



MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

2016-2017

J-TERM COURSE GUIDE



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Dates:	Wednesday, Jan. 4 - Thursday, Jan. 19
School Day:	SAME, 8:15 - 3:15
AM Block:	8:15 - 11:08 (2 hours and 53 minutes)
PM Block:	12:23 - 3:15 (2 hours and 52 minutes)
Junior/Senior Lunch:	11:08 - 11:44
Freshmen/Sophomore Lunch:	11:44 - 12:19

INTRODUCTION

The staff at Mount Vernon High School has developed this Course Guide to provide information about the courses offered during J-Term. This guide will help students and their parents/guardians become better acquainted with the content of specific courses and will aid students in the course selection process.

NOTE: Students must successfully participate every academic school year in J-Term. Students missing days for illness, personal reasons, etc., are still expected to participate in J-Term. Successful participation will be left to the discretion of instructors and MVHS administration. Credit will be assigned based on the mastery of essential learnings in the J-Term course and determined by the instructors.

A J-Term course is equivalent to all of the courses offered during a traditional semester. Missing one day for illness or personal reasons during J-Term is equivalent to missing seven class periods during a semester long course. We value your attendance during J-Term.

COURSES

- **HEALTH 9 - .25 credit**
J-TERM COURSE
REQUIRED IN GRADE 9

Mr. Peters, Mr. Pedersen, Mr. Whitman

This freshman health course will run on a four day teacher rotation. The National Guard will train students on CPR and participants will have the opportunity to receive CPR certification. Mr. Peters will teach Drug and Alcohol Education. Mr. Whitman will teach Disease Prevention and Media Influences. Mr. Pedersen will teach Nutrition, Reproductive Health, and Mental Health. The curriculum is derived from Health Teacher, Media Education Foundation, KidsHealth.org, and DrugFreeWorld.org. Health is a required course for graduation. Educational objectives are determined by the Health Literacy Skills for ninth grade students from the Iowa Core.

- **RECENT U.S. HISTORY - .25 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

REQUIRED IN GRADE 9

Mr. Timm, Mrs. Bienemann, Mrs. Viter-Pitlik

Students will learn historical content and theories as well as how to create a visual project that corresponds with the events of September 11, 2001. Students will work in collaborative groups to create a memorial made up of visual and audio interviews while capturing still photos of the reactions of the public to questions about the events of September 11. Once the interviews are completed the students will learn how to use video editing programs to produce a video. The main focus is for students to create a memorial/video to understand, recollect, and show the importance of the events of September 11.

- **ARE YOU GAME? - .5 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

(NOT repeatable)

Mrs. McCollum and Mrs. Young

This 12 day course will focus on the mathematics and psychology of decision making. We will look at the mathematical, psychological, and emotional aspects of games as well as calculating the risk involved in everyday situations. We will be discussing, learning and playing a variety of games of chance, such as craps, roulette, blackjack, euchre, Yahtzee, and cribbage. Students will be able to not only play these games, but will be able to analyze the probability and strategy of each. Our goal is to be able to travel outside of the school to play games with people in our community. In addition, we will be looking at probability and its role in sports and athletics. Finally, there will be time devoted to discussion of risk taking behaviors with attention paid to the psychology as well as the business of assessing risk. Students can plan on playing games, having fun and learning the mathematics and psycho-social aspects of games and decision making. So our question is: ARE YOU GAME? If so, please register for this J term class.

- **COLD WAR THROUGH JAMES BOND - .5 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

(NOT repeatable)

Mrs. Willems and Mr. Weber

In a dynamic and unique manner, students will examine the era of the Cold War using James Bond and music as their medium(s). By the end of the course, students will analyze selected James Bond films, novels and short stories, as well as pieces of music, and will make specific connections to the political, economic and cultural forces of the Cold War Era. In addition, students will identify common elements of James Bond films, novels, and short stories and effectively illustrate each element with numerous examples. Students will reflect their learning via assessments and in project presentations. Day-to-day activities will include direct instruction, student discussion, listening to and analyzing music, and viewing of James Bond films. Students will listen to era music and will analyze hundreds of pieces of music that might surprise you are connected to the themes of the Cold War, such as the Beatles, Elton John, Metallica, Ozzy Osbourne and U2. In an exciting twist, students will have the opportunity to interact with a real, living former CIA spy who is gracious enough to engage our students in their current covert actions.

- **CONSUMER AUTOMOTIVE - .5 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

(NOT repeatable)

Mr. Kuker and Mr. Murray

Consumer Automotive is a J-term course that focuses on the management of resources to successfully operate a small business. Students will operate a small automotive service facility composed of departments and responsibilities similar to a vehicle dealership model. Service and repair procedures will be a component of the instruction though emphasis will be placed on operating an efficient and reliable operation with high customer satisfaction.

This course also emphasizes how automotive service and repair must develop a successful marketing strategy for their service business to differentiate themselves from their competitors. We will analyze the differences between sales and marketing, the functions of a successful marketing plan, creating and sustaining a brand identity, and creating customer value.

- **CRIMINAL MINDS / VIDEO JOURNALISM - .5 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

Mrs. Massey and Mrs. Gage

Criminal Minds (NOT repeatable): Inspired by the hit show “Criminal Minds” in this class we will learn how Criminal Profilers catch these evil monsters. We will study the characteristics these criminal share as well as learn how the Psychopathic mind works. Are these monsters born criminals or does their environment shape them? How exactly does criminal profiling work...is it like on the TV show or is the show pure fiction? Learn the answer to these questions and much, much more. Class will consist of projects, lectures, guest speakers and of course viewing episodes of “Criminal Minds” as well as other movies. No prerequisites required, but completion of Criminal Justice class is helpful. Mature content, not intended for those with a squeamish stomach!

Video Journalism (Repeatable) is a course in which students will learn the skills of interviewing, reporting, photography, and video editing. Students will work together to publish online documentaries as well as a hardcover book about other J-Term classes.

- **EXERCISE SCIENCE / SCIENCE OF SPORT - .5 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

(NOT repeatable)

Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Henik

Through classroom engagement and hands-on experience students will become familiar with the concepts relevant to sports medicine. Students will learn about common sports injuries and possible treatments. Students will develop a personal wellness plan to balance both athletic and emotional health. The course will include a trip to the Kirkwood Community College Exercise Science Laboratory.

Topics to be covered during this course:

- Anatomical terminology
- Anatomy of major joints / Injuries to these joints
- First Aid procedures and treatment for common injuries
- Utilize proper blood pressure and heart rate monitoring techniques
- Aerobic and Anaerobic exercise
- Use of both static and dynamic stretching
- Learn how to assess body composition, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and endurance
- Utilize various relaxation techniques to promote healing and performance

- **LEARNING ON A DIME - .5 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

(NOT repeatable)

Mrs. Lynner, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Wilkinson

This class includes party planning, auto care, cooking, chopped, world foods, sewing and self-defense! We plan to do a couple of field trips to Cedar Rapids and Iowa City which will include eating on a budget and learning how to buy a car. Other stops will include the public library and a store scavenger hunt. A signed waiver will be required for the self-defense day.

- **MUSICAL THEATRE - .5 credit**

J-TERM COURSE

(NOT repeatable)

Mr. Stephens and Mr. Wilkins

This course is divided into five key areas:

- understanding theatrical terminology, etiquette, and safety
- basic operation of the sound and lighting consoles
- selection, production, and staging of a script (group)
- research of a historical theatre era (individual)
- comparison of professional spaces and productions

Assessments will be based on the following National Core Arts Standards:

Standard #1: Generate, develop, and refine artistic ideas during group preparation.

Standard #2: Perceive, analyze, and apply criteria to evaluate professional and amateur artistic work

Standard #3: Individually research and present the societal, cultural, and historical impacts of musical theatre.

There will be field trips to Cedar Rapids to tour the Paramount and/or Theatre Cedar Rapids facilities and Hanscher Auditorium in Iowa City (during the school day) and to the Des Moines Civic Center to view *Mama Mia*. The Des Moines trip is on Thursday, January 19 and will depart at 3:30 pm and return to MVHS around midnight. Students will need to take money for one meal. Additionally, students may elect to attend a performance of *Phantom of the Opera* in Chicago on Saturday, January 7 at 2:00 pm. This opportunity will cost students \$60. The bus will depart at 8:00 am and will return to MVHS at 9:00 pm. Students will need to take money for two meals.

Daily classes will be split between the District Auditorium and high school classrooms. Classes will be co-taught by Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Stephens but will also utilize small group sessions and guided individual work time.

During the class, students will view and compare excerpts from film versions of Broadway shows. These may include:

- Annie (1982)
- Bye, Bye Birdie (1963)
- Chicago (2002)
- Grease (1978)
- Hairspray (2007)
- Into the Woods (2014)
- Les Miserables (2012)
- Little Shop of Horrors (1986)
- Mary Poppins (1964)
- The Music Man (1962)
- Newsies (1992)
- Phantom of the Opera (2004)
- Once (2007)
- Rent (2005)
- Rock of Ages (2012)
- The Sound of Music (1965)
- Sweeney Todd (2007)
- West Side Story (1961)
- The Wizard of Oz (1939)

- **SCIFI - .5 credit**
J-TERM COURSE
(NOT repeatable)

Mrs. Appley and Mr. Andresen

Space travel, galaxies far... far... away, dystopian futures, aliens! How?! Students will learn how to create facial prosthetics and prop replicas relevant to science fictions themes. Also, through exploration and analysis of science fiction film and stories, students will question, research, and argue the future of real science.

- **STORYTELLING / OUTDOOR PURSUITS - .5 credit**
J-TERM COURSE
(NOT repeatable)

Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Browning
Storytelling

Why do humans tell stories? Can stories be more than just entertainment? What makes a good story? Can music be used in storytelling? These are just a few of the questions we will answer in Storytelling. We experience life as a series of events (or a story) and stories have been the primary way in which humans have shared experience and ideas with each other. Students will learn some of the different purposes of storytelling, build their own stories and listen to stories from professional storytellers and classmates. Part of the class will take place in a traditional classroom setting, but we will also step out of the classroom to build and tell stories in more organic settings in which storytelling has often taken place.

Outdoor Pursuits is an outdoor conservation program focusing on interactions between people and wildlife. This course teaches students how to interact with the natural world by developing basic skills used to bow hunt which focuses on getting close to animals. Students will also develop an appreciation for what is around them and will enhance their enjoyment of the outdoors. No animals will be harmed during the required in-class sessions however students may elect to do mentored hunts outside of class with an instructor.

Students will learn preparation and skills for archery, hunting, recreation and outdoor survival. Skills learned during this course apply not only to hunting, but to outdoor photography and outdoor recreation. Students may have the opportunity to complete a Hunter Education License, if they don't already have one.

All students will be expected to participate in class activities, discussions, research, trips and assessments during the school day. One of the main assessments will be a storytelling project. Students will need footwear and clothing appropriate for days we will be outdoors. Alternate indoor activities will be planned in case of potentially dangerous outdoor winter conditions. However these alternate plans are for the entire class, not for individuals to opt out of outdoor activities.

- **SOCIAL JUSTICE - .5 credit**
J-TERM COURSE
(Repeatable with additional standards. Priority will be given to students who haven't yet taken this class)
Mrs. Erickson and Mr. Voigt

Shootings in Cedar Rapids are at an all-time high. 45 million people in the U.S. live below the poverty line which is \$24,250 a year for a family of 4. The U.S. puts more people in prison than any other country in the world. 1 out of 3 black men can expect to go to prison in their lifetime. 15.3 million children live in food-insecure households. So, what can we do? How can we help? Why is this happening? Our social justice class will explore the roots of and effects of issues like race, poverty, and the prison system. We will read, watch films, hear from speakers, and openly discuss controversial issues surrounding social justice. Then, we will head into the community to both serve and better understand people living with various hardships. This class may be repeated by students who are interested in taking a leadership role in the course.

- **SPANISH TRIP - .5 credit**
J-TERM COURSE
Mrs. Deibner

Registration for the J-Term Spanish trip is closed.