

HOPKINS ACADEMY



High School Program of Studies 2016 - 2017

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2015 - 2016

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MESSAGE TO PARENTS

The Program of Studies is published to describe the courses for the 2016-2017 academic year and to aid students and parents, together with the school, in choosing suitable and challenging programs. In addition to what is published here, the Director of Guidance meets with each grade frequently to discuss college and post-secondary options, as part of our comprehensive guidance curriculum. The course sequence at Hopkins Academy is rigorous and purposefully designed to enable our graduates to craft a strong academic foundation in the skills of scientific and mathematical inquiry, financial and technological relations. Hopkins graduates must be strong writers and understand a variety of communication and presentation skills. Hopkins students are encouraged to become or develop an appreciation for the fine arts and music. And our graduation expectations and course options provide students with a foundation for personal health and financial well-being. This document and the grade level registration presentation explains how information provided to students in the guidance program helps students create a connection to these skills through the course registration process.

It is our goal to provide students with a challenging and interesting curriculum to enable students to compete for college admission with students from across the world and meet the ever-increasing demands of society. The Common Core ELA and Mathematics Standards are fully implemented at Hopkins Academy. Our graduation requirements and academic programs are rigorous and designed to ensure that students are prepared for college success and have the foundation for a broad set of career options.

If you have any questions regarding the content of any course, or the courses most appropriate for your student, please feel free to contact the Guidance Department at 584-1106.

HOPKINS ACADEMY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

20 credits in English (English 9, 10, 11 and 12, or AP English Lit/AP English Language)

20 credits in Mathematics

15 credits in Social Studies (US History I, US History II, Modern World History are required)

15 credits in Science (Physics and Biology are required)

10 credits in Physical Education

10 credits in World Languages (unless approved by waiver)

2.5 credits in the Arts (art, band, chorus)

Remaining credits in additional core or electives courses (25 credits must be in courses that meet MassCore requirements)

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED 130 for the Class of 2016
125 Class of 2017
120 Class of 2018 and beyond**

Five credits are normally granted for a course, which meets one period for a full year. These graduation requirements indicate the minimum credits needed to receive a diploma from Hopkins Academy. Students and parents must realize that the admission to many four-year colleges and universities is more competitive than Hopkins Academy's minimum graduation requirements. Therefore, we strongly urge that students take specified challenging courses to allow them to be more competitive in the college admission process standards to these schools. We also recommend that all students visit the guidance office on a regular basis to discuss future plans, specific course needs, and available options.

Failure to meet all graduation requirements by the close of school (2:00) on the last day of senior classes will result in a student not being allowed to participate in the commencement exercises and senior week activities.

Seniors identified as being in danger of not graduating receive the following:

- *An evaluation meeting with the guidance counselor and principal that includes a summary of their current status*
- *A written Graduation Plan that must be followed*
- *Mandatory help and remediation sessions, that may include weekends or vacations as assigned by the principal*
- *Numerous other contacts beyond mid-term reports and report cards.*

Students in Grade 10 will be taking a competency test (MCAS) mandated by the Education Reform Act of 1993. The passing of this test in English, Mathematics and Science/Technology by students is a prerequisite for graduation from high school. Students must satisfy the following conditions in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science to earn a competency determination:

1. Meet or exceed the Proficient threshold scaled score of 240 on the Gr. 10 English Language Arts and the Math MCAS tests; **or**
2. Meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on the Gr. 10 English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan **and**
3. Meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 in Science/Technology

Special Notes

Credit will not be granted to a student for a withdrawal prior to the normal ending of the course. Exceptions may be made by the principal for good cause such as transferring to or from another school, early graduation, and unusual circumstances. All students in grades 9 through 12 are expected to be enrolled in a minimum of the equivalent of 40 credits (eight class periods) during each marking period.

Class Standing (promotion/retention graduation requirements)

Class Standing with incremental adjustments to account for changes in credit-earning opportunities are listed below. Each represents total credits to be achieved at the end of a school year in order for high school students to be promoted to the next grade or to graduate:

2015-2016 for High School Students to be Considered:

Sophomore (10th Grade) - 30 Credits
Junior (11th Grade) - 62.5 Credits
Senior (12th Grade) - 97.5 Credits
A Graduate (Graduate) - 130 Credits

2016-2017 for High School Students to be Considered:

Sophomore (10th Grade) - 30 Credits
Junior (11th Grade) - 60 Credits
Senior (12th Grade) - 92.5 Credits
A Graduate (Graduate) - 125 Credits

2017-2018 for High School Students to be Considered:

Sophomore (10th Grade) - 30 Credits
Junior (11th Grade) - 60 Credits
Senior (12th Grade) - 90 Credits
A Graduate (Graduate) - 120 Credits

Note: Homeroom assignments will be made on the basis of credits earned. A student who has not completed the minimum for his/her class will be assigned to the grade level homeroom that corresponds with credits earned.

Program Adjustments and Waivers

The principal may grant a waiver relating to a specific course or courses. These waivers may be granted in cases involving early graduation, lack of supported background credit data when entering Hopkins from another school, students who are disabled and are receiving specialized instruction at locations other than Hopkins, and as determined by the principal other cases, which would result in an extreme hardship for a particular student. Waivers are extremely rare.

In the past, students have been allowed credit for courses taken at nearby colleges and universities. According to the Education Reform Act, students may now receive both high school and college credit for these courses. However, students must apply in writing to the guidance counselor and receive approval from the principal before undertaking this option. Parents and students are responsible for any college fees or tuition. Credit and level overrides are possible at the discretion of the principal and approval by the individual teacher. They are done on an individual contract basis. Independent study is available to students, with approval of parents. Arrangements must be made with the teachers(s) and the guidance office. Approval of the principal is required. Independent studies are considered Level II coursework, unless prior arrangements are made with administration.

It is not possible to foresee all situations that might require program adjustments and waivers. While there is a need for flexibility, accountability aspects also need to be considered. In order to control adjustments and waivers, the principal is the only person authorized to grant such changes.

Work study is available to seniors, with parental approval, only if all other requirements can be completed. Students must apply through the Guidance Department and sign a work-study agreement to be eligible. **Students are not permitted to work for family members under work study.**

Summer School

Hopkins Academy does not offer summer school for students in grades 9-12, however some local high schools do. The Hadley Schools are dedicated to the best total and continuous development of each student enrolled. All efforts are made to assist students in the successful completion of their courses. These efforts include extra help, remedial work, supervised study halls, pre-approved summer school, and individual teacher efforts. Promotion for high school students is dependent on the number of credits earned each year, as explained under "Graduation Requirements" in the Student Handbook.

Students are allowed to make up courses failed during that academic year in summer school provided that the student earned a 60 or above for at least one marking period on his/her report card or received a minimum course grade of at least 50. Credit will normally be granted for said courses completed in approved summer school when a student receives C- or better. Tuition payments and transportation costs are the responsibility of students and parents.

*Any student who fails English in the 9th or 10th grade for the year should make it up in the summer immediately following the course. Failure to do so will result in the student not graduating with his/her class. **Students cannot take two English courses simultaneously until their 11th or 12th grade year.**

Special notes relating to Physical Education

Students may be excused from the physical education requirement for the following reasons:

- Medical reasons such as extended illness, disability, or injury. The school reserves the right to have medically excused students examined by the school physician or school nurse. In cases of hardship or extenuating circumstances, and only with prior approval of the principal.
- Students will be allowed to take more than one physical education class only when a prior failure has occurred or with prior administrative permission.
- Students who cannot participate in skills due to short-term injuries (up to two weeks) or previous illness must be report to class and observe all instruction.
- Students will not be excused from the physical education requirement through their participation in courses or activities outside of school.
- Failure to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failure for the course and jeopardize graduation requirements. Our physical education instructor will consider each case on its merits and when appropriate, may assign papers, reports, etc. as make-up work for lost time. This procedure will be allowed for medically excused absences only.

Course Leveling

There are three levels of courses offered at Hopkins Academy that affect a student's GPA: Advanced Placement, Honors, and College Prep. Some courses do not carry a level; these courses are not factored into a student's GPA. Students may take courses in all levels during the same year. Considerable work outside of class is required at each level. In all levels students develop appropriate skills to work effectively in the subject area.

Advanced Placement: These courses are advanced placement courses. They contain challenging material and are taught at an accelerated pace, which requires a great deal of independent work. Advanced placement courses prepare students for the advanced placement examinations that are given in May. Departmental admission policies for Advanced Placement courses are listed with their course descriptions.

Honors: These courses are challenging college preparatory classes. They require that students have strong academic skills, technical skills and the capacity to do independent work.

College Prep: These courses generally prepare students for college and technical careers. They require students to engage in rigorous curriculum with the goal of honing their skills in all academic areas.

Course Add/Drop

The cut-off adding or dropping a course is the last Wednesday in September, which is September 25, 2015. Any changes after this date requires the recommendation of teachers involved and the approval of the principal. Any approved course changes after the add/drop period will result in a student receiving a mark of withdrawal (W) on their transcript.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Twenty (20) credits, or four (4) courses of Core English, are required for graduation. All courses are designed to strengthen skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, as well as to develop an appreciation of our own cultural heritage and those of other peoples.

Everyone must take English 9 and English 10. Beginning your junior year, you may choose from a selection of the core courses offered to fulfill your graduation requirements. The English Department also strongly encourages you to take additional core courses if you are a strong humanities student and perhaps plan to continue that path in college.

CORE COURSES

Course #011 – English 9 College Prep

**Grade 9
Credits: 5**

In this course students study the literary genres of short story, novel, drama, poetry and nonfiction. Reading skills are emphasized. Journals, class participation, frequent writing, and projects as well as tests and quizzes are used to encourage both analytical and creative responses to literature. We further develop the writing process and research skills introduced in middle school, which emphasize graphic organizers, proper form, and a clear ratio of concrete details to commentary. Students will be required to write a formal research paper. Our aim is to give students a method for planning, writing, and evaluating essays using some simple guidelines. Vocabulary growth and grammar development are encouraged through the context of reading and writing in class as well as specific morphology work and mini-lessons.

Course #021 – World Literature 10 College Prep

**Grade 10
Credits: 5**

In this course students continue the study of the four literary genres with a focus on world literature and culture. Students will explore the foundational texts, poetry, short stories and longer novels from all over the world. Classic and contemporary authors such as Golding, Hosseini, Hesse, and Achebe will be discovered through close analysis, discussion and skill work. A variety of analytical essays will be taught, including but not limited to: literary analysis, synthesis and rhetorical analysis. Research skills will be taught with emphasis on evaluating sources, correct in-text citation, and MLA format. Vocabulary growth and grammar development are encouraged through the context of reading and writing in class as well as specific morphology work and mini-lessons.

Course #031 – American Literature College Prep

**Grade 11-12
Credits: 5**

American Literature is a survey course of American literature with historical and cultural perspectives. Writing and thinking skills necessary for college are emphasized through frequent analytical essays, journal entries, collaborative writing, and oral presentations. Students will be required to write an inquiry based research paper. Grammar, usage, and mechanics are presented in conjunction with the writing process, and vocabulary study is developed from both vocabulary texts and class reading. Critical reading, writing, and independent thinking are the focus throughout this yearlong course. **Prerequisite:** English 10

Course #039 –Exploring Life in Literature and Composition
College Prep

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

This course has a heavy emphasis on close reading and composition. Critical and analytical reading, writing and thinking skills are developed through a thematic course of study focusing on ideas such as: home, family, identity, culture, love, art, tradition vs. progress, war, and peace. These ideas will be explored through analysis of classic and contemporary texts such as: *Fences* by August Wilson, *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley and many more. Students will write for a variety of purposes, lengths, and formalities. Grammar and vocabulary development will also be a focus, but the focus will be within the context of reading and writing and how to use grammar as a tool. Media and technology will be evaluated and used as primary tools in active and engaged learning. In addition students will develop an inquiry topic to explore that will culminate in a Capstone Project, which includes a research paper and presentation. **Prerequisite:** English 10

Course #097 –Ethnic American Literature
College Prep

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

A contemporary fiction course, Ethnic American Literature will focus on texts from American authors with a varied heritage. Authors such as Angelou, Tan, Walker, Alvarez, and Kincaid may be closely read and studied. The historical and cultural contexts of these authors and texts will be a focal point of lectures, discussion and analysis. The course will develop writing skills with frequent writing. Types of writing may include: analytical essays, arguments, researched essays. Formal presentations and discussions such as Socratic seminars will be used as well. Grammar and vocabulary will be studied within the context of reading and writing. **Prerequisite:** English 10

Course # 041 British Literature
Honors

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

Incorporates a survey of British literature ranging from the 7th century to the 20th century. Students will read several texts that may include: *Beowulf*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Othello*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Great Expectations*. Students will also study the history the English language and how it has developed through time, in addition to regular vocabulary and morphology instruction. Historical and social contexts will also be taught and applied to the texts. The course emphasizes the development of analytical writing skills through frequent essays, which emphasize voice, organization, development and proper use of conventions. Students should be strong critical readers and writers upon entering the course. **Prerequisite:** English 10 plus teacher approval

Course #040 AP Language and Composition
Advanced Placement

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

AP English Language and Composition is a course that analyzes the use of rhetoric and logical reasoning in a text. Students will primarily practice close reading and analyze non-fiction texts (such as: essays and speeches) for author's purpose and strategies. Through close reading students develop critical and analytical thinking skills that are then applied to formal and informal essays that vary in length and genre. The three main writing purposes that are covered in class are: argumentative, rhetorical analysis and synthesis. Graphics and visual images will be analyzed to show how such images both relate to written texts and serve as alternative forms of text themselves. The study of language itself also permeates the course through such discussions of diction and parallel structure. Finally, students are expected to complete additional summer reading and writing prior to the start of the course. **Prerequisite:** English 10 plus teacher approval

**Course #042 – AP English Literature and Composition
Advanced Placement**

**Grades 11- 12
Credits: 5**

A.P. English Literature and Composition is a thematic based rigorous college-level course which incorporates the four genres into each unit. The reading is challenging; the writing is frequent and requires an independent mind. Therefore, students should be strong critical readers and writers upon entering the course. Students can expect to read several novels as well as plays, long poems, essays, and shorter works over the course of the year. Writing goals focus on developing accuracy, depth of thinking, and fluency through frequent assignments of short focus papers and longer analytical essays in response to literature. The seminar-like nature of the class demands that students take an active role in class each day through careful preparation and participation. The workload and expectations will be demanding for this yearlong course with average readings of about 150 pages per week (novels) and completion of about 20-25 formal essays. **Prerequisite:** English 10 plus teacher approval (recommended as a senior)

ELECTIVES

These courses are designed to broaden students' horizons regarding the English field. They do not meet the entirety of the state standards and are therefore electives rather than core courses. They do not replace the core courses for graduation requirements.

Course #186 Personal and Professional Communication

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 2.5**

In this course students will write in a variety of career and “real world” scenarios. They will become familiar with the genre of the letter (cover, to the editor, friend, invitation, complaint, etc). as well as the art of the resume. Other subjects involve how to write a formal email, memo and business proposal. Finally, students will spend some time on applications and application essays.

Course #187 Media and Marketing

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 5**

Communication through visual means and twenty-first century literacy skills are becoming increasingly important. This class is designed to introduce students to the creative visual aesthetics and communication skills needed in order to deliver a message or story through visual media. Students will explore and apply knowledge of digital tools and related resources as a means for increased media literacy, written expression and production. Students will focus on communication strategies across multiple platforms, such as print, digital, video and audio media. Each semester's project will vary, but the emphasis will be on information design using a variety of visual and structural forms of production.

Course #046 Creative Writing

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 2.5- 5**

Students in this course will study all genres of creative writing, including fiction and creative non-fiction. Some may include short stories, poetry and plays while also learning genres pertaining to the real world such as journalistic writing. This course is a workshop style with teacher directed mini-lessons focused on style, grammar, purpose and audience.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

CORE COURSES

Course #132 – U.S. History I College Prep

**Grade 9
Credits: 5**

Students will examine key issues, events and people in American history from The Colonial Period to Reconstruction. The course is organized both chronologically and topically depending on the period being studied. Key topics will include: the American Revolution, the growth of democracy and the Constitution, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Skills which will be addressed include: reading for critical thinking, note taking, researching, writing, map and graph skills, utilizing primary sources, and developing discussion/presentation abilities.

Course #134 – U.S. History II College Prep

**Grade 10
Credits: 5**

The time period covered in this yearlong course is from Westward Expansion through today. Topics addressed include the settling of the American West, urbanization, industrialization, immigration, the rise of the U.S. as a world power, the World Wars, the Depression, the Cold War, Vietnam and the 60's, and American politics and society at the end the 20th Century. Skills emphasized in the course are those of organization, oral and written communication, and analysis of graphs and charts. Videos, guest speakers, and primary sources are used where appropriate. Long-term projects are assigned quarterly.

Course #130 AP US History Advanced Placement

**Grade 10-12
Credits: 5**

The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP U.S. History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. **Prerequisite:** Recommendation of a Social Studies teacher and U.S. History I

Course #126 – World History II College Prep

**Grade 11
Credits: 5**

This yearlong course is designed to further develop critical thinking, historical research, and writing skills through the study of various world cultures. It also responds to a student's need for knowledge of the world at large by connecting the present day state of events to the past. Study will begin with a review of the Age of Nations and Empires, colonialism, then cover the World Wars, the Cold Wars, and postindustrial society up until the present day. Units may include geography, language, history, government, the economy, literature and the arts.

Course #533 – AP Modern European History
Advanced Placement

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

The study of European History since 1450 introduces students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that play a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of AP European History are to develop an understanding of some of the principal themes in Modern European history, an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and an ability to express historical understanding in writing. **Prerequisite:** Recommendation of a Social Studies teacher

ELECTIVE COURSES

Course #237 Making the Modern World: 1950- The Present
Honors

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

This course will cover topics beginning around 1950 and continuing with current topics and events. The course will be thematic based, covering a range of topics that will include: Modern Terrorism, Global Economic and Political Changes, Globalization, Civil Rights, and Genocide. The goal of the course is to give students a solid understanding of the world they currently live in.

Course #140 – Psychology
College Prep

Grade 11-12
Credits: 5

Psychology is a course which will help students gain a deeper understanding of personality and behavior as well as relationships with others. Through a variety of articles, films, experiments, and class discussion, students will learn more about themselves and others. Some of the topics to be studied and discussed are scientific method, biological basis for behavior, child development theories, learning techniques, personalities, mental health issues, intelligence, emotions, adolescence, identity, and dreams.

Course #192 – AP Psychology
Advanced Placement

Grade 11-12
Credits: 5

AP Psychology will be the equivalent of a college introduction course. Upon completion of the course, students will be prepared to take the AP Psychology exam. They may be eligible to receive college credits and exemption from taking the course in college. The units to be studied include scientific method, biological basis of behavior, learning, development, personality, abnormal psychology, mental health, and social psychology. Classroom learning methods will include theory analysis, experimentation, extensive research-based assignments, lecture/discussion, and testing. **Prerequisite:** Recommendation of a Social Studies teacher

Course #142 – Sociology
College Prep

Grades 11-12
Credits: 2.5- 5

Sociology will address issues of contemporary society in order to develop an accurate understanding of American society and its integration into the larger world system. Students will examine various institutions and their impact on society as well as the individual. Through reading, research, and discussion, students will be encouraged to develop their ability to analyze the role of social structures in contemporary issues such as poverty, racism, and crime.

Course #199 Mythology
College Prep

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

Students will explore much of Western Mythology including, but not limited to, creation myths, hero myths, urban legends, Beowulf, The Hobbit, Norse Mythology and Celtic Mythology. Students will write their own myths and develop their own worldview based what they have learned.

Course #193 American Politics
College Prep

Grades 10
Credits 2.5

Students will gain a solid foundation in the structure and function of the US government. They will examine and respond to many of the fundamental and lasting questions of American Politics. The course will examine some topics by utilizing a case study approach, meaning students will look at the historical and current context of the issues. Some of the topics covered may include religious toleration, immigration law, marriage rights and separation of powers.

Course #149 Contemporary America
College Prep

Grades 10-12
Credits 2.5

Students will examine key issues, events, themes, and ideas of 20th and 21st century American society. Topics addressed include immigration and assimilation, modern American cultural and political trends, the post-cold war era, the high-economy, widening inequality, and a multicultural society. Students will also explore their rights and responsibilities as citizens participating in the maintenance of a democratic society and the relationship between American and the ever emerging global society.

Course #524 – Economics
College Prep

Grades: 10-12
Credits: 5

In this class students will be introduced to basic Macro and Micro Economic Science. The class will learn fundamental terms and theories and then apply them to real world models. Students will be introduced to fiscal and monetary policy, stock market terminology, basic market structures, labor economics, externalities, energy, healthcare, budgets and deficits, marketing, investing and food policy. The class will pull in current events and study them through the eyes of an economist. The class is recommended for all students and not just those interested in business. By end of this class a student will have a better understanding of the world and its' economic happenings.

Course #500 – Business Law
College Prep

Grades: 10-12
Credits: 5

This course covers three major areas: our judicial system, business law, and understanding case problems. The course is designed to familiarize students with our legal system and the types of legal problems they will Encounter in everyday life. The Commercial Code and analyzing case problems relating to business situations will be covered. In addition to regular reading and writing assignments, as well as tests, and quizzes, a research paper is a requirement of this course. This course is highly recommended for all students planning on entering college and majoring in a business field. It is offered based on interest and enrollment.

**Course #194 Modern Entrepreneur and Leadership
College Prep**

**Grades: 10-12
Credits: 5**

For this class students will be introduced to some of the world's Modern Leaders and Entrepreneurs (MLE). Students will study the MLE's habits and methods to learn about what has made them successful. If you are interested in how Warren Buffett made 72 billion dollars, in how Peter Thiel the founder of Paypal knew Facebook would be a hit, in how an immigrant that grew up in a house without running water could win Mr Universe, become a movie star and then governor, this class is for you. If you wish to learn about the strategies and tactics leaders use to lead, this class is for you. If you want a chance study the habits of successful people and integrate those habits into yours, this class is for you. This class is primarily design for those that enjoy class discussion, debate and philosophical thought.

Course #631 Personal Finance

**Grades: 10-12
Credits: 2.5**

Students taking Personal Finance will learn about the following: Personal consumption and labor market decisions, loans and interests rates, the stock market and other investments, the bond market, retirement plans, college saving plans, credit scores, social security, pension plans, personal accounts, State and Federal Tax law, personal bankruptcy, credit and credit cards. The class is suggested for all high school students no matter what their after school plans are. Personal financial literacy is an essential component to individual's future financial well-being.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT COURSES

Course #239 – Physics
College Prep
Credits: 5

Grade 9

This class is a one-year introductory lab course to learn about the fundamentals of physics. Topics include mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, sound and light. Math skills will be limited to manipulation of simple algebraic equations. Emphasis will be on understanding the concepts of physics. The class will include laboratory experiences, demonstrations, projects, and computer simulations.

Course #240 – Advanced Physics
College Prep (or Honors by contract)

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

This class is a year-long laboratory based course designed for those students who plan to enter the science or health fields. The course is an introduction to the basic concepts of physics, and will require knowledge of Algebra and basic Trigonometry. The first part of the course will deal extensively with Newtonian Mechanics and will be followed by studies of electricity, magnetism, heat, and light. Students will be expected to participate in: lectures, lab activities, homework assignments, field trips, class discussions and demonstrations. Video presentations, computer simulations and computer probes will also be used extensively. **Prerequisites:** Completion of Algebra II with a B or better or permission of instructor is required.

Course #221 – College Preparatory Biology
College Prep

Grade 10
Credits: 5

This introductory biology course provides opportunities for students to explore the concepts in life science in an intensive academic environment. Students will be actively engaged in investigations of topics including ecology, biochemical cycles (energy transfer in biological systems), cell biology, principles of heredity, biochemistry, evolution, biological history, and human physiology. These concepts will be examined through laboratory investigations, modeling, interactive investigations, reading assignments (homework) and some lecture. Students will study and apply scientific methods to their lab work and learn to use statistical analysis techniques to validate or dismiss scientific data. Through the process of repeated revision based on peer and instructor criticism, students will produce a scientific research paper. At the conclusion of the course, students will use their new knowledge to complete a final project in Astrobiology.

Course #220 – Environmental Science
College Prep

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

Environmental science is a yearlong elective course for any student interested in learning more about the environment, both natural and man made, and the balance between them. Students will learn how ecosystems work; how organisms interact with each other, the natural world, and in the natural world in reaction to humans; population dynamics; the global commons; food and agriculture; waste management; pollution; and energy. Current “hot topics” in environmental science will also be covered. Students will be involved in some study of the local ecosystems and microhabitats. New England ecology will also be introduced and highlighted, and a foundational understanding of global ecology will be established. Students will participate in various activities and projects throughout the year.

**Course #241 – Advanced Biology
Honors**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

**Course #242 -- AP Biology
Advanced Placement**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

This course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory college biology course and aims to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Biology Exam. The course will include extensive lab work with great emphasis placed on using statistical analysis to validate or dismiss scientific data. Laboratory experiments will include an in-depth study of topics typically studied in a first year college biology course. These include biochemistry, cell biology, principles of heredity, molecular genetics, evolution, animal behavior, and human physiology. Prerequisites: The course is open to juniors and seniors who have successfully completed College Preparatory Biology with a B or better, or permission from the instructor. Also, the student must have completed or be currently taking chemistry.

**Course #231 – College Preparatory Chemistry
College Prep**

**Grade 11-12
Credits: 5**

This yearlong, high school chemistry course is organized around important concepts that have wide applications in the field of science. The goal of this course is for students to understand the fundamental principles of chemistry and to apply that knowledge. Students in this course will gain a basic understanding of the chemistry of substances encountered in daily life, and of the basic skills needed to be chemically literate in today's world. Students will study properties of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonding, periodic trends, molecular geometry, chemical reactions and equations, the mole, stoichiometry, the gas laws, chemical equilibrium, and oxidation – reductions. Scientific practices, problem solving, and study skills will be emphasized. The content is beneficial for those students interested in attending college and it is particularly beneficial to those students who are interested in pursuing careers in the areas of health, medicine, all science and engineering. This course is mathematically oriented. Students can expect daily homework. Ownership of a scientific calculator is required. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra 1, *Students in Grade 10 can take this course concurrently with biology, with permission of instructor.

**Course #234 – Advanced Chemistry
Honors**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

**Course # 232 -- AP Chemistry
Advanced Placement**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

The Advanced Placement Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of a general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. The course is designed to aid the development of the student's abilities to think clearly, express their ideas orally and in writing, with clarity and logic. Students in this AP Chemistry course will attain a depth of understanding of fundamental chemical principles and a reasonable competence in dealing with chemical problems. The pace of the course is fast and is directed by The College Board with respect to course content. Students are expected to be consistently self-directed in their study, and to complete the necessary at home preparation. **Prerequisites:** Successful completion of College Preparatory Chemistry and Algebra II with a B or better, or permission from instructor.

Course #243 – Biomedical Science
College Prep

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

Students will examine cutting edge advancements in the field of biomedical science as they examine the interactions of the major human body systems, molecular genetics, virology (study of viruses with special focus on high profile human viruses) and genetic engineering. Students will enrich their learning by researching human hereditary diseases and the biology of various human viruses/microbes, and explore how genetic disease and pathogens affect the human body. These research projects will place great emphasis on the ever evolving medical interventions designed to combat human disease. Through the process of repeated revision based on peer and instructor criticism, students will present their findings in the form of oral reporting, scientific writing and posters. Real world cases will be examined and students will play the roles of biomedical professionals to solve medical mysteries. This course will include extensive readings, research assignments and the hands on dissection of a cat. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry (or simultaneous enrollment in Chemistry).

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

In an effort to meet MassCore standards, which prepare students for college and career, students will need to successfully complete four units of math to meet graduation requirements. Four levels and three tracks of courses are offered at Hopkins Academy in an effort to accommodate the varied aptitudes and interests of students. Level II courses do not meet the requirements for entrance into 4-year colleges. The Level I courses are designed for the majority of our students and include all the requirements necessary for entrance to four-year colleges. Honors courses are designed for students with strong mathematical aptitude and critical thinking skills. Calculus is an Advanced Placement course and follows the guidelines set by the College Board. In accordance with NCTM standards, all math courses are taught with the aid of computers, calculators, and graphing calculators, as appropriate; however, *their use will be restricted as determined by the teachers.*

The typical Honors math sequence is:

Geo 9A/Algebra 2A/Honors Precalculus/AP Calculus

The typical Level I math sequence is:

Algebra 1B/Geo B/Algebra 2B/Precalculus

Third track:

Integrated Math/Algebra I/Geometry/Alg II

Course #349 – Integrated Math I

Grades 9-10

Course #350 -- Integrated Math II

Grades 9-10

Credits: 5

This course is for those students not following the traditional college preparatory math sequence. The Integrated Math course is designed for math students desiring an introduction to the basic language of algebra and geometry. Topics covered will include problem solving strategies, fractions, decimals, integers, real numbers, linear equations, graphs, ratios, proportions, percents, angles, parallel lines, area, volume, probability, and data analysis, as well as applying skills towards MCAS prep.

Course #312 – Algebra IB

Grade 9-10

College Prep

Credits: 5

This course serves as an introduction to the basic language of algebra. Emphasis will be placed on working with real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, functions, exponents, quadratic equations, and statistics and probability, with continued reinforcement of basic math skills.

Course #332 – Algebra IIB

Grade 11

College Prep

Credits: 5

Topics included in the course are a review of the basic concepts of Algebra I, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, quadratic functions, polynomial functions, exponents, and exponential functions. **Prerequisite:** successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry.

Course #311 – Geometry A

Grade 9-10

Honors

Credits: 5

The basic structure of geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, construction, and transformations will be studied. Algebraic skills are reviewed periodically and strengthened as algebraic methods are applied to solving problems and coordinate geometry. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra I in the 8th grade with a B or better and/or recommendation of teacher

Course #322 – Geometry B
College Prep

Grade 10
Credits: 5

This course offers a thorough introduction to Euclidean geometry. Topics covered in the course are methods of reasoning, coordinate geometry, angle relations, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruence, similarity, transformations, right triangle trigonometry, area, volume, and circles. Algebraic skills are reviewed and applied to solving problems in geometry. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra I

Course #321 – Algebra IIA
Honors

Grade 10
Credits: 5

This rigorous course provides an in-depth study of linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, properties of functions, quadratic functions, complex numbers, polynomial functions, rational functions, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions. **Prerequisite:** successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry with a B or better and/or have the recommendation of their teacher

Course #330 –Precalculus
College Prep

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

The study of algebra is continued in the study of exponential functions, logarithmic functions, rational functions, conic sections, sequences and series, and probability. Students will also study trigonometry including trigonometric functions, their uses, graphs and identities, and the use of the functions for solving triangles. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra II

Course #331 – Honors Precalculus
Honors

Grade 11-12
Credits: 5

This fast-paced, advanced precalculus course is designed for those students who have shown strong interest and achievement in mathematics. Topics include rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, conic sections, vectors, parametric equations, complex numbers, sequences and series, and probability. This course is a prerequisite for AP Calculus. **Prerequisite:** Algebra IIA and Geometry A with a B- or better and/or have the recommendation of the teachers

Course #320 – 21st Century Consumer Math

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

This course concentrates on computational skills that high school students need in solving consumer problems in everyday life. It also develops skills in basic math needed for future work and study in trades, semi-professional occupations, and other careers. Topics included in this course are budget planning, banking services, investments, income taxes, owning a car, owning a home, and planning for retirement.

Course #314 – Statistics and Probability
Honors

Grades 11-12
Credits: 5

This course is an overview of statistics and probability, including data analysis, distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, correlations, and regressions. Students are encouraged to have a graphing calculator, such as the T1-83. **Prerequisite:** successful completion of Algebra II with a “C” or better, and/or recommendation of the teacher.

**Course #341 – AP Calculus
Advanced Placement**

**Grade 12
Credits: 5**

This senior level course is designed for those motivated students who plan to enter the fields of mathematics, science, or engineering. Topics covered in the course are functions, limits, derivatives, integrals, and applications involving derivatives and integrals. The course curriculum is set by the College Board and the workload will be structured and demanding. **Prerequisite:** Precalculus and the approval of the Math Department

**Course #308 Pre College Algebra
College Prep**

**Grade 12
Credits: 5**

This course is designed for Seniors who are in their final year of mathematics and are going to be entering a 2 to 4 year school and are going to be taking a placement exam. Topics that will be covered will include, but are not limited to, properties of rational numbers, equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential forms, polynomials, modeling with equations, trigonometric functions, properties of right triangles, review of basic geometric concepts, and basic statistics and probability. Prerequisites: student must be in their senior year or have successfully completed three math courses at the high school level, including Algebra II

**Course #307 Introduction to Calculus
College Prep**

**Grades 11- 12
Credits: 5**

This course is designed for those students who are wanting to further their knowledge of Calculus but have not covered all the topics that the Honors PreCalculus has covered. This course is designed as a continuation from PreCalculus and the topics will be a continuation from the previous course. The course is designed to have students well-prepared for Calculus Courses in College Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, exponential and logarithmic functions and relations, rational functions and relations, sequences, conic sections, discrete mathematics, as well as various trigonometry properties such as trigonometric functions and identities and equations. Prerequisite: Students who have passed Pre Calculus and/or teacher recommendation.

**Course #315 - Introductory Statistics and Probability
College Prep**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

This course will benefit students who pursue mathematics, science, business, psychology, or economics in college. Topics covered in the course include data analysis, fundamental ideas of probability, linear regression, random variables, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing. **Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Algebra II

WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Course #411 French I College Prep

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 5**

This year-long course focuses on written and oral communication, incorporating pre-AP teaching strategies. Readings encompass mini-novels written for the beginning foreign language learner, as well as short stories and articles. In addition to textbook exercises, vocabulary and grammar are reinforced with computer activities and/or video segments. Culture is presented through videos, actual class celebrations and/or research projects in the library or on the Internet.

Course #412 Spanish I College Prep

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 5**

This year-long course focuses on written and oral communication, incorporating pre-AP teaching strategies. Readings encompass mini-novels written for the beginning foreign language learner, as well as short stories and articles. In addition to textbook exercises, vocabulary and grammar are reinforced with computer activities and/or video segments. Culture is presented through videos, actual class celebrations and/or research projects in the library or on the Internet.

Course #421 French II College Prep

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 5**

This year-long course continues the development of oral and written communication in the target language. Readings encompass mini novels written for the intermediate foreign language learner as well as short stories and articles. Vocabulary and more advanced grammatical concepts are reinforced through computer activities, and/or video segments. Culture is continued through the use of videos, actual class celebrations and/or research projects in the library or on the Internet.

Course #422 Spanish II College Prep

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 5**

This year-long course continues the development of oral and written communication in the target language. Readings encompass mini novels written for the intermediate foreign language learner as well as short stories and articles. Vocabulary and more advanced grammatical concepts are reinforced through computer activities, and/or video segments. Culture is continued through the use of videos, actual class celebrations and/or research projects in the library or on the Internet.

Course #431 French III Honors

**Grades 10-12
Credits: 5**

This full year course strengthens the students' active command of the spoken and written language, introduces more refined aspects of the target language, and delves deeper into the French culture.

Course #432 Spanish III Honors

**Grades 10-12
Credits: 5**

This full year course strengthens the students' active command of the spoken and written language, introduces more refined aspects of the target language, and delves deeper into the Hispanic culture.

**Course #441 French IV
Honors**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

This is a full year course designed to further develop and perfect the students' active command of the spoken and written language through advanced readings, discussions, as well as research projects, current events and realia.

**Course #442 Spanish IV
Honors**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

This is a full year course designed to further develop and perfect the students' active command of the spoken and written language through advanced readings, discussions, as well as research projects, current events and realia.

**Course #445 AP French
Advanced Placement**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

The main objective of the AP French/Spanish language course is to develop students' communication skills in French/Spanish, with an emphasis on conversation and composition. The fundamental goal is for the students to achieve a high level of ability in all four skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). This is a rigorous course designed to challenge highly motivated language learners. Students will be expected to be well prepared, have a high level of motivation and interest, as well as sufficient time to prepare out-of-class reading and writing assignments. Students who select this class should have a strong knowledge of the language. Students will be required to express ideas orally with accuracy and fluency, compose expository passages, and comprehend formal and informal French/Spanish. Students are required to take the AP French exam.

**Course #446 AP Spanish
Advanced Placement**

**Grades 11-12
Credits: 5**

The main objective of the AP French/Spanish language course is to develop students' communication skills in French/Spanish, with an emphasis on conversation and composition. The fundamental goal is for the students to achieve a high level of ability in all four skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). This is a rigorous course designed to challenge highly motivated language learners. Students will be expected to be well prepared, have a high level of motivation and interest, as well as sufficient time to prepare out-of-class reading and writing assignments. Students who select this class should have a strong knowledge of the language. Students will be required to express ideas orally with accuracy and fluency, compose expository passages, and comprehend formal and informal French/Spanish. Students are required to take the AP Spanish exam.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Course #513 – Computer Science

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 2.5**

This course will introduce students to many different software platforms taught in a real world project based environment. Some students will have taken MS Computer Science however it is not a prerequisite for the HS course. Problem solving, creativity, and analysis skills will be highlighted to prepare students for the modern world and the college learning environment. Projects will cover technical skills for the following platforms: Learning how to use Google documents (cloud computing), Dreamweaver website design software (along with adobe flash and fireworks), Lego Mindstorms Robotics, Scratch Programming Software, Microsoft Movie Maker, Kudo Programming Software, Simulation Software, Prezi Presentation Software, Goanimate, and a lot more. For more information, please refer to Mr. Simmons' teacher web page.

Course #509 – Advanced Computers

**Grades 10-12
Credits: 2.5**

In this course, students will learn computer programs such as website design software, animation software, and photography and graphic editing software. Software titles included in the class are Dream Weaver, Photo Shop and Flash. After completing this course, students will be able to design and manage websites and advertise themselves as a Webmaster. Most all work will be done in class and the final will include designing, from scratch, a website representing a local business. Prerequisite: Computer Science

Course #583 – Computer Aided Film Design

**Grades 10-12
Credits: 2.5 - 5**

In this class students will design, edit, direct, act in, and critique computer aided film. Students will learn to use digital video cameras, Windows Movie Maker, Audacity Sound editing program, Adobe Premier Elements, Adobe Photo Shop Elements, Macro media Fireworks and more. Some of the film formats students will produce will be: Stop Motion, Live Action, Animation, Documentary, Mockumentary, Interview and Music Videos. Students will learn basic filming and editing techniques and be introduced to many genres of film. The class will be offered as a 2.5 credit class and workload will reflect the half class status.

HOPKINS ACADEMY FINE ARTS

Course #714 – Visual Arts Methods & Materials

Grades 9-12
Credits: 2.5 – 5

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to broaden and develop a working art vocabulary while exploring a variety of techniques both 2D & 3D. Students will learn foundational skills in beginning drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, computer graphics and design. Students will have the opportunity to understand and apply studio production, art history, art criticism, and aesthetics through individual exploration in the arts. Students must maintain a portfolio of sketches and finished work. This course may be taken more than once, expectations for students will increase each time they take the course.

Course #719 – Visual Arts & Media Literacy

Grades 9-12
Credits 2.5 - 5

This yearlong course is designed to give students the opportunity to broaden and develop their working art vocabulary, while exploring a variety of techniques, both 2D & 3D. They will work in mixed media, including beginning drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, computer graphics, multimedia, design, digital photography, video production and PowerPoint presentations. Students will build on their experience and understanding of studio production, art history, art criticism and aesthetics. Students must maintain a portfolio of sketches and finished work. This course may be taken more than once, expectations for students will increase each time they take the course.

Course #725 – Portfolio Preparation/Independent Study

Grade 12
Credits: 5

This course is designed for the serious art student who wishes to apply to a college art program, put a portfolio together, concentrate on a personal area of interest, and learn more about art history. Work is done independently during other art classes, after school, and /or at home, depending upon the instructor's and the student's schedules. Along with the required project work there will be an independent study of art history in order to better acquaint the student with the art and artists of the past as they influence our present culture. Students must maintain a portfolio of sketches and finished work. Permission of the instructor is required.

Course #775 – Portfolio Preparation/Independent Study

Grade 12
Credits: 2.5

This course is designed for the serious art student who wishes to apply to a college art program, put a portfolio together, concentrate on a personal area of interest, and learn more about art history. Work is done independently during other art classes, after school, and /or at home, depending upon the instructor's and the student's schedules. Along with the required project work there will be an independent study of art history in order to better acquaint the student with the art and artists of the past as they influence our present culture. Students must maintain a portfolio of sketches and finished work. This course meets for forty-three minutes every other day. Permission of the instructor is required.

HEALTH, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

Courses in Health, Family & Consumer Science (FCS) prepare students for their transition to the adult world.

Course #619 – Foods & Nutrition

Grades 9-12
Credits: 2.5

This course encourages students to broaden their understanding and appreciation of food. Content includes nutrition, food safety and kitchen sanitation, modifying recipes to make them healthier and planning meals within a budget. Students will also work in teams to practice decision-making and time management skills while cooperating in food preparation efforts. Students will have hands-on opportunities to prepare food items and will be encouraged to sample them. Students will work in groups to practice decision-making and time management skills while cooperating in food preparation "labs". Additionally, students will complete multicultural research projects and food preparation using a variety of topic areas.

Course #629 – International Foods

Grades 9-12
Credits: 2.5

Would you like to take a culinary trip around the world? If you answered yes, then this class is for you. Students will explore more than 15 countries and regions of the world, learning about various cultures and their culinary delights. Students will research how the availability of ingredients influenced different cuisines in countries and regions of the world. Students will menu plan and virtually shop for ingredients while maintaining a budget. Students will have hands-on opportunities to prepare food items and will be encouraged to sample them. Students will work in groups to practice decision-making and time management skills while cooperating in food preparation "labs." An appreciation and respect for cultural diversity and an openness to explore new foods is a major component of this class. **Prerequisite:** Foods & Nutrition

Course #950 – Developmental Wellness

Grade 9
Credits: 2.5

The primary goal of this 9th grade wellness course is to prepare students to be advocates for their personal health and for the health of their community. Topics such as self-esteem, decision-making, media influence, treating others with respect, and relationships will be discussed under the central theme of human sexuality. Students will learn about physical, social and emotional aspects of adolescent development including personal safety, substance abuse, disease prevention, and the human life cycle. Specific topics on male and female reproductive systems, conception, fetal development, communication, gender identity, abstinence, responsible sexual relationships, contraception, sexual harassment and abusive relationships will also be discussed. Students will be evaluated on their participation in class, through individual projects, quizzes and tests.

HOPKINS ACADEMY MUSIC PROGRAM

Course #700 – Band

**Grades 9-12
Credits 2.5**

The Hopkins Academy Band consists of two entities: a concert band and a marching band. Members play in both bands. The concert band performs a minimum of two concerts per year, and in some years participates in competitions. The marching band performs a minimum of five times per year, and also will participate in competitions. This class meets every other day, as well as occasional evening rehearsals dictated by Music Festival competitions.

Course #702 – Chorus

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 2.5**

The Hopkins Academy Chorus is a four-part singing ensemble that performs contemporary music at concerts and related activities in and out of school. This class meets every other day for the year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Course #940 – Physical Education 11-12
Course #941 -- Physical Education 9
Course #942 -- Physical Educaton 10

Grades 9-12

Credits: 2.5

Physical education is required for all high school students in grades 9-12. Students must successfully complete four years of physical education unless the requirement is waived by the school principal. Classes emphasize team sports, individual and dual sports, recreational and lifetime activities. The objectives of the program are to promote physical fitness, develop motor skill techniques, increase cardio-vascular capacity, emphasize life long activities, and teach students to be good decision makers. Emphasis is also placed on sportsmanship, social skills and conflict resolution, knowledge of rules, safety, and an insight into proper personal hygiene. Students are also asked to display their writing skills in the form of written assignments throughout the course. Writing topics may include, but are not limited to, bullying, proper etiquette, favorite sports or activities, or research papers on assigned topics or books.

Physical Education offerings include: Archery, Badminton, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Golf, Flag Football, Aerobics, Field Hockey, Ultimate Frisbee, Team Handball, Volleyball, Lacrosse, Table Tennis, Power Walking, Snow Shoeing, New Games, Fitness Testing, Pickle Ball, Fitness & Nutrition

OTHER OFFERINGS

Course #054 – Academic Skills

**Grades 9-12
Credits: 2.5 or 5**

Academic Skills is a year-long course. The purpose is to give students the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, attitudes and self-discipline they need to succeed in high school and beyond. Areas of focus in the course include time management and organizational skills, note taking and reading skills, writing skills, memory improvement and test taking skills. As well as having a tutorial focus, this course is also aimed at improving student's self-advocacy skills. The course will focus on skills students need as they transition from high school to post secondary schooling and the work force.

Course #646/01 – Work Study

**Grade 12
Credits: 2.5-10**

The main objective of the Work-Study program is to provide an opportunity for high school students to continue their education while gaining valuable work experience under supervision. The Work-Study experience is designed to develop desirable work attitudes and promote understanding of the relationship between formal education and job success through supervised part-time employment as part of the total school program. Students will earn academic credit for the work experience that will count towards their high school diploma (Cannot replace any courses required for graduation). Students are granted permission to participate in this program only after consultation with the principal and guidance counselor. Students in Work-Study are expected to enter into a contract with the school, and among other things, are expected to fulfill all requirements of the academic courses assigned for the school phase of their program.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Students in grades 11 and 12 may enroll in VHS courses if they meet the following criteria: maintained a 3.0 as a senior or 3.25 as a junior or better average in the same subject area (Ex.-Science courses for AP Environmental Science) and/or have the approval of previous same subject area teachers as well as successful completion of any prerequisite courses. It is anticipated that VHS courses will require at least as much time, organization and preparation as equivalent Hopkins courses. Students must have the ability to work independently and possess solid computer skills. Students not meeting the criteria but wishing to enroll, must submit their request in writing to the principal during the prescribed enrollment period, which will result in a review of current academic performance, test scores and teacher feedback. The principal will then make the final decision. **Seniors have preference.**

The following guidelines apply:

- Students may only enroll in **courses not offered** at Hopkins Academy
- Core course **requirements cannot** be met through VHS courses.
- Students may select a single semester VHS course only if they agree to take another semester VHS course during the same time block for the second semester (the two semester long courses would equal one full year course for credits and weight).
- All VHS courses will be **credited and weighted the same** as equivalent courses at Hopkins Academy.
- Students must report to the library during the scheduled period under the supervision of the Librarian/VHS Site Coordinator. The VHS course instructor, **not the Site Coordinator**, will determine grades, which will be submitted to Hopkins Academy for report cards and transcripts.
- The Administration and guidance Department **may recommend** VHS courses to accommodate specific, unusual individual student needs (i.e., irresolvable scheduling conflicts or transfer situations)

Independent Study Program

Grades 11 & 12

The academic independent study program provides an opportunity for students in grades 11 and 12 to obtain academic credit for learning acquired through an individualized program of study under periodic guidance by a faculty advisory. Each teacher is allowed to advise one Academic Independent Study. Exceptions have to be approved by the administration. **All independent studies will be considered Level II courses unless a member of the Administrative staff approves the course at a higher level.**

Guidelines:

1. Students who wish to participate in an academic independent study program must initiate the request with the teacher. It is the right of the teacher to determine whether or not he/she will advise such a program. The principal gives final approval for an academic independent study program.
2. The student and advising teacher will develop a contract for the program. The contract will include detailed courses outcomes, goals of the program, the projected amount of credit expected, due dates, and methods of evaluation.
3. **At no time will the number of credits to be earned exceed 5 credits for any student** for independent studies in an academic year. Independent Study credits are determined by supervised hours of time in the student's course schedule. Credit for the course will be granted only after successful completion of the program.
4. All proposals for an Academic Independent Study Program **must be submitted on or before June 15, 2015** for consideration for the following school year. A template is available in the Guidance office and on the Guidance web page.
5. An Academic Independent Study may not be taken in lieu of a required course. The following criteria is considered when a student registers for an Academic Independent Study:
 - The course must be taken when the student is a junior or a senior.
 - The student must be in good academic standing (3.0 minimum GPA) and at the time of the request they must have an acceptable attendance and behavior record.
 - The student must demonstrate how the academic independent study course will benefit him/her in his/her future.
 - The course outcomes must be designed to meet the guidelines in the Hopkins Academy Statement of Purpose, along with the school and department exit outcomes.
 - The student must complete and present a final project to the advising teacher.
 - The student must be scheduled during the period designated for the Academic Independent Study.

Hopkins Academy Academic Independent Study Program Contract Template

Deadline: On or Before June 15, 2015

Student's Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Title of Course: _____ **I.S. Period:** _____

Advising Teacher's Name: _____ **Credits:** _____

Course Description:

1. Objectives: What do you expect to learn from this course?

2. Purpose: In what ways will the Independent Study benefit you over and beyond the regular school program? (When and what will you be studying? Why?)

3. Evaluation: In what ways will your learning and performance of this independent study be graded?

4. Projects: Write an outline of your Independent Study activities.

Signatures of Approval for this contact:

Student: _____ **Parent:** _____

Counselor: _____ **Principal:** _____

Advising Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____