.

### **PSEO**

PostSecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th, 11th and 12th grade students to earn college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in, and successful completion of college-level courses. The participating colleges and universities set their own requirements for enrollment. Students may take courses on a full- or part-time basis. With traditional PSEO, these courses are generally offered on the campus of the postsecondary institution; some courses are offered online. In compliance with the MN Department of Education, **families must submit a letter of student intent to enroll in PSEO no later than May 30th of the preceding school year.** Direct letter of intent to the School Counselor and the Director of Teaching & Learning. Contact the School Counselor for more information.

### **PLATO**

The primary purpose is credit recovery. MSSPA partners with Edmentum Online education services to provide courses within our school day to meet unique needs of our students. There are a very limited number of seats available, and placement is at the discretion of the School Counselor and Director of Teaching & Learning.

### **Credit by Assessment (CbA)**

MSSPA provides students the opportunity to receive credit for previous learning in required academic courses. To download the CbA policy document and the CbA application, please discuss with Alison Miller, Gifted and Talented Coordinator.



## **APPENDIX A: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR MINNESOTA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

The courses listed below are the **MINIMUM** entrance requirements for colleges and universities. Completion of these requirements does not guarantee entrance into any post-secondary institution. Other post-secondary applicants often exceed these requirements and are competing for entrance into the same colleges and universities. In order to remain competitive, MSSPA's students are **strongly encouraged** to surpass the minimum requirements. These requirements are a summary of college entrance requirements. Contact the individual college for specific requirements.

### MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITIES

- **Four years of English** (8 credits)
- **Three years of Mathematics** (6 credits, through Advanced Algebra or Pre-Calculus)
- **Three years of Science** (6 credits, 2 credits of Physical Science, 2 credits of Biological Science, and 2 credits of another Lab Science such as Chemistry or Physics)
- **Three years of Social Studies** (6 credits, 2 credits of US History, 2 credits of Geography or a combination of courses incorporating Geographic studies)
- **Two years of a single World Language** (4 credits)
- **One year of either World Cultures or Fine Arts** (2 credits)
- **ACT or SAT Required**

### MINNESOTA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

- High school diploma is required with course work in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- Placement tests will be administered to all incoming students
- No ACT or SAT required
- Students planning to transfer to four year institutions need to meet the high school preparation requirements of these institutions before transferring

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA (TWIN CITIES, DULUTH, MORRIS)

- **Four years of English** (8 credits)
- **Four years of Mathematics** (8 credits, including two years of Algebra and one year of Geometry)
- **Three years of Science** (6 credits, 2 credits of Physical Science, 2 credits of Biological Science, and 2 credits of another Lab Science such as Chemistry or Physics)
- **Three years of Social Studies** (6 credits)
- **Two years of a single World Language** (4 credits, 6 credits recommended for CLA)
- **One year of Visual or Performing Arts** (2 credits)
- **ACT with Writing or SAT Required**

### MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGES

- **Four years of English** (8 credits)
- **Three years of Mathematics** (6 credits, through Advanced Algebra or Pre-Calculus)
- **Three years of Science** (6 credits, 2 credits of Physical Science, 2 credits of Biological Science, and 2 credits of another Lab Science such as Chemistry or Physics)
- **Three years of Social Studies** (6 credits, check individual college requirements)
- **Two years of a single World Language are strongly recommended** (4 credits, check individual college requirements)
- **Several courses in the arts**
- **ACT or SAT Required**

### **Students who are interested in going to a four-year school should consider taking:**

\*The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) in their junior year; and

\*The ACT or SAT in spring of their junior year, on national test administration days

Students are required to take the ACT Plan sophomore year, and the ACT+writing junior year at school for state purposed, but are encouraged to take ACT or SAT outside of school too.

Note that a student's grade point average, regiment of rigorous courses taken, and ACT or SAT scores are considered in the final admission decision. If a student is missing an admission requirement, contact the admissions department of the specific college or university.



**APPENDIX B: MSSPA ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE CONTRACT**

- Fill out separate contract for each Advanced Placement Course
- If a completed contract is not turned in, you will not be accepted into the course
- Each contract requires a student and parent signature
- All students are expected to take the AP exam for each course in which they are enrolled.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advanced Placement Course: \_\_\_\_\_

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It gives high school students exposure to college-level material through involvement in an AP course, and then gives them an opportunity to show what they have learned by taking an AP Exam. Colleges and universities often grant credit, placement, or both, to these students.

Participation in AP courses is the best possible preparation for success in college. A record of AP courses on a student's transcript is an indication of the student's commitment to rigorous academics. The rigorous curriculum requires more effort and homework on the part of the student. The pace of the class is faster, covering more content and in greater depth. Typically, successful AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time, and have parental support. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are weighted, regular point values for letter grades are multiplied by 1.20

**General Course Expectations**

- AP courses typically require approximately six hours of individual study time per week.
- Due to staffing concerns, students may exit an AP course only at the end of the quarter. A student desiring to exit an AP course must also meet each the following requirements:
  - Attended tutorial sessions with the teacher
  - Attended a student/parent/teacher conference
  - Received a grade of D or F in the course

**STUDENT AGREEMENT**

I have read the requirements, am familiar with the course expectations and accept its academic challenges. I understand that my success in this AP course is primarily my responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PARENT AGREEMENT**

I have read the requirements for this course and agree to support and encourage my son/daughter in his/her endeavors in the course. I will notify the teacher immediately of any concerns I have relating to the AP class or my child's progress.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **APPENDIX C: CHAMBER SINGERS AND ADVANCED ENSEMBLE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS**

Audition Dates: TBA

### **Expectations and Requirements for Chamber Singers and/or Advanced Ensemble:**

- Dedication and dependability
- Musical and personal flexibility
- Cooperation with peers and positive attitude
- Strong and developed ear (musically)
- Willingness to perform in the community outside of school (with this group)
- Be strong leaders and mentors to other singers with a strong understanding of humility, grace, and maturity
- Strong music reading abilities (recommended)

**CHAMBER SINGERS:** This performing ensemble is meant for those who would like a challenging, yet rewarding musical experience singing higher level, more difficult literature. This ensemble will also explore some different genres of choral/vocal singing including early music (renaissance), classical, romantic, jazz, gospel, folk, world music, and contemporary.

#### **Audition will include:**

1. Prepare and perform a 2 minute solo (Classical art song, Broadway, or Folksong)
2. Vocal range evaluation (may also include some ear training and/or tonal memory exercises)
3. Sight read a piece of choral literature on your voice part (S, A, T, B) part on a neutral syllable

#### **Please respond in a one-page TYPED essay and bring to your audition.**

1. How will you contribute musically to Chamber Singers and/or Advanced Ensemble?
  2. What has been your musical experience so far at Main Street School of Performing Arts, or if you are a new student, what has been your experience at your previous school?
  3. Describe how you are and will continue to be a positive ambassador for MSSPA. Be specific.
  4. What do you hope to learn and how do you hope to grow as a member of this ensemble?
- 

**ADVANCED ENSEMBLE:** This group is meant for those who would like a challenging, yet rewarding musical experience working with other upper level musicians. This ensemble will be working on a wide variety of repertoire over the course of the year. On alternating days, we will be working on steel drum repertoire. This ensemble will be used as the “face of instrumental music at MSSPA.” Expect to perform on a regular basis.

#### **Audition will include:**

1. Prepare and perform a 2 minute solo
2. You will be asked to do some sight reading

#### **Please respond in a one-page TYPED essay and bring to your audition.**

1. How will you contribute musically to Chamber Singers and/or Advanced Ensemble?
2. What has been your musical experience so far at Main Street School of Performing Arts? or if you are a new student, what has been your experience at your previous school?
3. Describe how you are and will continue to be a positive ambassador for MSSPA. Be specific.
4. What do you hope to learn and how do you hope to grow as a member of this ensemble?