

NHS COURSE SELECTION 2015-2016

In the next couple of months, you will work with your teachers and guidance counselor to determine your courses for next school year. Your current teachers will recommend courses and levels based on your performance in class up to this point in the year. You are encouraged to discuss these placements with your teachers. You will then meet individually with your guidance counselor to review teacher recommendations and to determine what elective class(es) you would like to take next year. It is important that you have a conversation with your parents/guardians about this selection process so that you are well-prepared to choose appropriate courses.

Below is the Graduation Requirement Checklist. In addition to the specific courses required, you will need to earn a total of at least 100 credits (25 minimum your senior year) and meet MCAS requirements.

Please check off the courses that you have already completed successfully so that you are aware of what courses you need going forward. *Please note: the number listed in parentheses is the amount of years you are required to take the courses listed below each discipline.*

Graduation Requirement Checklist:

English (4 years):

Fr English _____ Soph English _____ Jr English _____ Sr English _____

Math (3 years):

Algebra I _____ Geometry _____ Algebra 2 _____ Pre-Calculus _____ Senior College Math _____
Calculus _____ Data Skills _____

Science/Technology (3 years):

Physical Science _____ Biology _____ Chemistry _____ Physics _____ Forensic Science _____
Anatomy _____ Engineering _____

Social Studies (3 years):

World History _____ US History I _____ US History II _____

Foreign Language

(There is no Foreign Language graduation requirement; however, two years of the same foreign language is required to meet the standards of MA state universities):

Spanish 1 _____ Spanish 2 _____ Spanish 3 _____ Spanish 4 _____ Spanish 5 _____

French 2 _____ French 3 _____ French 4 _____ French 5 _____

Italian 1 _____ Italian 2 _____ Italian 3 _____ Italian 4 _____

Latin 1 _____ Latin 2 _____ Latin 3 _____ Latin 4 _____

Physical Education (2 years):

Phys Ed _____ & _____

Health (4 years):

Fr Health _____ Soph Health _____ Jr Health _____ Sr Health _____

Please complete the back of this form →

Course Selection Worksheet

In addition to the core course requirements listed on the front of this sheet, you will also need to earn credits by taking elective classes. On the attached sheet is a list of elective course offerings available for your grade. Please discuss these options with your parents/guardian.

After you have discussed course and level placement with your teachers and have reviewed the elective course offerings, please complete the form below. You will bring this completed form with you when you meet with your guidance counselor in late February or early March. You will receive advanced notice of when this meeting will take place.

Below, please list the core courses and electives class(es) that you plan to take next year.

English: _____

Math: _____

Science: _____

Social Studies: _____

Foreign Language (if applicable): _____

Elective #1: _____

Elective #2 (if applicable): _____

Elective #3 (if applicable): _____

NHS Course Selection for 2015-2016 School Year

Elective Offerings for Future Seniors

❖ **Forensic Science – 5 Credits** (offered at CP level)

This course is designed to introduce students to the ways science and the scientific method are applied to matters of law. The course is offered to eleventh and twelfth grade students. The history and current state of forensic science, along with topics of crime scene analysis, collection and examination of physical evidence, properties of matter and glass analysis, serology (the study of bodily fluids), trace evidence of hairs and fibers, trace evidence of paints and metals, fingerprinting, ballistics and tool marks, fire and explosion investigations, handwriting and typescript analysis of documents, computer forensics, and forensic anthropology. Laboratory investigations will be an integral part of the Forensic Science course. **Prerequisite: passed Biology**

❖ **Anatomy & Physiology – 5 Credits** (offered at Honors or CP level)

The Anatomy and Physiology course is designed for the student interested in the study of medical science as well as those interested in the study of structure and function of the human body. There is a strong emphasis on laboratory work including dissection. Dissection is fundamental to the study of Anatomy and Physiology. As such, is a necessary part to this lab course. There will be significantly higher academic expectations of students in honors level courses.

❖ **Zoology – 2 Credits** (offered as a Pass/Fail course)

The Zoology elective is a biology based elective open to a maximum of 7-8 NHS seniors per year. This course allows students to be a part of a program that's goal is to increase the numbers of a local endangered/threatened species: the northern red bellied cooter turtle. The course will focus on husbandry for the turtles/hatchlings, water quality analysis, nutritional analysis, keeping a lab notebook, and other factors involved in caring for the turtles. **Acceptance into this course is competitive, and completing the prerequisites does not guarantee acceptance into this course.**

❖ **Robotics – 5 Credits – MUST HAVE PASSED ENGINEERING OR PHYSICS** (offered at Honors or CP level)

The Robotics course covers the practice, technique, and theory behind mobile robotic systems. Topics in the first half of the year include simple robotic designs, sensors, motors, gears, feedback control systems, and cybernetics. Advanced sensing techniques, microprocessors, construction techniques, serial communications, and data collection, will be covered in third and fourth terms. Each student will design and create a robot that makes everyday tasks easier for an individual with physical disabilities. There will be significantly higher academic expectations of students in honors level courses. **Prerequisites: passed Engineering or Physics**

❖ **Senior Technology Service Elective – 5 Credits** (offered at Honors level only)

The Senior Technology Service Elective is a Technology-based elective open to a maximum of 7-8 NHS seniors per year. This course allows students to experience what it is like to troubleshoot end user-based technology problems on a daily basis. Topics to be covered include customer service, root cause identification, IP networking and troubleshooting, software installation and testing. The students will troubleshoot and repair a wide range of IP-based devices on a daily basis in this course. Acceptance into this course is competitive, and completing the prerequisites does not guarantee acceptance into this course.

❖ **Photography – 5 Credits** (offered at Honors or CP level)

This course is designed to introduce students to the basics of digital photography and alternative photographic processes. Students will learn technical considerations unique to photographic manipulation. Enrolled students will be responsible for providing their own camera, memory card and USB drive; special circumstances will be taken into consideration. The honors course is differentiated from the college course in the amount of work, the level of expectation, and the grading system.

❖ **Web Design – 5 Credits** (offered at Honors or CP level)

This introductory web design course is designed to give students experience working with the elements and principles of design and apply those principles to web page creation. Students will develop Internet research techniques; acquire navigation mapping skills; effectively use a Web site; examine related social, legal and ethical issues; and integrate the elements of Web Design. Through class activities, students will explore related careers, assume leadership roles and practice skills use.

❖ **Economics – 5 Credits** (offered at Honors or CP level)

The course seeks to provide young people with exposure to the theoretical concepts of micro and macro economics. Students must be able to comprehend advanced material, to do independent research, to express themselves through oral and written presentations and to engage in intensive study of the subject. The honors course in Economics is designed for the highly motivated student with above average ability.

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❖ **American Law – 5 Credits** *(offered at Honors or CP level)*

This course is a full year elective for junior and senior students only who want a traditional presentation of American Law. The course surveys the American legal system, the criminal justice system, constitutional law, and civil law. The objective of the course is to prepare students to become more civically engaged. At the Honors level, students must be independently motivated, and will be expected to engage in more intensive reading and writing.

❖ **Sociology – 5 Credits** *(offered at Honors or CP level)*

This full year course, open to juniors and seniors, focuses on the study of society, social institutions, and social relationships. A goal of the course is to make students aware of how sociology applies to many areas of life and how it can be used in day-to-day activities. The study of adolescence, deviance, gender and race will allow students to explore the many areas of sociology. Students selecting this course for honors credit will be required to take more extensive written exams and do an additional project commensurate with the awarding of honors credit by the instructor.

❖ **Psychology – 5 Credits** *(offered at Honors or CP level)*

This full year course, open to juniors and seniors, focuses on various aspects of human behavior. Emphasis will be on student preparation for difficult decision-making that will take place during their lives. The study of the science of psychology, the aspects of research, the human brain, sensation and perception, consciousness and abnormal psychology will allow students to explore the many areas of Psychology. The honors level course in addition to the Psychology curriculum will include a six page research paper, additional and more challenging essays on exams, additional analysis of work done by the class.

❖ **Contemporary Problems – 5 Credits** *(offered at Standard level)*

This course is offered as a full-year course to seniors. It is designed for students who desire a practical rather than an academic interpretation of world affairs. Emphasis will be placed on current events. The reading of newspapers, magazines, and periodicals will be encouraged.

❖ **Concert Chorale – 5 Credits** *(offered at Honors or CP level)*

The Concert Chorale is an advanced level mixed (SATB) vocal ensemble that performs a wide variety of choral repertoire. This class will require participation in rehearsals and performances both during and after school. Participation in Concert Chorale is determined by audition and / or recommendation of the choral director. With the approval of the choral director, students may elect to take this class for honors credit. Students who elect to take this class for honors credit will be required to take private voice lessons and perform in a minimum of one class recital.

❖ **Concert Band – 5 Credits** *(offered at Honors or CP level)*

The Concert Band is an intermediate level instrumental ensemble that performs a wide variety of concert repertoire. Personal musicianship skills developed through participation in this ensemble include beginning to intermediate level playing techniques, music literacy, music theory, ear training, and performance experience. This class will require participation in rehearsals and performances both during and after school. Students who elect to take this class for honors credit will be required to take private instrumental lessons and perform in a minimum of one class recital.

❖ **The History of Rock & Roll – 5 Credits** *(offered at CP level)*

An elective course designed for students interested in learning about the development of popular American music. Students will listen to and analyze examples of music, starting with the folk music tradition and tracing it's evolution through classic rock and up to today's "top 40". Current or previous study of an instrument or voice is not necessary.

❖ **Exercise Physiology – 5 Credits** *(offered at Honors level only)*

This course examines the human anatomical and physiological response to exercise and exercise training. Students who have a passion for exercise science and personal fitness will benefit and enjoy this course. Class time will include classroom instruction as well as time in the fitness center. Students who successfully complete this course may be eligible to take the National Certified Personal Trainer Exam. Teacher recommendation is required for this course.

❖ **Intro to Guitar – 3 Credit Elective Minor** *(offered at CP level)*

Students will learn to play guitar and experience a wide variety of musical styles, such as folk, rock, blues, jazz, and country. Personal musicianship skills developed will include right and left hand playing techniques, ear training, improvisation, music literacy, and basic music theory. *Students need not own their own guitars. Instruments will be made available through the music department.*