



# Spectrum High School

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[www.spectrumhighschool.org](http://www.spectrumhighschool.org)

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Dear Spectrum 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 2010/11 school year. All of these, we are pleased to announce, will be available at Spectrum. 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. Students will receive quarterly grades. They are typically one semester in length.*

Spectrum will be adding five additional *College in the School* courses along with the three currently being offered. The following classes will be offered with a minimum enrollment requirement of 11 students:

- Astronomy
- College Algebra I
- College Algebra II
- Spanish & Latin American Culture
- College Writing & Critical Reading
- Environmental Science w/lab
- Public Speaking
- Intro to Statistics

Students must pass the Accuplacer Placement Test to qualify for a CIS class. The Accuplacer is a state-wide test. Anoka-Ramsey staff will come to our school at the end of April to administer it. Please watch our website for dates and times: [www.spectrumhighschool.org](http://www.spectrumhighschool.org). You 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 must receive a minimum score of 50 to qualify for the College Algebra and Statistics classes. A minimum score of 78 on the reading and English portions are needed to take the rest of the CIS classes. Students may retake the test two times if needed. Practice tests are available on the Anoka-Ramsey website, and I strongly encourage your student 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. Please see Ms. Spark or Mrs. Grimley for the list.*

We offer the following Advanced Placement classes:

- American Government (2010/11 availability tentative)
- European History
- Literature & Composition I
- Psychology (2010/11 availability tentative)
- US History

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
- Intro to Psychology
- Intro 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 11<sup>th</sup> grade class or in the upper half of their 12<sup>th</sup> grade class to qualify for an ITV 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 11<sup>th</sup> grade class or in the upper half of their 12<sup>th</sup> 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 2010/11 year in March. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who rank in the upper third of their class and the 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:vspark@spectrumhighschool.org)

Sincerely,



Vanessta Spark  
Director