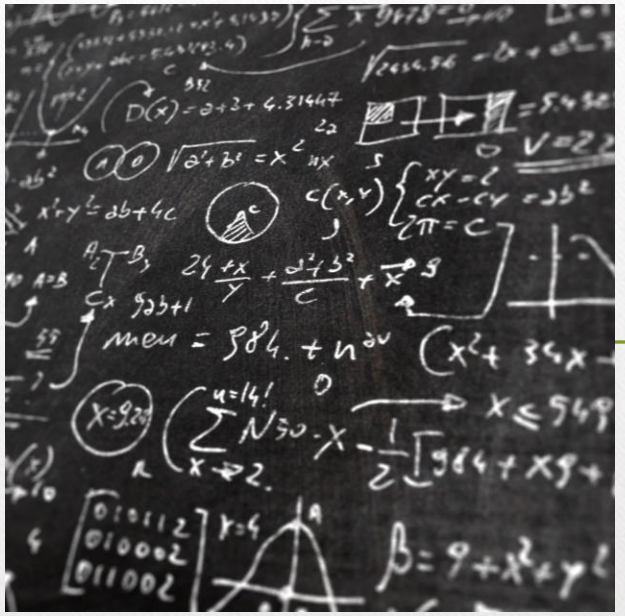


VSCHSD Academic Programming Night

Presented by:

- Dr. Kelly Whitney-Rivera, District Director of Guidance and CIO
- Mr. Steven Gilhuley, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Dr. Jennifer DiMaio, Deputy Superintendent
- Department Chairpeople and District Directors

November 25, 2025

Presentation Agenda

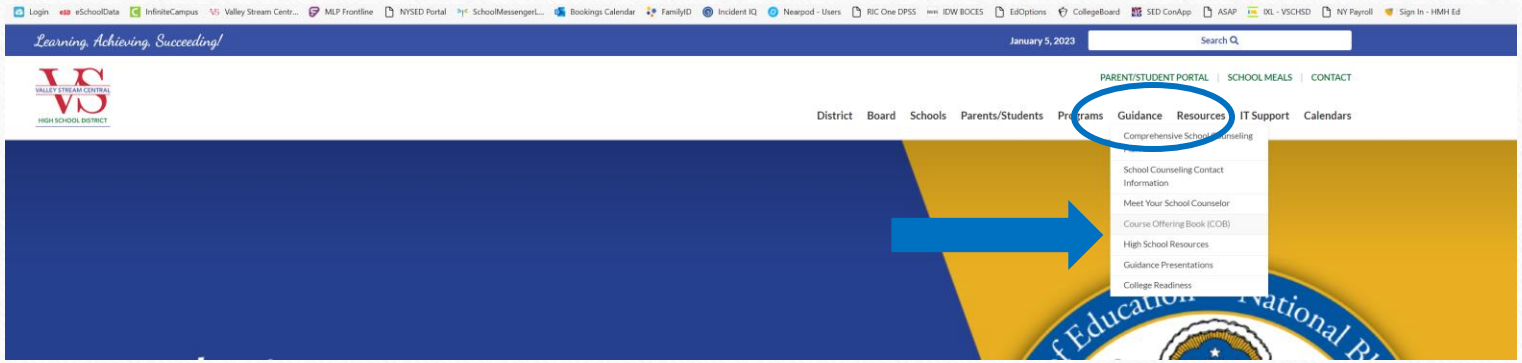
WELCOME

INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENTATIONS BY DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Course Offering Book (COB)



Career and Technical Education

Mr. Joseph Tagliaferro,
District Chairperson for Career
and Technical Education

CTE Offerings

Programs of Study

- Business Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Technology Education

Career Preparation Programs

- Automotive
- Commercial Foods
- Cosmetology
- Medical Assisting
- Nurse Assisting
- Programs at BOCES Barry Tech

New for 2026-2027

- Barbering (12th grade)
- Construction Trades (11th grade)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) - (12th grade)

Real Options for College and Rewarding Careers

- Ability to lean real-world skills and get hands-on experience.
- Opportunities to earn college credit and certifications.
- Opportunity to explore different careers of interests.
- Ability to begin preparing for and get a leg up on your career.

Sample CTE Clusters

Family and Consumer Sciences

Human Services & Family Studies

- Food and Nutrition
  Human Development
- Child Development &
  Psychology
- Careers in Education 101
- Careers in Education 102
- Clothing and Fashion 1
- Clothing and Fashion 2

Business Education

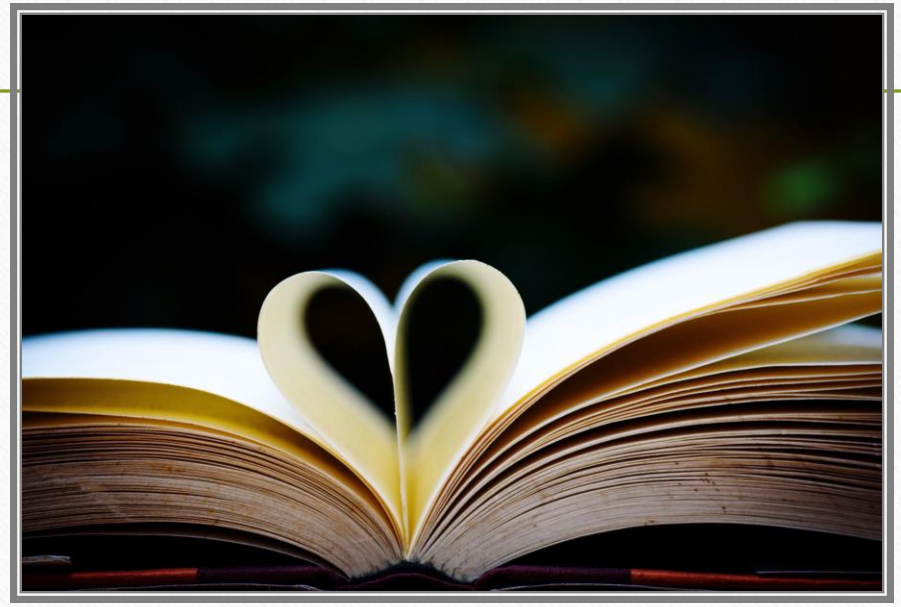
Marketing Cluster

- Business Law
- Business Management
- College Marketing
- Fundamentals of Investing
- Sports & Entertainment Marketing
- Sports Marketing
- Virtual Enterprise

English Language Arts

Ms. Lauren Coté,

Central High School
English Chairperson

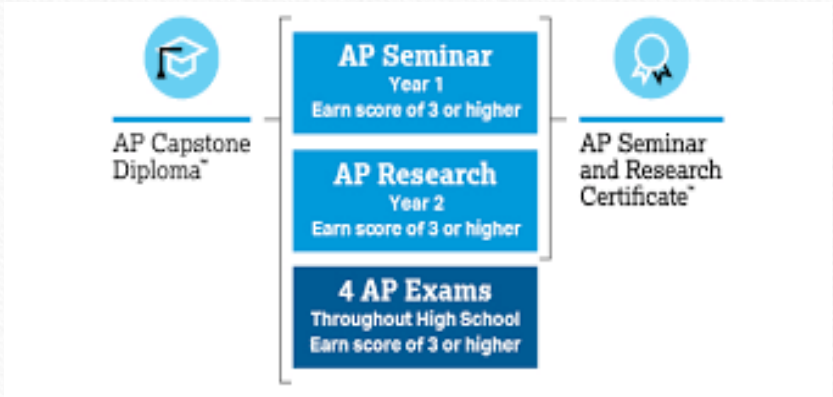


ELA Course Offerings

- English 7
- English 8/8A
- English 1/1A
- English 2/2A/AP Capstone Seminar
- English 3/AP Language & Composition
- English 4/AP Literature & Composition

- Various Elective Courses

AP Capstone



AP Capstone is an innovative College Board program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP courses – AP Seminar and AP Research – and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through other AP courses. The AP Capstone curriculum fosters inquiry, research, collaboration, and writing skills through the intensive investigation of topics from multiple perspectives.

The AP Capstone program is composed of:

- **AP Seminar**: AP Seminar provides sustained practice of investigating issues from multiple perspectives and cultivates student writing abilities so they can craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments. Students are empowered to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision and are assessed through a team project and presentation, an individual written essay and presentation, and a written exam.
- **AP Research**: In AP Research, students develop the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research to produce and defend a scholarly academic thesis. This second course in the AP Capstone experience allows students to explore deeply an academic topic, problem, or issue of individual interest and through this inquiry, students design, plan, and conduct a year-long mentored, research-based investigation. The course culminates in an academic thesis paper of approximately 5,000 words and a presentation, performance, or exhibition with an oral defense.
- **AP courses** of the student's own choosing.

Students take AP Seminar in the 10th grade, followed by AP Research in 11th or 12th grade. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research *and* on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma**.

English Language Arts

Electives

- Public Speaking: 9th -12th half year
- Journalism/Digital Media: 9th - 12th half year
- Mindfulness: 10th – 11th half year
- SAT: 11th and fall 12th half year
- AP Research*: 11th or 12th grade full year

**open to only students who have taken AP Seminar*

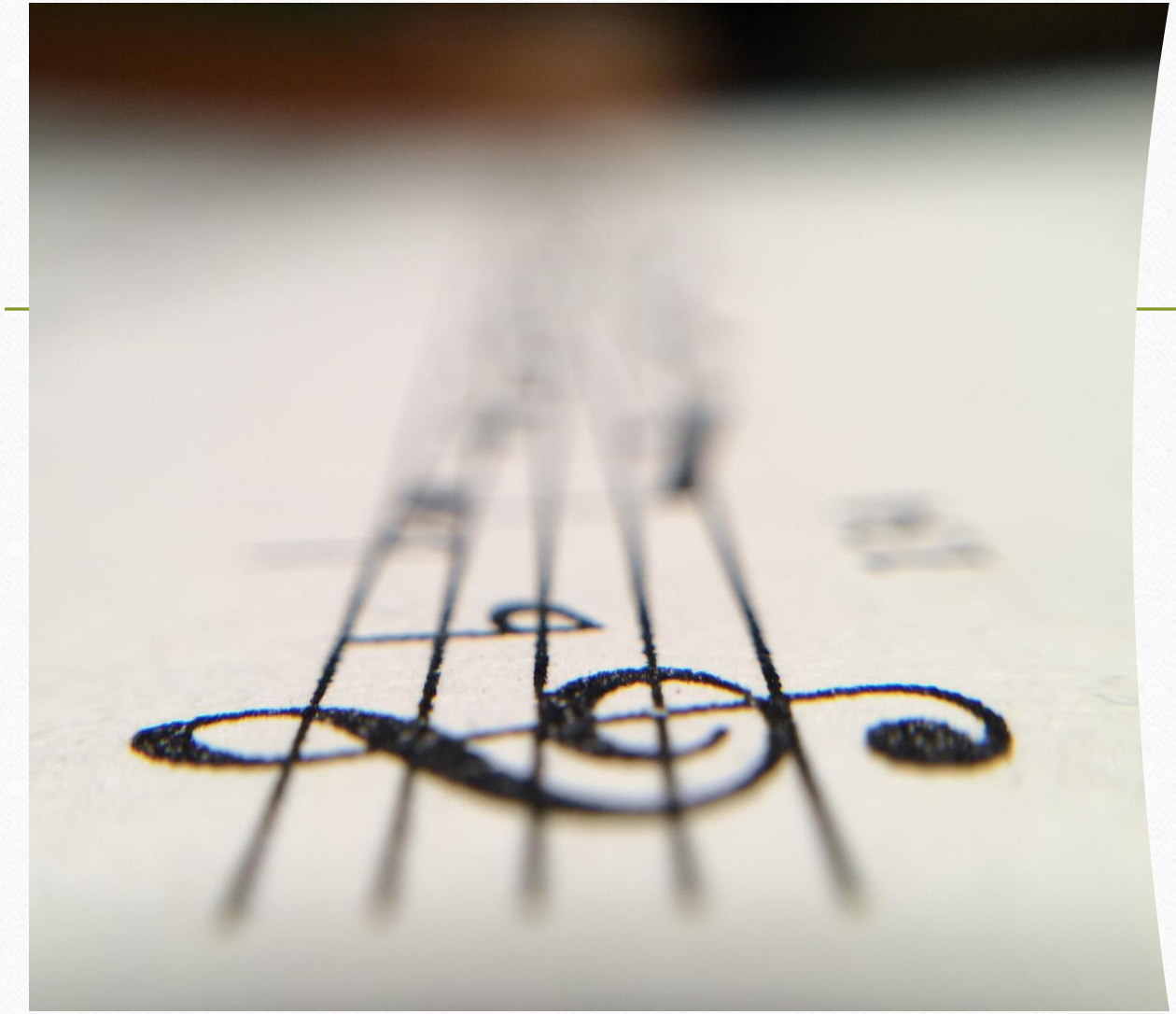
Dual Enrollment Courses

New this year! Full year course:

*English 4- English 101 Nassau Community College

The following are half year courses:

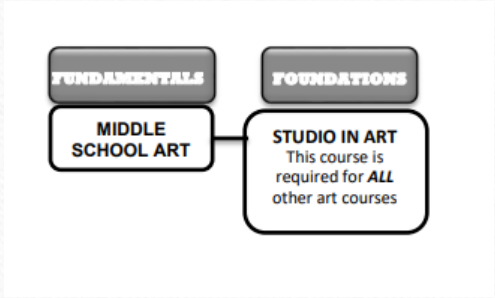
- Creative Writing: 10th -12th
- Introduction to Film: 9th – 12th
- Intro to Theatre: 9th – 12th

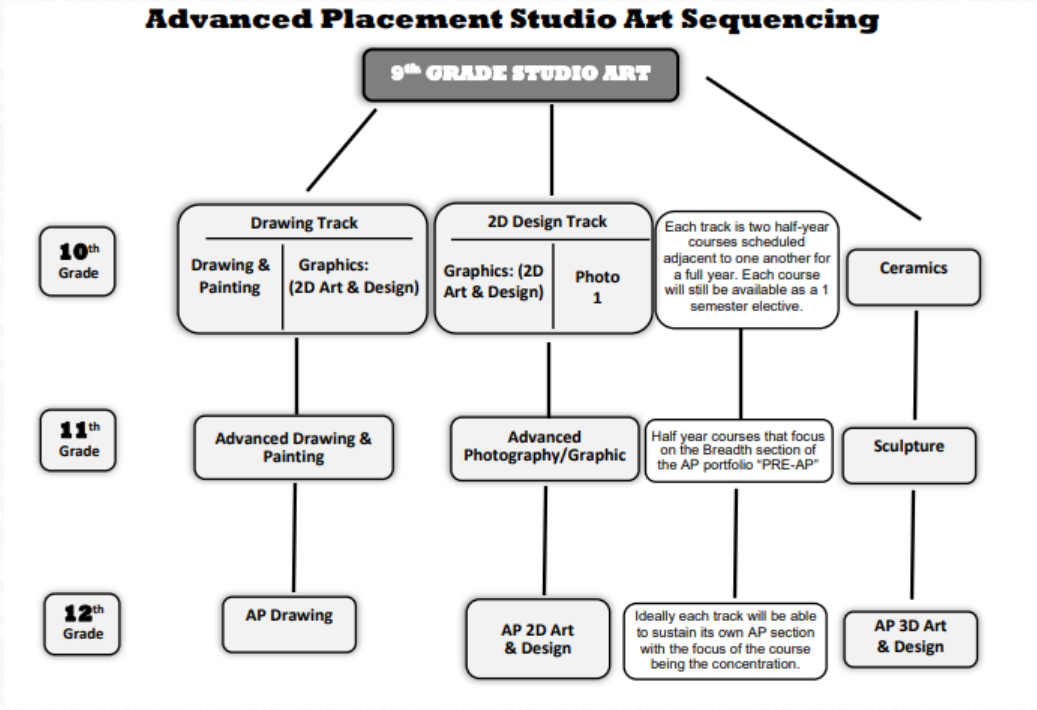


Fine and Performing Arts

Dr. Adam Erdos,
District Director of
Fine and Performing
Arts

Visual Art


FUNDAMENTALS
FOUNDATIONS
MIDDLE SCHOOL ART
STUDIO IN ART
This course is required for ALL other art courses

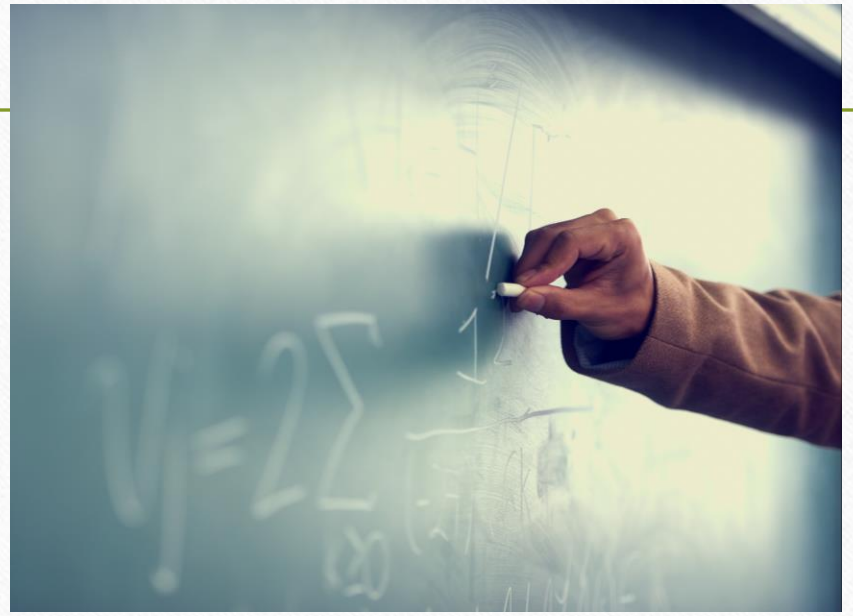

Advanced Placement Studio Art Sequencing
9th GRADE STUDIO ART
10th Grade
11th Grade
12th Grade
Drawing Track
Drawing & Painting
Graphics: (2D Art & Design)
2D Design Track
Graphics: (2D Art & Design)
Photo 1
Each track is two half-year courses scheduled adjacent to one another for a full year. Each course will still be available as a 1 semester elective.
Ceramics
Advanced Drawing & Painting
Advanced Photography/Graphic
Half year courses that focus on the Breadth section of the AP portfolio "PRE-AP"
Sculpture
AP Drawing
AP 2D Art & Design
Ideally each track will be able to sustain its own AP section with the focus of the course being the concentration.
AP 3D Art & Design

Music & Art

- Grades 7 & 8: One half credit in a music class and an art class is required.
  - Middle School Art = ½ credit each year; 7th and 8th grades
  - Middle School Music, Band, Chorus, or Orchestra = ½ credit each year.
- Senior High Band, Chorus, or Orchestra are continuing, progressive classes that require students to be stay enrolled in them.
- Guitar elective; AP Music Theory; Computer / Electronic Music

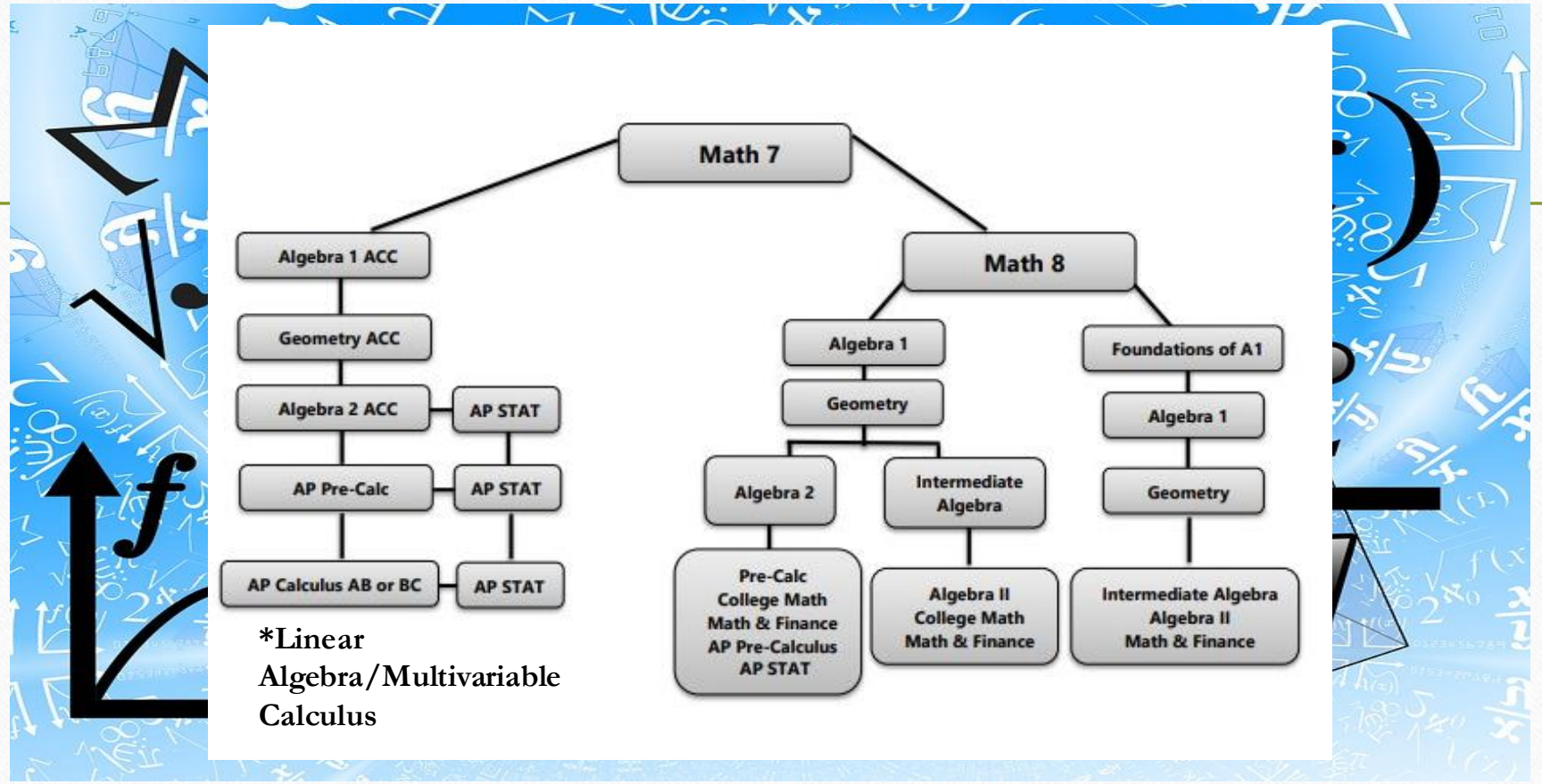
Performing Arts

- The Performing Arts program is a magnet program, offered at Central.
  - Students spend half of the day at their home school in academic classes. The other half at Central where they take science and participate in a course of study where they can eventually choose to focus on Dance, Theater Arts, or Musical Theater studies.
  - There is an audition requirement.

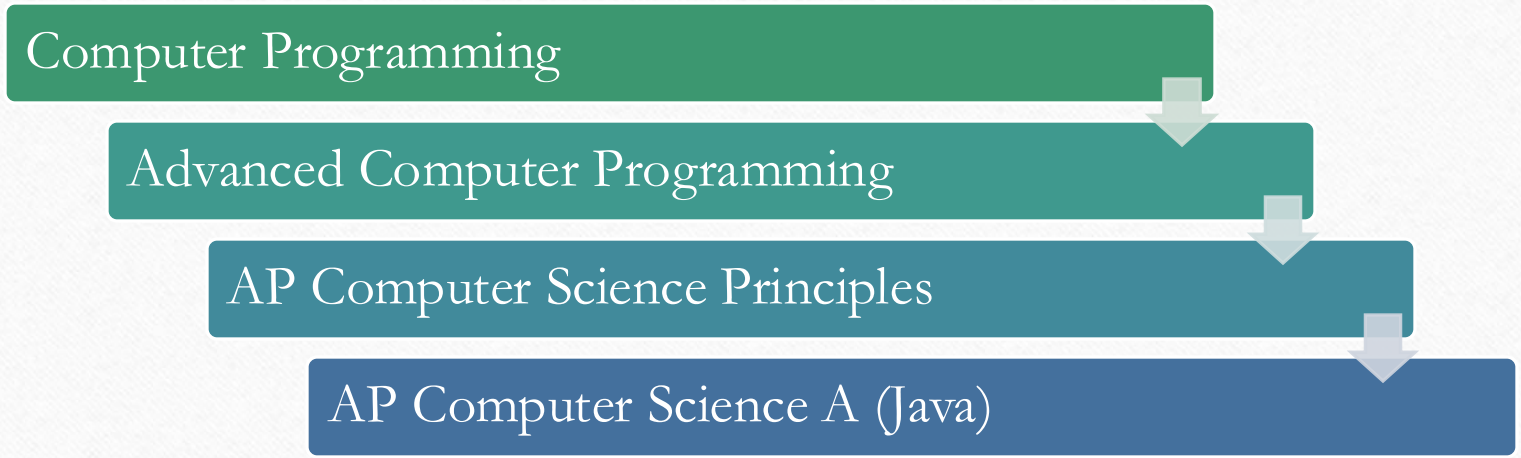


Mathematics

Ms. Laura
SantaMaria, South
HS Math
Chairperson


Math 7
Algebra 1 ACC
Geometry ACC
Algebra 2 ACC
AP STAT
AP Pre-Calc
AP STAT
AP Calculus AB or BC
AP STAT
*Linear Algebra/Multivariable Calculus
Math 8
Algebra 1
Geometry
Algebra 2
Intermediate Algebra
Pre-Calc
College Math
Math & Finance
AP Pre-Calculus
AP STAT
Algebra II
College Math
Math & Finance
Foundations of A1
Algebra 1
Geometry
Intermediate Algebra
Algebra II
Math & Finance

Computer Science

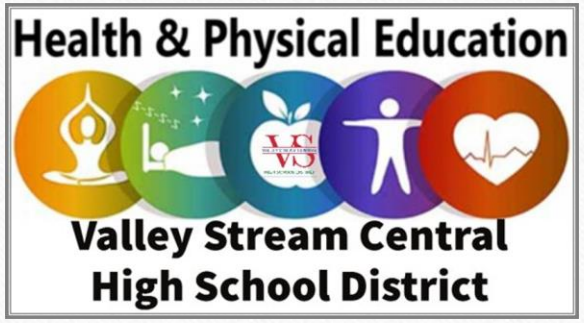


Physical Education and Health Education

Mr. John Kostkowicz, District Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics

Physical Education

- N.Y. State requirements mandate that each student successfully complete - 2 credits over 4 years of physical education in grades nine through twelve.
  - JUNIOR HIGH PHYSICAL EDUCATION
  - SENIOR HIGH PHYSICAL EDUCATION
  - WELLNESS/FITNESS
  - SPORTS OFFICIATING



Health

- Health Education on the junior and senior high levels is mandated by the State Education Department.
- Each level includes instruction in the areas of:
  - mental health
  - consumer health
  - bullying and cyber-bullying prevention
  - family life and human sexuality,
  - substance abuse (drugs, alcohol, tobacco)
  - Nutrition
  - disease prevention

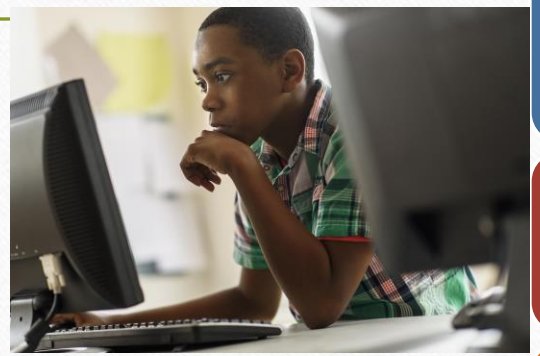
The course also promotes healthful behaviors and reflects the goals of the New York State Learning Standards for Health Education.

- JUNIOR HIGH HEALTH (1/2 yr.)
- SENIOR HIGH HEALTH (1/2 yr.) Passing this one-semester course is a New York State graduation requirement.

Online Learning Electives

Mr. Steven Gilhuley,

Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction



nassau BOCES Center for Online Learning

Offered in collaboration with BOCES

Asynchronous and completely online

Supported by a virtual teacher

.5 credit per course

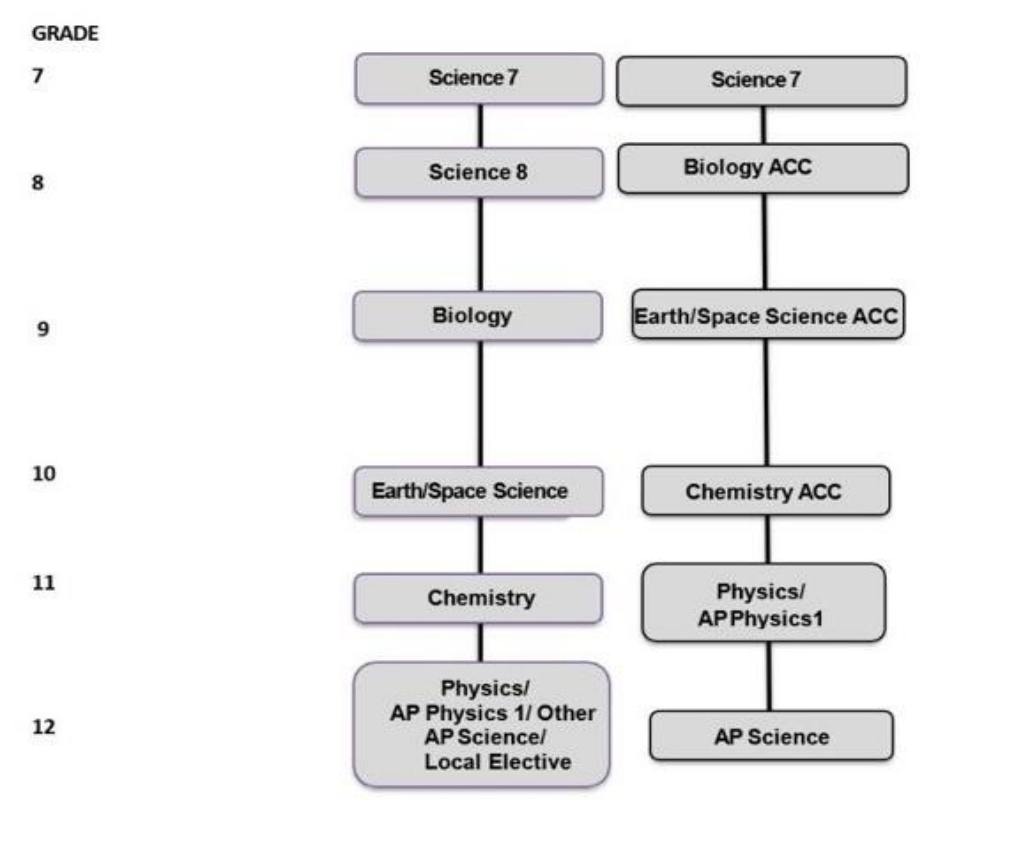
Offerings change yearly

- **2025-2026**
  - Emergency Medical Responder
  - Health Science Nursing
  - Applied Engineering
  - Introduction to Theater, Cinema and Film Production

Science

Mr. John Pandolfi
North HS
Science Chairperson

Science Course Offering Sequence



Science Research

- Science Research 9
  - This course is designed to provide guidance, instruction and a solid foundation in the principles and the statistical analysis of research.
- Science Research 10-12
  - Science Research is a 3-year program (grades 10 through 12) that is designed to foster the necessary skills and competencies in scientific research. Students will be asked to design, implement and evaluate their own research in either a science or social science field.

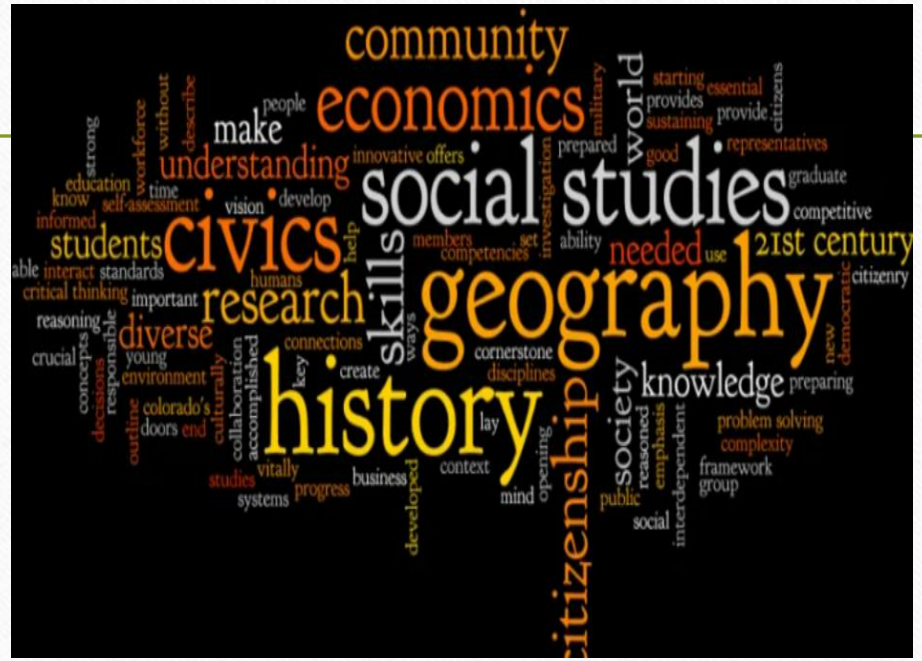
Science Department Contact Information

Mr. John Pandolfi- North HS
Pandolfj@vschsd.org 516-564-5547

Ms. Jennifer Reid- Memorial JHS
Reidj@vschsd.org, 516-872-7788

Mrs. Jeanette Azzaretto- South HS
azzaretj@vschsd.org 516-791-0386

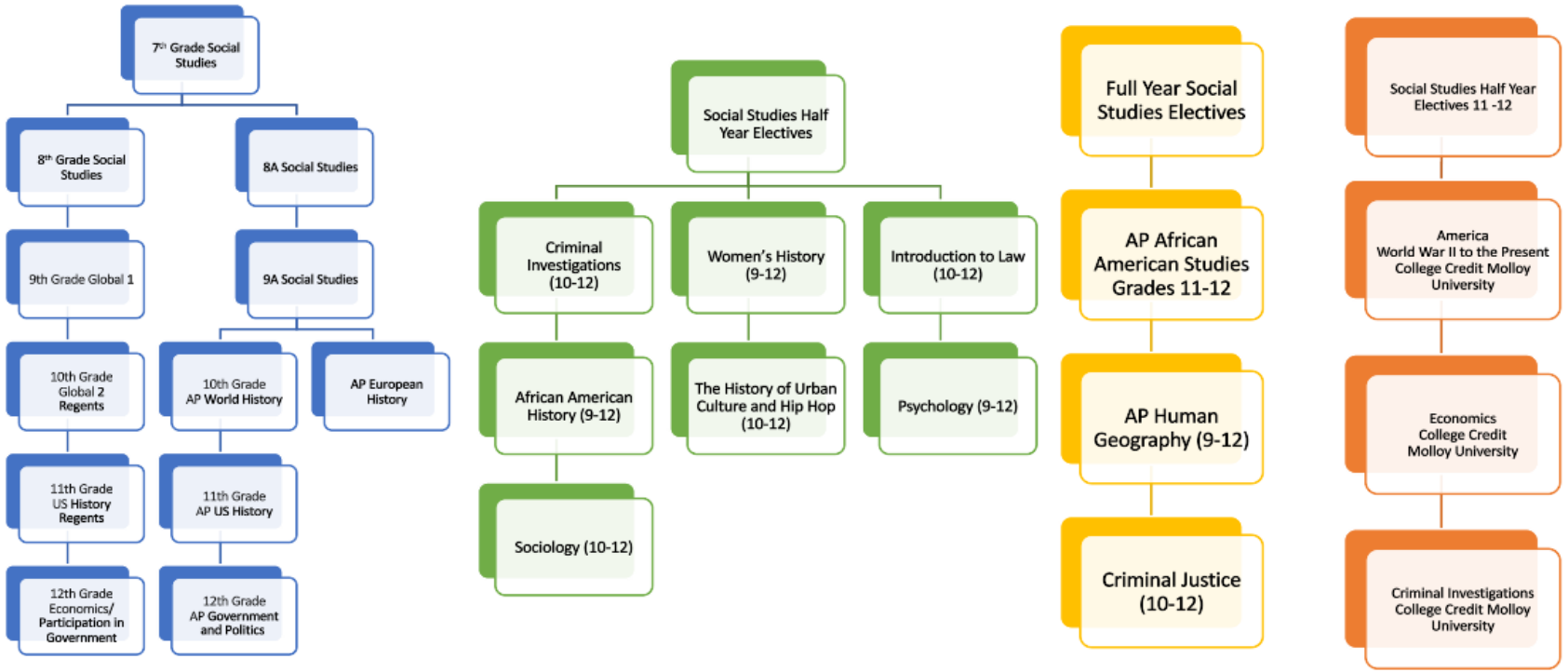
Mr. Angelo Stanco- Central HS
Stancoa@vschsd.org 516-561-4491



Social Studies

Mr. Ambrosio,
Central High School Social Studies Chairperson

Social Studies Courses Offerings



Seal of Civic Readiness – Graduation Credential

Civic Knowledge	Pts.	Civic Participation	Pts.
4 credits of social studies	1	High School Civics Project (limit two times during grades 9-12)	1.5
Mastery level on Social Studies Regents Exam	1.5*	Service-Learning Project (minimum 25 hours) and reflective civic learning essay/presentation/product	1*
Proficiency level on Social Studies Regents Exam	1*	Earned credit in an elective course that promotes civic engagement	.5*
Advanced social studies course(s)	.5*	Middle School Capstone Project (Grades 7 and 8 are only eligible for this point)	1
Research Project	1	Extra-curricular participation or work-based learning experience (minimum 40 hours) and an essay/presentation/product	.5*
		Civics Capstone Project	4

World Languages

Mr. Dan Saitta

Central High School World Languages Chairperson

World Language

Japanese 1

Level 1.1

Level 1.2

Level 1 (Senior High)

Spanish 2.3 ACC

Spanish 3.4 ACC

AP Spanish Language & Culture

AP Spanish Literature

College Spanish

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

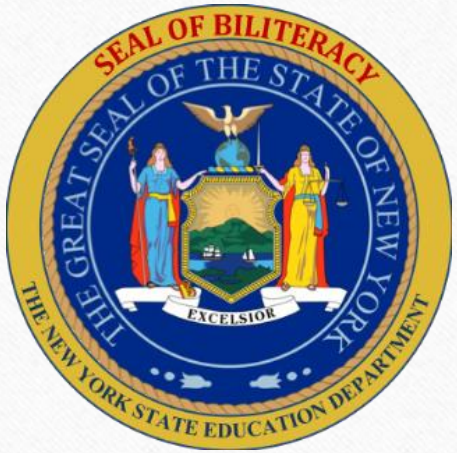
College French
College Spanish
College Italian

AP Language & Culture

Seal of Biliteracy – Graduation Credential

The NYSSB recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The intent of the NYSSB is to encourage the study of languages, to identify high school graduates with language and biliteracy skills for employers, to provide universities with additional information about applicants seeking admission and placement, to prepare students with twenty-first century skills, to recognize the value of language instruction, and to affirm the value of diversity in a multilingual society. Successful candidates will earn three points in English and three points in each world language from a points matrix, which includes course grades, national and state exams, transcripts, and culminating projects. The NYSSB takes the form of a Seal on the student's diploma and a medallion worn at graduation.

NYS Seal of Biliteracy Criteria



A. Students wishing to receive the New York State (NYS) Seal of Biliteracy must complete all requirements for graduating with a NYS Regents diploma*;
B. In addition to the above minimum requirement, students wishing to receive a NYS Seal of Biliteracy must earn **three (3) points** in each of **the two (2) areas** listed below:

Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in **English**	Point Value	Criteria for Demonstrating Proficiency in a **World Language**	Point Value
1a. Score 75 or higher on the NYS Comprehensive English Regents Examination or score 80 or higher on the NYS Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core)* or English Language Learners (ELLs) score 75 or above on two Regents exams other than English, without translation.	1	**2a.** Complete a Checkpoint C level World Language course, with a grade of 85 or higher, or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner, for both the coursework and final examination consistent with Checkpoint C standards.	1
1b. ELLs score at the Commanding level on two modalities on the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as demonstrated by an overall scale score of 290.	1	**2b.** Provide transcripts from a school in a country outside of the U.S. showing at least three years of instruction in the student's home/native language in Grade 8 or beyond, with an equivalent grade average of B or higher.	1
1c. Complete all 11th and 12th grade ELA courses with an average of 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner.	1	**2c.** For students enrolled in a Bilingual Education program, complete all required Home Language Arts (HLA) coursework and the district HLA exam with an 85 or higher or a comparable score using another scoring system set by the district and approved by the Commissioner.	1
1d. Achieve the following scores on the examinations listed below: -3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) English Language or English Literature examination, or -80 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).	1	**2d.** Score at a proficient level on an accredited Checkpoint C World Language assessment (See "Checkpoint C World Language Assessments and Minimum Scores" on the following page.)	1
1e. Present a culminating project, scholarly essay or portfolio that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's NYS Seal of Biliteracy Committee to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in English.	2	**2e.** Present a culminating project, scholarly essay, or portfolio that meets the criteria for speaking, listening, reading, and writing established by the district's NYS Seal of Biliteracy Committee and that is aligned to the NYS Checkpoint C Learning Standards to a panel of reviewers with proficiency in the target language.	2

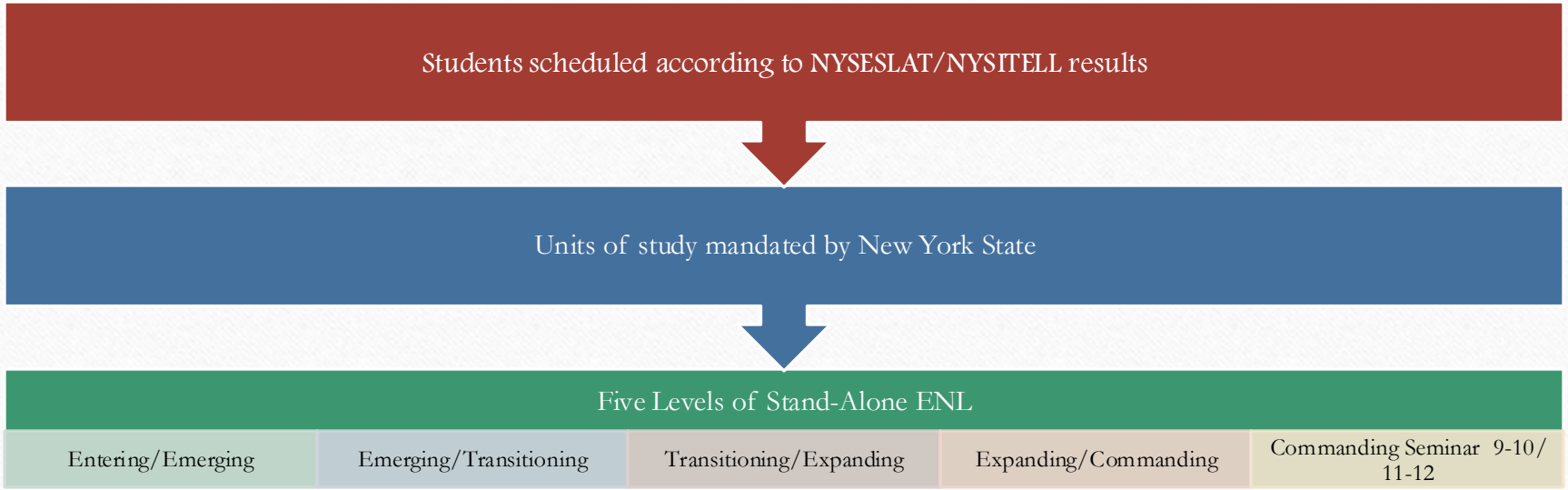
English as a New Language

Ms. Elizabeth Swinton, Chairperson

English as a New Language

North High School

English as a New Language



Special Education

Mrs. Michelle Vikse,

North Special Education Chairperson

Special Education

Learning Environments:

General Education

Related Services Only

Resource Room Services

Co-Teaching

Special Classes

Special I.E.P. Classes

Out of District Placements

Dual Enrollment College Courses

- Partnerships with local universities
- Students purchase credits that transfer to many colleges
- Nassau Community College: English 4, Multivariate Calculus, Linear Algebra, Culinary Arts
- St. John's University: College Pre-Calculus, College Spanish, French, and Italian
- SUNY Farmingdale: Business
- SUNY Stony Brook: English Electives
- Adelphi University: Family and Consumer Sciences
- Molloy University: Government, Economics, Criminal Justice, College Spanish, Italian and French

Concurrent Enrollment

- Partnership with Nassau Community College
- Students attend their senior year at NCC
- Must have all graduation credentials met except English 4, Government and Economics, and Physical Education
- Parents pay tuition – no financial aid available
- Bus provided from South, Central and North to NCC and back once daily
- Four classes/semester, four days/week

Questions?
Comments?

Thank you!