



Spectrum High School

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March 14, 2011

Dear Spectrum Parent and Student,

In keeping with our mission to provide our students with strong academic and personal excellence opportunities, I am excited to make you aware of our increasing selection of Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), which are college level classes, for the 2011-2012 school year. All of these, we are pleased to announce, will be available at Spectrum High School. All of the choices are listed below by category and include brief descriptions.

College in the School (CIS)

These classes fulfill high school credit requirements and allow the student to earn simultaneous college credit through Anoka-Ramsey Community College or University of Minnesota. Students will receive quarterly grades. The classes are typically one semester in length.

The following classes will be offered with a minimum enrollment requirement of eleven students:

- Beginning Spanish Language and Culture II
- College Algebra I
- College Algebra II & Trigonometry
- College Environmental Science Lecture
- College Environmental Science Lab (lab dates and times TBD)
- College Writing & Critical Reading
- Introduction to Literature
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Statistics I
- The Human Body-Structure and Function (tentative)
- Astronomy (offering 2012/2013)
- Introduction to Communications (offering 2012/2013)

Student must pass the Accuplacer Placement Test to qualify for a CIS class. Students may refer to class registration form to review passing Accuplacer Test scores needed to qualify for each class. The Accuplacer is a state-wide test. Anoka-Ramsey staff will come to our school on April 15 to administer the test. Students can also schedule a time to take the test at Anoka-Ramsey. Please check their website for dates and times: <https://www.anokaramsey.edu/student/Assessment/Placement.aspx>. Students may access practice tests on the Anoka-Ramsey website, and I strongly encourage students to practice.

Advanced Placement Classes (AP)

Students receive quarterly grades and high school credit based on these grades. They receive college credit based solely on the grade of the AP test which is given in May. The student needs to score a minimum of three out of five stars in order to receive college credit. We have a list of colleges which accept AP classes and the scores needed for credit.

- Geography
- Literature and Composition
- US History
- European History (offering 2012/2013)

Advanced Placement classes are available to any student who is willing to execute the work necessary to succeed.

Interactive TV (ITV)

The college classroom is broadcast live into the Spectrum classroom via the internet. These classes fulfill high school credit requirements and allow the student to earn college credit simultaneously. They are typically one semester in length and the student receives one final grade at the end of the course.

We have an ITV connection with St. Cloud State offering:

- Calculus (This class is tentative and may be offered through an alternative college depending on interest and availability.)
- History of Rock & Roll
- Introduction to Psychology
- Introduction to Rhetorical Writing
- Race in America

Note: Sometimes, class times offered through St. Cloud State's course catalog work inconveniently with our students' schedules. We will work to accommodate student schedules as much as possible.

Students must be in the upper third of their 11th grade class or in the upper half of their 12th grade class to qualify for an ITV or CIS class.

Online Classes

These classes fulfill high school credit requirements and allow the student to earn college credit simultaneously. They are typically one semester in length, and the student receives one final grade at the end.

Our students have been taking a variety of online classes through the University of Minnesota-Crookston and Northwestern College. Students may also pursue other online classes through other colleges. Complete listings of the classes offered can be found on the college websites.

Students must be in the upper third of their 11th grade class or in the upper half of their 12th grade class to qualify for an online class.

In conclusion, we believe there are tremendous advantages and benefits to keeping your student on campus throughout their high school years, and we are working diligently to provide top quality, well rounded, comprehensive means for them to do so.

While the trend in recent years has been for students to leave campus in pursuit of their Post Secondary options, we recognize that bringing those same options to the student can enrich and increase their success both academically and personally. Some of the advantages of remaining on campus include:

- Smaller class sizes.
- A continuation of the working relationship between student, parent, teacher, and administration to achieve the common goal of student success and college preparedness.
- One-on-one help from the teachers available during class or readily scheduled outside of class.
- Direct tracking of your student's progress. When students attend classes on the college campus, they do not receive quarter grades or progress reports which can prove challenging in keeping track of their progress. All of our CIS and AP classes assign quarter grades to the students on their report cards. Student progress in the online and ITV classes is monitored by a faculty member.
- Transportation and gas costs are minimized.
- Music, theater and other electives are available for scheduling within the student's day.
- Continued school leadership opportunities in Student Council and National Honor Society.
- Continuation of service projects and volunteer work in the community.

We will be registering students for the 2011/12 school year the week of March 14. The 11th grade students who rank in the upper third of their class and the 12th grade students who rank in the upper half of their class will be given PSEO information.

High school years come around only once in a lifetime. We want to see our students develop to their maximum potential in all areas of their life, and we are honored that you have entrusted them to us to help in this process. We look forward to continue working with you and your children as they prepare for their future today.

If you have any questions, please email me at vspark@spectrumhighschool.org

Sincerely,



Vanessta Spark
Executive Director