

**Wood County Alternative School  
Course Descriptions**

**High School Courses**

**Language Arts**

<p><b>English I</b> This course addresses strategies for reading comprehension, recognition of text structure in exposition and narrative, comprehension of different genres of text, the steps for writing an essay and applying the five-step writing process. The course also addresses basic skills in grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling, vocabulary, and research and explains how to punctuate and manipulate sentences to produce more effective writing. <b>Credits: 1.0</b></p>	<p><b>English II</b> This course helps students develop skills in grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling, vocabulary, and communication skills, such as giving speeches, using visual aids, and workplace communications. This course also focuses on strategies for reading comprehension, explains the writing process, helps students compose personal narratives and literacy responses, and provides instruction on perspective and argument. <b>Credit: 1.0</b></p>
<p><b>English III</b> In this course, students continue to develop skills in grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling, vocabulary, and communication. This course also teaches students about complex writing processes, types of writing, reading strategies, study skills, and modes of reasoning. Additionally, students read works from different time periods of American literature and examine these texts to learn about various literary devices, forms, styles, techniques, and influences. <b>Credits: 1.0</b></p>	<p><b>English IV</b> In this course, students continue to develop skills in grammar, punctuation, word usage, spelling, vocabulary, and communication. This course also teaches students about complex writing processes, types of writing, reading strategies, study skills and modes of reasoning. Additionally, students read works from different periods of British literature and examine these texts to learn about various literary devices, forms, styles, techniques, and influences. <b>Credits: 1.0</b></p>

## Mathematics

### Algebra 1

This course covers key concepts of variables, function patterns, graphs, and operations and properties of rational numbers. Students solve linear equations and inequalities, and study slope, and graphing linear functions. This course also covers exponents, polynomials, and factoring. It also helps students study quadratic equations and functions, radical expressions and equations, rational expressions and functions, and study counting methods.

**Credits: 1.0**

### Algebra 2

In this course, students solve equations, inequalities, systems, and problems using matrices, inverse matrices, matrix operations, and determinants. Students also learn about different functions and are introduced to the imaginary number,  $i$ , and find complex solutions to equations. This course also introduces exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, probability, statistics, sequences, and series.

**Credits: 1.0**

### Geometry

This course addresses basic skills in geometry including reasoning, developing proofs, identifying geometric figures, and constructing figures. This course also teaches students about the properties of right triangles and trigonometric ratios, transformations of plane figures, and the parts of a circle and their properties. Additionally, students will develop and apply formulas for area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional figures.

**Credits: 1.0**

### Pre-Calculus

This course presents students with a formal study of functions, an analysis of sequences and series, counting principles, binomial theorem, and probability. Technology will be used to employ approaches to problem-solving and data modeling. Also includes topics on trigonometry, parametric curves, and polar form. Students will solve problems using Laws of Sines and Cosines and will analyze vectors and conics, study systems of equations and matrices, and solve systems using matrices. Limits and continuity are introduced.

**Credits: 1.0**

## Science

### **Biology**

This course addresses key concepts and processes from chemistry, cells, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, genetics, and DNA. The scientific method and foundational chemistry facts are presented to assist students in the study of biology. This course also addresses key concepts and processes of evolution, classification, ecology, and human anatomy. An overview of human body systems, as well as, defining structures of bacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals are also explored.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Earth Science**

This course addresses major concepts such as the materials which compose Earth, the rock cycle and types of rocks, Earth's resources, formation and movement of soil, glaciers deserts, and alluvial landscapes, earthquakes, volcanoes, plate tectonics, mountain building, and geological time. This course also covers concepts such as the ocean floor, seafloor sediments, waves, tides, and shoreline processes, characteristics of the atmosphere, precipitation, air pressure and wind, storms, climate, early astronomy, Earth-Moon-Sun interactions, and Solar System. Laboratory concepts appear in videos, careers in Earth Science are explored, and key scientists are called out through portraits and biographies.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Physical Science**

This course addresses key chemistry concepts and processes from properties and states of matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, types of chemical bonds and reactions, solutions, and carbon and nuclear chemistry. This course also addresses key physics concepts and processes from force and motion, work, power, machines, energy, optics, electricity, and magnetism. Concepts explored through animations and videos will assist in chemistry and physics.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Physics**

This course addresses concepts of mechanics, wave behavior and thermodynamics, Newton's laws of motion, thermal properties of matter, and thermodynamic systems. This course also contains lessons on electricity, magnetism, optics, the interactions among electric charges, properties of electric and magnetic fields and forces, and the characteristics of electromagnetic waves. An understanding of Algebra and Trigonometry is required.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Chemistry**

This course addresses key concepts and processes from states of matter, atomic theory, organization of the periodic table, types of chemical bonds and reactions, the naming and formulas of chemicals, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. This course also addresses properties of solids, liquids, and gases, state changes, solutions, flow of energy, enthalpy, heat, entropy and free energy, rates of reactions, equilibrium, acid-base theories, oxidation and reduction, electromagnetic cells, functional groups, polymerization, biochemicals, and nuclear chemistry. The course explores concepts through lessons and lab videos.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Environmental Science**

This course presents relationships between organisms and how these relationships relate to the functioning of ecosystems. Students learn the key concepts and processes of nutrient cycling, biomes, pollution, energy resources, and habitat destruction. The course also covers ways to promote biodiversity and create a sustainable future.

**Credits: 1.0**

## Social Studies

<p><b>World History</b> This course contains lessons addressing historical periods from Prehistory through Globalization in the 21st century. The objectives of the lessons are directly aligned to current standards. Each multimedia lesson is designed to teach the major concepts for each historical period through text, visual aids, activities and assessments. <b>Credits: 1.0</b></p>	<p><b>U.S. History</b> This course contains lessons addressing historical periods from the American Revolution to globalization and the twenty-first century. The lessons address key concepts, important historical figures, and significant events to help students gain an understanding of the political, economic, military and social structures of the United States through its emergence as a global superpower. <b>Credits: 1.0</b></p>
<p><b>Government</b> This course covers the foundations of American government, political behavior, and the three branches of the federal government. <b>Credits: 0.5</b></p>	<p><b>Economics</b> This course addresses concepts of economics, including a review of the American free enterprise system. Students learn about markets, business and labor, and banking and finance in the microeconomics sections, and then learn about measuring economic performance, the government's role in the economy, and international trade and development in the macroeconomics section. <b>Credits: 0.5</b></p>

## Health/Physical Education

<p><b>Health</b> This course addresses topics in mental and social health, nutrition, physical fitness, substance abuse, human development, and preventing disease. The course emphasizes the physical and emotional benefits of making healthful choices and discusses the consequences of unhealthy behaviors. Critical thinking is encouraged through the use of open-ended questions, assessments, and videos of real-life situations. <b>Credits: 1.0</b></p>	<p><b>Physical Education</b> Students may complete their physical education requirement by recording their physical activity in weekly logs. This would include activity both in and out of school. For .25 credit, the student must complete 60 hours' worth of physical activity. For .5 credit, 120 hours are required. Weekly parent/guardian signatures are mandatory, as well as school staff approval. <b>Credits: 0.5</b></p>
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## Electives

### **Great Minds in Science**

Sometimes there are simply more questions than answers. Does life exist on other planets? How extreme is the human ability to survive? Will the issue of global warming ever be solved? Today, scientists, explorers, and writers are working to answer such questions by using extensive inquiry to find innovative solutions. Similar to such famous minds from history as Edison, Einstein, Curie, and Newton, the scientists of today are finding ways to revolutionize our lives and the world. Great Minds in Science takes an in-depth look at the extraordinary work of these individuals and demonstrates how their ideas may very well shape the world of tomorrow.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Human Geography**

Modern humans have been roaming the earth for about 200,000 years. How do the places we live influence the way we live? How do geography, weather, and location relate to our customs and lifestyles? In Human Geography you will explore the diverse ways that different people have physically influenced the world around them and how they, in turn, are changed by their surroundings. Discover how beliefs and ideas spread through time, shaping and changing the cultures they encounter. In this course, you'll gain tremendous insight into human geography and begin to better understand the important relationship between humans and their environments.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Health and Life Management Skills**

Imagine the healthiest people you know – what's their secret? While some health traits are genetically determined, the truth is we all have the ability to make positive changes in our lives. In Health and Life Management Skills, you will learn how to promote better health by decreasing stress and finding a fuller vision of your life. Explore different lifestyle choices that can influence your overall health – from positively interacting with others, to choosing quality health care, to making sensible dietary choices. You will have the opportunity to build your own plan for improvement and learn how to create the type of environment that will ensure your overall health, happiness, and well-being.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Forensic Science**

Fingerprints. Blood spatters. Gunshot residue. If these things intrigue you rather than scare you, Forensic Science I: Secrets of the Dead may be for you. This course offers you the chance to dive into the riveting job of crime scene analysis. Learn the techniques and practices applied during a crime scene investigation and how clues and data are recorded and preserved. You will better understand how forensic science applies technology to make discoveries and bring criminals to justice as you follow the entire forensic process—from pursuing the evidence trail to taking the findings to trial. By careful examination of the crime scene elements, even the most heinous crimes can be solved.

**Credits: 1.0**

## Electives Continued

### **Real World Parenting**

Do you love children? Maybe you dream of being a parent someday. But perhaps you are also asking yourself, just how, exactly, do you learn to parent? Learning how to care for children while teaching them confidence and accountability is not an easy feat. In Real-World Parenting, you'll learn that being a parent is much more than simply feeding, bathing, and protecting a child. Creating a positive environment, nurturing, fostering education, and serving as a role model are all critical aspects as well. You'll learn how to be a positive force in the development of your future children as well as others around you.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Social Problems**

War, crime, poverty, global warming – our world often seems full of dire warnings and predictions. How can we make sense of it all and still dare to step outside each day? Social Problems: A World in Crisis will explore some of the biggest challenges facing our world today and prepare you to tackle them head-on. You'll learn what led to these social problems, what effects they have on our lives and societies, and what possible solutions exist for solving them. Whether you want to save the world from the next pandemic or better understand the effects of the media on society, this course will help you develop a plan of action!

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Personal and Family Finance**

We all know money is important in life. But how important? In fact, the financial decisions you make today may have a lasting effect on your future. Rather than feeling anxious about money feel empowered by learning how to make smart decisions! Personal and Family Finance will begin the conversation around how to spend and save your money wisely, investing in safe opportunities and the days ahead. Learning key financial concepts around taxes, credit, and money management will provide both understanding and confidence as you begin to navigate your own route to future security. Discover how education, career choices, and financial planning can lead you in the right direction to making your life simpler, steadier, and more enjoyable.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Military Careers Introduction**

Most of us have seen a war movie; maybe it had a hotshot aviator or a renegade private or a daring Special Forces operative. But outside of these sensationalized portrayals, do you really understand how the military works or what it can do for you? The military offers far more career diversity than most people imagine, and Introduction to Military Careers will provide the information you need to gain a broader understanding of how to find the right fit. You will learn about the five military branches – Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines Corps, and Navy – and examine which jobs you might like to pursue. From aviation, to medicine, to law enforcement, the military can be an outstanding place to achieve your dreams in a supportive and well-structured environment.

**Credits: 1.0**

## Electives Continued

### **Music Appreciation**

Have you ever heard a piece of music that made you want to get up and dance? Cry your heart out? Sing at the top of your lungs? Whether pop, classical, or anything in between, music provides a powerful way for people to celebrate their humanity and connect with something larger than themselves. Music Appreciation: The Enjoyment of Listening not only will provide a historical perspective on music from the Middle Ages to the 21st century, but it will also teach you the essentials of how to listen and really hear (with a knowledgeable ear) the different music that's all around you. Learning how to truly appreciate sound and melody is the best way to ensure a continued love of this delightful art form.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Mythology and Folklore**

Since the beginning of time, people have gathered around fires to tell stories of angry gods, harrowing journeys, cunning animals, horrible beasts, and the mighty heroes who vanquished them. Mythology and folklore have provided a way for these colorful stories to spring to life for thousands of years. Beginning with an overview of mythology and different types of folklore, you will journey with age-old heroes as they slay dragons, outwit gods, defy fate, fight endless battles, and outwit clever monsters with strength and courage. You'll explore the universality and social significance of myths and folklore and see how these powerful tales continue to shape society even today.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **Gothic Literature: Monster Stories**

Vampires, ghosts, and werewolves have lived in our collective imagination since the 18th century, and they continue to influence the world of fiction even today. Gothic Literature: Monster Stories focuses on the major themes found in Gothic literature and demonstrates the techniques writers use to produce a thrilling psychological experience for the reader. The themes of terror versus horror, the power of the supernatural, and the struggle between good and evil are just a few of the classic Gothic subjects explored in this course.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **History of the Holocaust**

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed." Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, wrote these words. History of the Holocaust will take you through the harrowing details of anti-Semitism, the power of the Nazi party, the persecution of European Jews and other groups, and the tremendous aftermath for everyone involved in World War II. You'll explore the causes of the Holocaust, the experiences of Jews and other individuals during this time, and what has been done to combat genocide since WWII.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **World Geography**

This course addresses key concepts of physical and human geography and presents information about the United States, Canada, Latin America, Western Europe, Central Europe, Northern Eurasia, Central and Southwest Asia, Africa, South Asia, East Asia, the Pacific World, and Antarctica.

**Credits: 1.0**

### **African American History**

Over the course of U.S. history, how have African Americans helped shaped American culture? This course traces the accomplishments and obstacles of African Americans beginning with the slave trade on up to the modern Civil Rights movement. Learn about political, economic, social, religious, and cultural factors that have influenced African American life and explore how the African American story still influences current events today.

**Credits: 1.0**

## Middle School Courses

### Language Arts

Language Arts Grade 6	Language Arts Grade 7	Language Arts Grade 8
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### Mathematics

Mathematics Grade 6	Mathematics Grade 7	Mathematics Grade 8
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### Science

Science Grade 6	Science Grade 7	Science Grade 8
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### Social Studies

Social Studies Grade 6	Social Studies Grade 7	Social Studies Grade 8
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### Health/Physical Education

<p><b>Health</b> This course addresses topics in mental and social health, nutrition, physical fitness, substance abuse, human development, and preventing disease. The course emphasizes the physical and emotional benefits of making healthful choices and discusses the consequences of unhealthy behaviors. Critical thinking is encouraged through the use of open-ended questions, assessments, and videos of real-life situations. <b>(Credits: 1.0 -- with school approval)</b></p>	<p><b>Physical Education</b> Students may complete their physical education requirement by recording their physical activity in weekly logs. This would include activity both in and out of school. For .25 credit, the student must complete 60 hours' worth of physical activity. For .5 credit, 120 hours are required. Weekly parent/guardian signatures are mandatory, as well as school staff approval. <b>(Credits: 0.5 – with school approval)</b></p>
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## Electives

### **Career Exploration**

How many times have you heard, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” When you close your eyes and picture yourself in the future, what do you see? Police officer? Doctor? Farmer? Pilot? Teacher? Really, the possibilities are endless. And with so many careers to pick from, it can be confusing knowing where to start your search. In Middle School Career Exploration, you will have the chance to explore more than 15 different career areas including energy fields, human resources, the law, transportation, and more. Discover which careers you might enjoy the most and which ones you’ll be best at!

### **Journalism: Tell Your Story**

Are you someone who likes to get the story straight? Do you always want to know more? Who? What? When? Where? How? These are the details that make for a great story. Knowing how to find these key facts and then write them up in a way that makes it easy for others to read about it is the skill of a true journalist. In Middle School Journalism: Tell Your Story, you’ll learn how ask the right questions, look for the details, and find the story in any situation. You’ll learn how to gather information effectively, organize ideas, format stories for media production, and edit your articles. Get ready to break that news!

### **Exploring Music**

What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘music’? Do you think about your favorite band or artist? Do you think about instruments and scales and chords? The word ‘music’ means something different to everyone. This is why in Exploring Music there is a little bit of something for everyone! You will learn about how we hear music and how music affects our lives. You will explore important elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony, as well as different musical genres. You will discover more about your singing voice and musical instruments and composition while taking in the history and culture of music over the years.

### **Fitness**

Are you physically fit? What does being fit mean to you? Physical fitness is a lot more than just a number on a scale, and that’s exactly what you’ll learn in this course! Middle School Fitness helps you understand the basics of being physically fit and allows for a deeper understanding of your body’s functions. You will learn about the complex science behind exercise and determine how you can test your current level of fitness. Explore what it means to be mindful and discover what inspires you. Improving your physical fitness is a smart choice to make at any age, and by signing up for this course, you will be taking the first step on your exciting journey to understanding and improving your physical fitness.