

MILLWOOD

— UPPER SCHOOL —

Course Offerings

2011-2012

Dr. Louise Bagwell-Robinson, Head of School

Dr. Eileen Atkinson, Head of Upper School

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn 25 credits in the following distribution:

English (4)	Electives (2)
Mathematics (4)	Fine Arts (1)
World Language (3)	Community Service (1)
Science (4)	Physical Education (2)
History (4)	

ENGLISH

English 9/H
English 10/H
English 11/H
English 12/H
AP English

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I/H
Algebra II/H
Geometry/H
Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus/H
Calculus I/H
AP Calculus I
Calculus II/H
Statistics/H

HISTORY

World History I/H
World History II/H
U.S. History/H
AP U.S. History
U.S. Government/H

WORLD LANGUAGE

French I-V/H
Spanish I-V/H
Japanese I-V/H
Chinese I-V/H

SCIENCE

Earth Science/H
Biology/H
Chemistry/H
Physics/H
AP Environmental Science
AP Biology

FINE ARTS

Guitar
Piano/keyboard
Percussion/drums
Music Theory
Private Instrument Lessons
Art I-IV
Printmaking
Sculpture
Drama

ELECTIVES

Economics
Personal Finance
Psychology
World Religions
Military History
SAT Prep
Technology
Journalism
Modern Drama
Studies in Shakespeare
Language and Composition
The Bible as Literature
Creative Writing
Dual enrollment college courses

OTHER

REQUIREMENTS

Physical Education
Community Service
Senior Independent Study

Courses are offered and may be added according to student interest. Some courses are offered on a semester basis.

Community Service

We believe it is essential for students to demonstrate compassion and leadership. Each student is required to perform 30 hours of community service each year.

Athletics

Students may earn physical education credits by participating on a Millwood team sport, or through participation in outside activities.

Senior Independent Study

Seniors work with a mentor to complete and present an independent project in an area of their choosing. This project is the culmination of the upper school education at Millwood School.

Clubs

Clubs are offered as student interest dictates.

ENGLISH

English 9

This course introduces students to critical analysis of literature through essay writing and written responses. Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling usage are emphasized. The course curriculum and assessments are designed to prepare students for higher level English courses and testing. Students will read texts covering five genres: short story, non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama and will analyze recurrent patterns and themes in historically or culturally significant works. Students will focus on the mechanics of language, vocabulary development and directed reading and writing. They will complete a variety of writing activities such as narrative, expository, persuasive, informational, and descriptive writing that demonstrates research organization, and drafting strategies. Students will deliver focused and coherent presentations that combine traditional rhetorical strategies. (Standard/Honors)

English 10

This course builds on the foundation laid in English 9 by exploring literary analysis and academic writing, using the bildungsroman as a foundation. Students read several coming-of-age novels: *Lord of the Flies*, *Life of Pi*, and *A Separate Peace*. Rigorous writing assignments accompany the study of these works of literature, and writing instruction is supported by lessons on the mechanics of writing as well as the use of strong word choice. By the end of the year, the students gain a great deal of experience with the idiom of academic writing, an awareness of their own voices as writers, and facility with close, analytical reading. In addition to writing about literature, the discussion of literature is promoted through the Socratic seminar. (Standard/Honors)

English 11

This course will survey selected American authors representing the major periods, schools, and traditions in American literary history. This course moves chronologically with the American history course to emphasize the parallels in literature and history. Our texts will span the pre-colonial eras to our contemporary era and include multiple genres. Among the texts explored in this course are *The Crucible*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Tempest*. Students will write in a variety of forms, both expository and creative. Students will learn to write with feeling and precision, and to enjoy the challenges in reading and understanding the best writing this country has produced. (Standard/Honors/Pre-AP)

English 12

This course will focus on one of the most significant literary traditions in western culture – the British Isles. We will proceed chronologically and will briefly examine excerpts from all major periods: Anglo-Saxon and Medieval, Renaissance, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern. Texts will include, but are not limited to, *Beowulf*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *Macbeth*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *Frankenstein*. The curriculum also includes a substantial amount of writing, primarily critical essays designed to focus perceptions on literature. This will be accomplished through in-class

writing (including essay tests) and out-of-class assignments. Students will also write several speculative essays throughout the year, critical analyses of an assigned text, for example, or thoughtful responses to a specific set of questions. (Standard/Honors/AP)

MATH

Algebra I

The structure of real numbers, algebraic expressions and functions are examined. Study includes linear equations, inequalities, functions and systems, quadratic equations, polynomial and exponential expressions, graphing, data analysis, probability and function analysis. (Standard/Honors)

Algebra II

Basic algebraic concepts are extended. Advanced algebraic techniques and technology are used to solve problems dealing with linear functions, circular and trigonometric functions, sequences, series, limits, matrices and determinants, data analysis and probability. (Standard/Honors)

Geometry

In Geometry, students will develop reasoning and problem solving skills as they study topics which involve one, two and three dimensional figures. In addition to basic solid geometry this curriculum includes axioms, theorems, proofs, constructions, transformations and projects. Geometric concepts will be applied to multi-dimensional figures, algebra 1, data analysis and probability. *Prerequisite- Algebra I.* (Standard/Honors)

Trigonometry

Students will learn about triangles and the relationships between their sides and the angles between their sides. They will make connections between right triangle trigonometry and circular functions. Graphing calculators are used to find the values of trigonometric functions and their inverses. (Standard/Honors)
Prerequisite-Algebra II

Calculus

This course will explore things that change at variable rates. The major focus is on limits, functions, derivatives, integrals, and infinite series. We will explore each concept in four different ways: graphically, numerically, algebraically, and verbally emphasizing the connections and applications. (Standard/Honors)
Prerequisite- Trigonometry

Statistics

Students learn basic descriptive and inferential statistics, analyze data and study patterns using graphical and numerical techniques. Relationships among variables are explored using statistical inference. Models and statistical analysis are used to draw and test conclusions. (Standard/Honors)

SCIENCE

Earth Science

Students study the four major disciplines of earth science: oceanography, astronomy, meteorology, and geology. Concepts are enhanced with biological and physical science tenants. Class work is enhanced with laboratory and field experiences. (Standard/Honors)

Biology

Students will be provided with a detailed understanding of living systems and the nature of science. Skills will be developed which are necessary to examine scientific explanations, conduct experiments, analyze and communicate information, and gather and use information in scientific literature. The history of biological thought and the evidence that supports it are explored, providing the foundation for investigating biochemical life processes, cellular organization, mechanisms of inheritance, dynamic relationships among organisms, and the change in organisms through time. (Standard/Honors)

Chemistry

This introductory lab course is designed to prepare the student for college chemistry. Topics include bonding, atomic structure, chemical reactions, matter, energy solutions, quantum mechanics, organic chemistry and nuclear chemistry. Honors students are expected to complete an independent project on a chosen topic each quarter. (Standard/Honors)

Physics

This lab course is designed to prepare the student for college physics. Topics include mechanics, wave theories of light, sound and optics, and electricity and magnetism. Concepts include velocity, acceleration, energy, linear motion, circular motion, force, work, equilibrium, and momentum. (Standard/Honors)

AP Environmental Science

Concepts include natural, physical ecosystems and relationships among these components. Populations, biodiversity, conservation and pollution management are all concepts developed and analyzed in the course. Classroom study is enhanced with laboratory work and field experiences. (Standard/Honors)

HISTORY

World History I

World History I – Early Civilizations to Renaissance and the Global Age (Dawn of Civilization – AD 1500). This is the first of a two part course in world history. Students study the foundations of civilizations in Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa, and the Americas, including the Neolithic Revolution, Sumerians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Indus Civilization, Dynasties of China, Greeks, and Romans. Students will focus on the advent and growth of European cultures during the Middle Ages, and the simultaneous development of Muslim civilizations. The culmination of the course entails the Renaissance, seeds of the Reformation, and the emerging Global Age. (Standard/Honors)

World History II

World History II – Beginnings of the Global Age to the world today (15th Century – 21st Century). This is the second of a two part course in world history. Students study the foundations and development of the global age and its influence on Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, followed by the emerging era of absolutism. Students focus on the Enlightenment, American and French Revolution, Napoleon's conquests/downfall, industrial age, nationalism's influence on Europe, growth of western democracies, imperialism, and the emerging global patterns. Particular attention is given to the world wars, rise of communism, nationalism and revolutions around the world, totalitarianism, the Cold War, emergence of new nations, U.S. efforts to stem the threat of communism, collapse of communism, the global economy, and the war on terror. (Standard/Honors)

U.S. History (Standard/Honors)

This course begins with the establishment of colonial outposts in the harsh frontier of North America. Students will explore the dynamic events that shaped the advent of the United States in connection with the prevailing European political/philosophical thoughts of the Enlightenment. Various social, economic, political, and cultural forces that propelled the United States towards the 20th century will be analyzed. Students will study the upheavals and cataclysmic events that thrust the United States onto the world stage as a world power. Particular attention will be paid to current events as a method of bridging the past and the present.

AP U.S. History

This course offers college level instruction in United States history. Students have the option of taking an AP exam at the culmination of the course. The course is a two semester survey of the United States from the age of exploration to current times. Students will examine the founding and development of the American republic from the arrival of Europeans in North America to the present, with particular emphasis on the American identity, socioeconomic development, foreign/domestic policies, and the future role of the United States in the world arena.

U.S. Government (Standard/Honors)

This course places emphasis on American politics and the components of the government. Students will study the emergence and development of American political beliefs, including the events that influenced society's political alignments. Comparative analyses of various world governments, including their origins will be introduced. Particular attention will be paid to current events in connection with the content matter.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French I

The French language is introduced. Speaking, listening, writing and reading skills are emphasized. Students study French grammar, vocabulary and verb tenses. French culture is studied. Speaking skills are developed through classroom conversation and in the language lab. (Standard/Honors)

French II

The four linguistic skills, speaking, reading, listening, and writing will be stressed. In addition, Francophone culture and French grammar will be studied and used in order for students to communicate proficiently in spoken and written French. The topics that our studies will center around are culture, health and medicine, telecommunications, travel, business and professions, food, automobile travel, the hospital, hotels, country and city life, and holidays. The class will be conducted in French at all possible times. The students will be able to speak using several verb tenses so that they can maintain a conversation in both a school and social setting. Technology will be used to practice both oral and written skills. (Standard/Honors)

French III

Writing, reading, and oral skills continue to be emphasized. The class is conducted in French, and students interact with other French speakers orally and in written messages. More complex grammatical structures are introduced, and students begin to move from concrete to more abstract concepts. Students begin to discuss in French topics that relate to history and current events. Technology is used to practice oral and written skills and to investigate French culture. (Standard/Honors)

French IV

Writing, reading and oral skills continue to be emphasized. The class is conducted in French, and students interact with other French speakers orally and in written messages. Students continue to discuss historical and current topics in French. They read, discuss and critique written French texts from a variety of authentic sources and begin to write well-developed compositions. Technology is used to practice oral and written skills and to investigate French culture in a variety of Francophone countries. Grammar skills from French I, II, and III are reviewed, refined, and used in writing compositions and in making oral presentations. (Standard/Honors)

French V

French V is a course dedicated to speaking, reading, and writing. French classics are read, discussed, and critiqued. In addition, the students will begin to write original essays, stories and poems. (Standard/Honors)

Spanish I

Communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities create the framework for the class. The goal is for students to communicate in Spanish at the basic level in such language functions as describing self, family, leisure activities, ordering foods, making purchases, and getting around in Spanish cities. The grammar supports communication and is practiced communicatively. Many opportunities for oral and written communications are expanded through the use of technology. (Standard/Honors)

Spanish II

Students continue developing communicative competence. Students will interact orally with other Spanish speakers and make language meaningful with application projects that will challenge their minds. Students will start showing a greater level of accuracy of the basic material of Spanish I. Students will be exposed to content based material from different sources that will help students' communicative competence to progress. (Standard/Honors)

Spanish III

Students continue developing communicative competence. Students will interact orally with other Spanish speakers and make language meaningful with application projects that will challenge their minds. Students will make oral and written presentations in Spanish. Oral discussions on historical and contemporary events will intensify and reflect positive outcomes on the students' oral communication output. Students use the target language in the classroom and use authentic materials to continue expanding their understanding of the Spanish-speaking cultures. (Standard/Honors)

Spanish IV

Listening, reading, speaking and writing skills are enhanced. Students will examine documents written in Spanish in order to gain insight into Spanish culture, history and customs. (Standard/Honors)

Spanish V

Spanish V is a course dedicated to speaking, reading, and writing. Spanish classics are read, discussed, and critiqued. In addition, the students will begin to write original essays, stories and poems. (Standard/Honors)

Japanese I

Level I focuses on the development of students' communicative competence in Japanese and the understanding of Japanese culture. The basic five C's of the Standards for Foreign Language learning included in our program are communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities. The goal is for students to communicate in Japanese at the basic level in such basic language functions as describing self, family, leisure activities, ordering foods, making purchases, and getting around in Japanese cities. (Standard/Honors)

Japanese II

The main objective of Japanese II is to continue developing students' communicative competence. The program will continue using a progressive approach at a more complex level. Students' communicative competence will be expanded. Students will interact orally with other Japanese speakers and make language meaningful with application projects that will challenge their minds. (Standard/Honors)

Japanese III

This course continues emphasizing the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills from Japanese II. Japanese is spoken exclusively in class as conversational Japanese is further developed. Study is enhanced with outside reading sources. (Standard/Honors)

Japanese IV

Reading, writing, listening and speaking skills are fine-tuned. Grammar concepts are further developed. Literature is examined for historical and cultural purposes. (Standard/Honors)

Japanese V

This is a course dedicated to speaking, reading and writing. Japanese literature is read, discussed, and critiqued. In addition, the students will begin to write original essays, stories and poems. Japanese is spoken exclusively at this level. (Standard/Honors)

Chinese I (Standard/Honors)

Students learn the foundation of the Mandarin Chinese language and its culture. The goal is for students to communicate at the basic level, both in writing and speaking.

Chinese II (Standard/Honors)

Students continue studying grammar and vocabulary to reinforce their communication skills. Students will learn additional Chinese characters. Activities that develop reading and listening skills are also emphasized. Chinese culture is studied.

Chinese III (Standard/Honors)

In this course, students continue to develop oral proficiency but also emphasize reading and writing skills. Using authentic materials, students expand their basic knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and culture. The class is conducted in Chinese.

Chinese IV (Standard/Honors)

In this course, students develop language skills necessary to carry out activities involving higher level thinking skills. The course prepares students to enter the intermediate level of Chinese at the university level.

FINE ARTS

Instrumental Music and Music Theory

Students may elect to take group or individual instrument instruction with a variety of instruments. Instruction will provide a means of self expression to convey emotion and develop self esteem and aesthetic sensitivity. The program will develop music skills and an understanding of intellectual knowledge about music through a sequential order of learning. Students grow in their understanding of musical concepts. They acquire necessary skills to enhance their musical environment. Students learn the fundamentals of notational music. Students perform several times each year.

Art

Art I and Art II emphasize the development of abilities needed to recognize visual arts content, concepts, and skills to create, discuss, and understand original works of art. The standards represent a thematic approach to visual communication and production, cultural context and art history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics through which students will develop understanding and appreciation for the visual arts. Students will maintain a portfolio documenting their accomplishments. Students will select representative work to take to the next level of study. The culminating portfolio will demonstrate quality, breadth of experience, technical skill, concentration, and growth over time. In addition to these courses, students may elect to take more advanced art courses in printmaking and sculpture.

ELECTIVES

A variety of elective courses are offered each year. Some of these are semester courses, and some are full year courses. Courses are offered and may be added according to student interest and faculty availability.