

2021-2022 COURSE CATALOG



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Calculations for GPA

Van Buren High School reserves the right to make changes as required in course offerings and curriculum. GPA will be figured with State Endorsed Weighted Credit Courses using 5.0 scale, and all other courses will use the 4.0 scale. Class rank will be calculated using the state GPA scale. Calculations of GPA will be based on grades earned in academic courses in grades 9 through 12. See Board Policy for complete GPA calculation policy.

Advanced Placement = 5.0 Scale	Concurrent Courses = 4.0 Scale (Class Rank Only)	PAP Courses = 4.0 Scale (Class Rank Only)	On-level Course = 4.0 Scale
A = 5.0	A = 4.0	A = 4.0	A = 4.0
B = 4.0	B = 3.0	B = 3.0	B = 3.0
C = 3.0	C = 2.0	C = 2.0	C = 2.0
D = 2.0	D = 1.0	D = 1.0	D = 1.0
F = 0	F = 0	F = 0	F = 0

ADVANCED PLACEMENT = AP Courses are taught on a college Level. They stress critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills. Students may receive college credit by taking and successfully passing the College Board AP exam. The student must pass both semesters of the AP course and take the appropriate AP exam to receive weighted credit. Weighting will be reduced to a 4.0 scale on the final transcript for students who do not meet these conditions.

CONCURRENT CLASSES Courses taught on a college level through Arkansas Tech University or University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Students receive college credit upon completion of the class with a C or above.

PAP COURSES PAP Courses are more rigorous than on-level courses. Students are introduced to the higher order thinking skills and are prepared for AP Courses.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS Eligibility rules apply to all students competing in athletics or non-athletic activities.

For the fall semester of 9th grade, students are required to have passed 4 academic courses the previous semester.

For the spring semester of 9th grade, students must have passed 4 academic courses during the fall semester.

Ninth grade students must meet senior high academic eligibility by the end of the second semester in order to be eligible to participate in the fall of their tenth grade year. Students who have finished two semesters of the ninth grade must follow all senior high (10-12) academic requirements: passing a minimum of 4 classes per semester and maintaining a 2.0 GPA.

<h2>General (Core) Diploma</h2>	<h2>Smart Core Diploma</h2>	<h2>Diplomas of Distinction</h2>
<p>English—4 Credits English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12</p> <p>Mathematics—4 Credits Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Additional Math</p> <p>Science—3 Credits At least one unit of Physical Science At least one unit of Biology Additional Science</p> <p>Social Studies—3 Credits Civics .5 credit Economics .5 credit World History American History</p> <p>State Required Oral Communications .5 credit Physical Education .5 credit Health and Safety .5 credit Fine Arts .5 credit</p> <p>Digital Learning Course</p> <p>Career Focus Electives - 6</p> <p><small>*Technology (Local Credit) *Principal Approval</small></p> <p>22 Credits needed to Graduate</p>	<p>English—4 Credits English 9 English 10 English 11 English 12</p> <p>Mathematics—4 Credits Algebra I Geometry Algebra II ADE approved fourth Math credit or Computer Science Flex</p> <p>Science—3 Credits ADE approved Physical Science ADE approved Biology ADE approved third Science or Computer Science Flex</p> <p>Social Studies—3 Credits Civics .5 credit Economics .5 credit World History American History</p> <p>State Required Oral Communications .5 credit Physical Education .5 credit Health and Safety .5 credit Fine Arts .5 credit</p> <p>Digital Learning Course</p> <p>Career Focus Electives - 6</p> <p><small>*Technology (Local Credit) Principal Approval</small></p> <p>22 Credits needed to Graduate</p>	<p>(Local Honor Diplomas)</p> <p>College Prep Smart Core curriculum including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Credits • 4 PAP, Concurrent or state endorsed weighted credit courses • 3.0 GPA at the end of 8 semesters <p><small>*Technology (Local Credit) Principal Approval</small></p> <p>College Prep Honors Smart Core curriculum including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Credits • 8 PAP, Concurrent or state endorsed weighted credit courses (2 must be state endorsed weighted credit courses) • 3.5 GPA at the end of 8 semesters <p><small>*Technology (Local Credit) Principal Approval</small></p> <p>College Prep High Honors Smart Core curriculum including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 Credits • 12 PAP, Concurrent, or state endorsed weighted credit courses (3 must be state endorsed weighted credit courses) • 3.9 GPA at the end of 8 semesters <p><small>*Technology (Local Credit) Principal Approval</small></p> <p>23 Credits needed to Graduate</p>

VBHS 4-YEAR PLAN (with Career Elective Options)

Student Name: _____

Advisor: _____

Date: _____

	FRESHMAN YEAR	SOPHOMORE YEAR	JUNIOR YEAR	SENIOR YEAR	
English	English 9 PAP English 9	English 10 PAP English 10	English 11 PAP English 11 AP Lit & Comp	English 12 Transitional English 12 AP Language CONC Comp I & II	
Math	Algebra 1 PAP Geometry	Geometry PAP Geometry Algebra 2 PAP Algebra 2	Algebra 2 PAP Algebra 2 Algebra 3 PAP Algebra 3 Transitional Math Pre-Calculus CONC Algebra/Trig AP Calculus AB AP Statistics	Algebra 3 PAP Algebra 3 Transitional Math Pre-Calculus College Algebra CONC Algebra CONC Algebra/Trig AP Calculus BC AP Statistics	
Science	Physical Science Integrated	Biology Integrated Biology Integrated Honors	Chemistry Integrated Chemistry Integrated Honors AP Chemistry Physics AP Physics		
History	Professional Communications & Keystone Civics	World History AP World History	US History AP US History CONC American History		
Career Focus Pathways	Intro to Engineering Design	Principles of Engineering*	Computer Integrated Manufacturing*	Engineering Design & Development^	
	Programming & Coding 1 & 2~ xxx Engineering or Programming can lead to these CONC CLASSES --> xxx	Programming & Coding 3 & 4~	AP Comp Science A & B~	Cyber Security 1 & 2~	
	Principles of Biomedical Sciences	Intro to Robotics & Intro to Electronics Tech	Fundamentals of Elec & Circuits & Components	Industrial Electricity & PLC Applications	
	Survey of Business	Medical Office Administration	Business Law 1 & 2	Intern/Apprenticeship	
	Survey of Ag Systems	Accounting 1	CASE Principles of Agri Science (Plant)*	Advanced Plant Science	
			-OR- Natural Resources and Ecology*	-OR- Forestry and Wildlife Ecosystems	
	Family & Consumer Sciences	Food Safety & Nutrition	Food Production	Culinary II	
	Life Span Development	Consumer Services	Advanced Consumer Services	Clothing & Textiles	
	Army ROTC Health/PE	Foundations of Teaching 1	Foundations of Teaching 2	AP Psychology	
	ROTC 2	ROTC 3	ROTC 4		
Elective Elective					
Elective Elective					
Elective Elective					

Graduation Requirements

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | 4 Units of English | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | 4 Units of Mathematics | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | 3 Units of Science | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | 3 Units of History | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

22 Total Units (including Electives)

KEY:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Highlighted | These courses are now weighted credit! They count as a 5.0 toward GPA. |
| * | These classes can take the place of the 3rd year science requirement. |
| ^ | These classes can take the place of the 4th year math requirement. |
| ~ | Any of the computer science classes can take the place of a 3rd year science OR a 4th year math. |

Core Course Offerings

Language Arts

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
410000	English 9 Study of reading, writing, speaking across many cultures, periods and genres.	1
410001	English 9 PAP Study of reading, writing, speaking across many cultures, periods and genres with extensive projects, research, and additional readings.	1

Language Arts Electives

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
417010	Creative Writing Writing of poetry, short fiction, and personal narrative with an emphasis on developing reflection and creativity.	0.5
415000	Journalism 1 Introduction to multimedia journalism. Students will learn different writing styles and presentation styles (student-made websites, TedTalks, podcasts, documentaries). Students learn how to submit these works for publication, for the local, national, and sometimes international audiences. <i>This course is a prerequisite to Journalism 2 (Pointer Pack News).</i>	1
479050	Academic Study of the Bible A one semester English course that is designed to strengthen students' understanding of the Bible & its impact upon American culture. This nonsectarian, non-religious, academic course integrates the study of the Bible as a piece of literature.	0.5
519063	Holocaust Studies Humanities-based study of World War II and the Holocaust through the writings and creative productions (e.g., fiction, non-fiction, poetry, journals, articles, primary source documents, art, drama photography) of the time period and beyond.	0.5
419110	Critical Reading Students will learn to analyze, interpret, and apply comprehension skills to all types of reading. This course is designed to accelerate reading growth by strengthening comprehension outcomes in high school grades. Students will also demonstrate literacy competence through purposeful application of knowledge and skills from this course, based on individual and collective literacy goals.	1

Mathematics

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
430000	Algebra 1 Study of properties of equality, solving equations, graphs, tables, functions, patterns, relations, and polynomial operations.	1
431002	Geometry PAP Study of dimensional shapes, perimeter, area, volume, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and trigonometric ratios with extensions.	1

Science

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
423000	Physical Science Integrated Study of matter and energy.	1

Social Studies

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
472000	Civics/Government This one semester course provides students with a basic understanding of civic life, politics, and government, and a short history of government's foundation and development in this country.	0.5

Career & Technical Education Course Offerings

The Arkansas Department of Career Education and VBSD recognize students who complete a career focus program of study as "Completers". Completers receive a certificate from the Arkansas Governor and wear green and white honors cords at graduation. Students are encouraged to select their career focus electives for graduation from one of the following programs of study.

Agricultural Science

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
491150	Survey of Ag Systems A foundation course for all agricultural programs of study. Topics covered include general agriculture, FFA, leadership, supervised agricultural experiences, animal systems, plant systems, agribusiness systems, environmental service systems and power, structural and technical systems.	1

Business & Marketing Technology

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
474300	Economics & Personal Finance Emphasizes economic fundamentals, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and personal financial management. <i>Meets graduation requirements.</i>	0.5
492120	Survey of Business Business applications necessary to live and work in a technological society. <i>This course is required for all business completers and it is recommended that the course be taken before other business courses.</i>	1

Other Business Electives

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
414210	Professional Communications Career exploration, interests, and programs of study. Elements of communication. <i>This one semester course will give students 0.5 credit for Oral Communications and 0.5 credit for Keystone.</i>	1

<i>Family & Consumer Sciences</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
493080	Family and Consumer Science Designed to provide students with basic information and skills needed to function effectively within the family and within a changing, complex society.	1
<i>Education and Training</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
493020	Life Span Development Child Growth and Development students study the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development of a child from conception to five years of age. This course teaches parenting and caregiving roles in relation to the developing child as well as guiding them in the learning process. <i>(Level One)</i>	1
<i>Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
480950	Army ROTC Health Meets state graduation requirement for Health & Safety credit.	0.5
485950	Army ROTC PE Meets state graduation requirement for Physical Education credit.	0.5
<i>Pre-Engineering - Project Lead the Way</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
495480	Introduction to Engineering Design Students will work both independently and in teams as they learn problem-solving skills using the design process. They get to use industry-standard 3D modeling software to create their own designs including puzzle cubes, Automoblox vehicles, miniature trains, and their own creation which can be printed out on our 3-D printer. <i>(Level One)</i>	1
<i>Computer Science - Project Lead the Way</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
465011	Programming & Coding 1 (Computer Science Essentials) Exposes students to a diverse set of computational thinking concepts, fundamentals, and tools, allowing them to gain understanding and build confidence. Students use visual, block-based programming and seamlessly transition to text-based programming with languages such as Python® to create apps and develop websites, and learn how to make computers work together to put their design into practice. They apply computational thinking practices, build their vocabulary, and collaborate just as computing professionals do to create products that address topics and problems important to them. (Fall only) **Can take the place of a 3rd year science OR a 4th year math per ADE** <i>(Level One)</i>	0.5
465021	Programming & Coding 2 (Computer Science Essentials) Part two of Programming & Coding 1 (CSE). (Spring only) **Can take the place of a 3rd year science OR a 4th year math per ADE** <i>(Level One)</i>	0.5
<i>Biomedical - Project Lead the Way</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
495000	Principles of Biomedical Sciences Students analyze the evidence found at a crime scene and help the medical examiner uncover clues left on a body to solve a mystery. Questioning, diagnosing, and proposing treatment and care for patients, students track down the source of a mysterious outbreak at a local hospital. Taking on the role of medical professionals, students assess and stabilize a patient during an emergency and prepare for medical surge and mobile medical care.	1
<i>Fine Arts Course Offerings</i>		
<i>Instrumental Music</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
451009	Band 1 Performing group participating in local, regional, state and national contests, concerts, band auditions, solo, and ensemble acts. <i>Good standing in Jr Band or audition required. Enrollment in both fall and spring semesters required.</i>	1
<i>Vocal Music</i>		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
452000	Vocal Music 1 Performance of all styles and periods of choral literature; public performances, concerts, individual and festival competitions required.	1

General Arts		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
450060	Art History A history course focusing on art starting in pre-history leading to Renaissance. Some art making required.	0.5
453100	Visual Art Appreciation Students will discuss art and make artwork in various media.	0.5
453030	Music Appreciation Students will study general music forms.	0.5
2-D Design Focus		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
450000	Visual Art 1 Entry level course; Learn the basic elements and principles of art through a variety of art making techniques and materials.	1
Drawing/Painting Focus		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
450200	Drawing/Painting 1 Entry level course; Learn the basic elements and principles of art through drawing and painting techniques and media.	1
3-D Design Focus		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
450500	Ceramics 1 Entry level course; Learn the basic elements and principles of art through building and decorating clay sculptures and pottery.	1
Performing Arts Theatre		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
459100	Theatre 1 Introduction to theatre, acting, stage design and stage production. <i>Counts as a Fine Arts credit.</i>	1
459240	Stagecraft 1 Intermediate technical theatre, sound, lighting, costumes, props and design work.	1
453130	Theatre Appreciation Students will develop an understanding of basic theatre skills and the history of the theatre, analyze and evaluate artistic work, and discover connections between theatrical works and societal, cultural, and historical contexts.	0.5
World Language Course Offerings		
French		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
441000	French 1 A one-year course structured for beginners with no experience with the French language or culture. Students will learn necessary words and phrases for basic concepts such as the alphabet, numbers, weather, and telling time. Students will also learn to communicate both orally and written about topics like describing themselves, what they do and what they like, their school, their home, their goals, and the world around them. While grammar may be minimally addressed, this course is primarily to build vocabulary usage.	1
German		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
442000	German 1 A one-year course structured for beginners with no experience with the German language or culture. Students will learn necessary words and phrases for basic concepts such as the alphabet, numbers, weather, and telling time. Students will also learn to communicate both orally and written about topics like describing themselves, what they do and what they like, their school, their home, their goals, and the world around them. While grammar may be minimally addressed, this course is primarily to build vocabulary usage.	1
Spanish		
Course Code	Course Description	Credits
440000	Spanish 1 A one-year course structured for beginners with no experience with the Spanish language or culture. Students will learn necessary words and phrases for basic concepts such as the alphabet, numbers, weather, and telling time. Students will also learn to communicate both orally and written about topics like describing themselves, what they do and what they like, their school, their home, their goals, and the world around them. While grammar may be minimally addressed, this course is primarily to build vocabulary usage.	1
540100	Spanish 1 Native Speakers Level 1 for heritage language learners who have previous experience with Spanish language in the home or whose home language is indicated as Spanish.	1

Language Electives

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
649001	Survey of World Language & Cultures This one semester course is designed to take students on a journey around the world to explore a number of countries in the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia.	0.5
649002	Conversational Spanish Introductory course which emphasizes listening comprehension and speaking in the Spanish language.	0.5

English Language Learners

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
696008	Language Acquisition 1 Focus on early language acquisition for students with limited English proficiency.	1
510040	ELL English 9 Language arts for students with limited English proficiency.	1

Physical Education Course Offerings

Sports

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
999820	Baseball Two semester sport.	1
999810	Basketball Boys Two semester sport.	1
999811	Basketball Girls Two semester sport.	1
999850	Cheerleading Two semester sport.	1
999812	Cross Country Boys Fall semester sport.	0.5
999813	Cross Country Girls Fall semester sport.	0.5
999851	Dance Two semester sport.	1
999814	Football Two semester sport.	1
999821	Golf Two semester sport.	1
999822	Softball Two semester sport.	1
999823	Soccer Boys Two semester sport.	1
999824	Soccer Girls Two semester sport.	1
999825	Tennis Two semester sport.	1
999816	Track Boys Spring semester sport.	0.5
999817	Track Girls Spring semester sport.	0.5
999826	Volleyball Two semester sport.	1
999827	Wrestling Two semester sport.	1

Elective Courses

Course Code	Course Description	Credits
480000	Health Personal health, safety and fitness, including first aid, nutrition, drug and alcohol abuse, STD's, eating disorders, mental disorders, First Aid & CPR.	0.5
485000	Physical Education (Boys and Girls) Active participation in aerobic, strength training, and flexibility development; various individual and team activities.	1
485010	Total Fitness 1 Active participation in personal fitness components; cardio-respiratory endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition; Classroom study and activities include weight training, jogging, fitness tests, and games. <i>(Fall only)</i>	0.5
485025	Archery Introduction to the sport by learning about bows, arrows and shooting at targets.	0.5