2025-26 McLouth High School
Course Description Handbook

McLouth High School Graduation Requirements (through the class of 2027):

4 credits – English Language Arts
3 credits – History/Government/Social Studies
3 credits – Mathematics
3 credits – Science
1 credit – PE/Health
1 credit – Fine Arts
1 credit – Career & Technical Education
½ credit – Public Speaking
½ credit – Personal Finance
7 credits – Electives (courses not used to meet the requirements above)

McLouth High School Graduation Requirements (class of 2028 and beyond):

3.5 credits – English Language Arts
3 credits – History/Government/Social Studies
3 credits – Mathematics
3 credits – Science
1 credit – STEM (*advanced* Math, Science, Computer Science, or CTE)
1 credit – PE/Health
1 credit – Fine Arts
1 credit – Career & Technical Education (Agriculture or Business)
.5 credit – Public Speaking
.5 credit – Personal Finance
6.5 credits – Electives (courses not used to meet the requirements above)

1 credit = 1 full year of a course; .5 credit = 1 semester of a course

Required courses are marked with **R**

English Language Arts

Freshman English **R**

Students will compose four essays and shorter writing assignments based on grade-level novels such as *of Mice and Men*, *Monster*, and *Noughts and Crosses* as well as shorter texts covering a wide range of themes.

Sophomore English **R**

Students will compose four essays and shorter writing assignments based on grade-level classics such as *Night* and *Animal Farm* as well as shorter texts covering a wide range of themes.

Junior English **R**

Students will continue developing their listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills to explore literature from ancient history through to the modern day.

Senior English

Students will conclude their secondary study of the English language with further development of their listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills and a focus on job and career readiness.

College English

(1st semester) This course provides instruction and practice in the principles of written composition. The major emphasis is on improving the ability to organize and express thoughts clearly and effectively. Students will be expected to write coherent essays that declare and support a thesis, as well as use and document research material. **College Credit Available through HCC 1st semester as ENG 101: Composition I.

(2nd semester) This is the second of a two-course sequence in college English composition. The course will continue to emphasize improving the ability to organize and express thoughts in clear, effective writing. The course will use literature study as a basis for improving and extending research, critical analysis, and writing skills. The forms, elements, and techniques of literature will be examined in terms of how literature affects readers. **College Credit Available through HCC 2nd semester as ENG 102: Composition II.

Social Studies

World History **R**

Students will trace the cause and effect of events throughout world history beginning around the 14th century to the 20th century.

American History **R**

Students will trace the cause and effect of events throughout our nation's history (focusing heavily on post-Civil War Events) and its impact on us today.

Government **R**

Students will study the processes in our government and how these processes affect our lives.

Psychology

Students will study the brain by looking how it affects our learning, perception, behavior, and interaction with others.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

Students will be practicing basic math skills and introducing Algebra concepts to prepare for Algebra I.

Algebra I **R**

Students will be covering basic Algebra concepts and working with them in real-world applications.

Geometry **R** (prerequisite: Algebra I)

Students will solve proofs and work with triangles, along with basic geometry (points, lines, and planes).

Algebra II

(prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry)

Students will be learning advanced concepts of Algebra with a main goal of preparation for a college level class.

College Algebra

(prerequisite: Algebra II)

Students will continue to build their mathematical skills through upper level applications and concepts including functions, rational numbers, and equations. **College Credit Available through HCC 2nd semester as MAT 104: College Algebra.

Pre-Calculus / Trigonometry

(prerequisite: College Algebra)

Students will learn trigonometric functions, graphs, and applications as well as an in depth study of functions, vectors, limits, and derivatives.

Probability and Statistics

(prerequisite: Algebra II)

Students will focus on basic statistical practices and their application to the real world.

Consumer Math

(prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry)

Students will work with the fundamentals of mathematics and learn how to use math in the real world.

Science

Earth & Space Science **R**

The science of the interactions of things on Earth and its place in space.

Biology **R**

The science of life. We will start small with cells and their functions, and build to bigger concepts.

Chemistry

(prerequisite: Earth & Space Science, Biology)

This course will explore matter (different types of matter, what it's made of, and how it interacts) using critical thinking, mathematical analysis, and problem-solving strategies.

Anatomy and Physiology

(prerequisite: Earth & Space Science, Biology)

Ever wanted to know how your body works and what all the parts are called? That's' what you'll learn. We will also dissect a cat during 2nd semester.

Physics

(prerequisite: Earth & Space Science, Biology)

This course investigates how to quantify and describe motion and energy in the world around us.

Astronomy

Astronomy offers students the opportunity to study the solar system, stars, galaxies, black holes, and other interstellar bodies. This course covers the origins of astronomy, a brief history of space exploration, the birth and formation of our solar system, the life and death of stars, explores the theories regarding the origin and evolution of the universe, space, time, dark matter, multiverse theory, and oscillating universe theory.

Physical Education

Advanced PE

Students will perform and participate in various sport-related activities that will help them to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Physical Conditioning

Students will be given repeated opportunities to participate in resistance-training exercises and techniques for the purpose of muscular hypertrophy, strength, and athletic sport training.

Fine Arts & Foreign Language

Introduction to Art

Students will be introduced to a range of artists and art media and techniques.

2D Art

(prerequisite: Introduction to Art)

Students will focus on skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and digital art.

3D Art

(prerequisite: Introduction to Art)

Students will focus on skills in sculpture, ceramics, and ibers.

Advanced Art

(prerequisite: 2D and/or 3D Art)

Students will have a more in-depth study of art and be guided through independent art-making and self-promotion.

Band

Band students will perform a variety of repertoire in multiple band settings including; marching band, concert band, and pep band.

Jazz Band

Jazz band students will perform an eclectic series of jazz music throughout the school year.

Choir

In Choir you will... SING! We will explore various types of music and participate in many performances including contests and the Pop Show!

Theatre

The class is a mixed-grade level class with students from ninth to twelfth grade enrolled together. Students learn about theatre, past and present; theatre, onstage and backstage; and learn to understand and appreciate the theatre process. Students participate in a variety of activities including improvisations, theatre games, acting alone and with a partner, playwriting, casting, and directing. Students in this course are not required to audition for extra-curricular productions; however, it is strongly encouraged, since public performance is a natural extension of the course work. 1st Semester Only.

Forensics

This course is a combination class involving a small portion of acting, interpretation, speaking, and research skills. The main focus of forensics is preparation for competition in all speaking and acting areas. Classwork

begins with exploring the different genres of competition. Each student will develop skills in several areas. Class projects include individual acting, interpretation, and speaking events. Competing in KSHSAA events is mandatory. NOTE: Occasional weekend travel is a class requirement. 2nd Semester Only.

Spanish (I-IV)

Students enrolled in Spanish I through IV will study the Spanish language through reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Career & Technical Education

Business Economics

In this class we will study how and why people buy what they do when they do. We will study supply, demand, and the ever changing wonders of the market.

Entrepreneurship

Ever want to own/run your own business? You're in the right class! We will cover the wide variety of business topics needed for a successful entrepreneur.

Business Management

Business is all about relationships. Understanding how to work with people is one of the most important skills businessmen and women can learn. In this class we will focus on the relational aspects of managing a business.

Accounting

(prerequisite: Business Economics, Entrepreneurship, and/or Buisness Management)

Are you all about the Benjamins? In this class we will study how businesses keep track of all the financial aspects of a company.

Principles of Marketing

(prerequisite: Business Economics, Entrepreneurship, and/or Buisness Management)

Developing ways to persuade customers that your product or service is the right one for them, is an art form. In this class we will be focusing on all of the jingles, commercials, advertisements, and… the four P's? That all makes up the marketing side of business.

Advanced Food Science

(prerequisite: Food Science)

This course explores a more in depth aspect of food chemistry, culinary skills, sanitation, and Servsafe certification processes. Students will participate in many science based labs through hands-on activities. (Can also count as a science credit)

Agriscience

This course is an introductory course designed to expose students to different facets of FFA and the agriculture industry. Students will gain knowledge in animal science, plant science, leadership skills, public speaking, FFA opportunities, and agricultural mechanics. Instruction and student learning will occur through lectures, student projects, group discussions, hands on experiences and FFA experiences.

Applications in Horticulture

(prerequisite: Plant & Soil Science)

This course will walk students through a more in depth understanding of science through plants, nursery and landscape, greenhouses, the floriculture industry, and careers in horticulture. The course will mainly focus on instruction through hands on techniques of planting, greenhouse operations, and outdoor laboratories.

Plant & Soil Science

This course will lead students through basic plant requirements, anatomy, varieties, plant growth techniques, and soil nutrition. Students will have hands-on planting activities and various instructional methods. (Can also count as a science credit)

Food Science

Instruction will focus around food safety, nutrition requirements, culinary skills, food marketing, and the chemistry breakdown of food. This class will participate in many laboratory procedures and gain knowledge from direct instruction. (Can also count as a science credit)

Ag Welding I & II

Ag welding will allow students to gain hands on skills that will make them employable in the field of metal fabrication. Students will refine their skills in arc and mig welding and cutting with the oxyacetylene torch. There will be an opportunity to design plans for metal projects, calculate the cost of the project, and implement the project. Eighty percent of the time will be spent in the shop.

Animal Science

Instruction will lead students through animal anatomy and physiology, reproduction, nutrition, health issues, marketing, and animal products. Students will gain knowledge and skills through direct instruction, labs, and field trips. (Can also count as a science credit)

Ag Mechanics

Instructional areas consist of ag structures, welding, introduction to electricity, and basic small engine knowledge. The majority of instruction will take place in the shop through hands-on projects.

Vet Tech / Animal Health

(prerequisite: Animal Science)

This course will give students hands-on training in the animal medical industry. Instruction will consist of safety and sanitation, terminology, anatomy and physiology, clinical exams, hospital procedures, parasitology, animal nutrition, principles of disease, of ice management, veterinary math, career exploration, and participation in the vet science CDE.

Ag Communications

Students will practice agricultural communication skills by interviewing others, creating a community service project, establishing a PALS program with elementary, writing feature stories, and creating a resume and cover letter as they discover career opportunities.

Speech

Public Speaking **R**

Students will explore the history of public speaking as well as the various components of presenting a speech, and will compose and present four different kinds of speeches throughout the semester.

Personal Finance

Personal Finance **R**

Personal Finance provides students with an understanding of the concepts and principles involved in managing one's personal finances

General Electives

Student Aide

Available to Seniors, being a student aide means helping a teacher or other staff member with appropriate duties. It requires responsibility and autonomy. Students must be in good standing to become a student aide. Being a student aide is a privilege, and the privilege can be revoked for inappropriate behavior, failing grades, or excessive discipline referrals.

Yearbook

Students will work together to publish the high school yearbook using an online application as well as their writing, photography, and communication skills.