I am Dr. Kelby H. Garner, and I am Executive Principal of MNPS Virtual School.

On behalf of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools district and MNPS Virtual School, I am proud to announce open enrollment for the upcoming school year! MNPS Virtual School is Tennessee's first, highest-achieving virtual school since 2011! Our school offers full-time as well as part-time enrollment options for students in grades four (4) through twelve (12), which includes the option to graduate from MNPS Virtual School.

As an innovator in the field, MNPS Virtual School is noted as a trailblazer and leader in virtual learning. Our school also offers Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, courses eligible for Dual Credit, and even advanced high school credit for middle school learners! More, MNPS Virtual School is excited to open our doors to student athletes with courses that are National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligible. MNPS Virtual School also holds the prestigious Cognia accreditation designation—further distinguishing us as a high-quality provider of online instruction.

Our school combines rigorous academics with a variety of educational programs, learning experiences, instructional approaches, and academic-support strategies addressing the unique needs, interests, aspirations, and backgrounds of our diverse population of students—creating an extraordinary online learning experience. In a time when other virtual schools are struggling to perform, MNPS Virtual School is the highest-achieving virtual school in Tennessee and one of the highest-performing schools in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) system.

With our unique focus on personalized learning, student mastery, and community, MNPS Virtual School delivers on our mission embodying the highest levels of collaboration, professionalism, and academic excellence. Students further enjoy the flexibility that MNPS Virtual School offers choosing when, where, and how they learn. Like a traditional brick-and-mortar school, our school delivers highly qualified, certified teacher-scholars who instruct our online courses. Students exit our school and courses with greater knowledge and enriched 21st Century learning skills.

If you have any questions about enrollment at MNPS Virtual School, please do not hesitate to contact us at (615) 463-0188. My team stands ready to assist in any way possible. If I can personally be of assistance, please do not hesitate to email me directly at kelby.garner@mnps.org. I also invite you to visit and see for yourself what makes MNPS Virtual School one of Nashville’s finest schooling options.

With Kindest Regards,

Kelby House Garner, Ed.D
Executive Principal, MNPS Virtual School
## HIGH SCHOOL

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HIGH SCHOOL
Course Catalog & Descriptions
MNPS Virtual School offers all core courses required to graduate high school consistent with Tennessee’s Diploma Project. Course offerings in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Sciences, Foreign Languages, Lifetime Wellness and Physical Education, as well as Fine Arts are described in detail herewith and for reference purposes. Some courses also have an honors option for students wanting to increase the rigor and depth of the learning experience. Course offerings are also available via The Virtual Academy of Business & Technology as well as Advanced Placement options with those noted as well. MNPS Virtual School also has a standing partnership with Nashville State Community College (NSCC) affording full-time juniors and seniors the opportunity to participate in virtual and onsite Dual Enrollment options—earning college credit. More, our school even has courses eligible for Dual Credit. For more information on all the high school offerings at MNPS Virtual School, please review the v-Course Catalog and descriptions presented.

MATHEMATICS

Integrated Math I/Integrated Math I Honors (Fall & Spring)
Integrated Mathematics I is the foundation—the skills acquired in this course contain the basic knowledge needed for all future high school math courses. The course is designed to give students the skills and strategies to solve all kinds of mathematical problems. Students also acquire the confidence needed to handle everything high school math has in store. There are hundreds of real-world problems algebra can help answer. Course activities make the numbers, graphs, and equations more real. The content is tied to real-world applications like sports, travel, business, and health.

Integrated Mathematics I emphasizes the importance of algebra and geometry in everyday life through hundreds of real-world examples. Assessments are designed to ensure that your understanding goes beyond rote memorization of steps and procedures. Upon successful course completion, students will have a strong foundation in Integrated Mathematics I and will be prepared for other higher-level math courses. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

Integrated Math II/Integrated Math II Honors (Fall & Spring)
Integrated Math II builds upon concepts taught in Integrated Math I with an emphasis on quadratic and polynomial expressions, equations, and functions. This course also focuses on geometric similarity and interpreting functions from a real-life context. Students extend previous knowledge of exponential properties to rational exponents. This course also introduces probability of compound events and the complex number system. Credit: (FALL 0.5/SPRING 0.5)

Integrated Math III/Integrated Math III Honors (Fall/Spring)
Integrated Math III builds upon concepts taught in Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II emphasizing the basics of geometry, transformations and congruence, coordinate geometry, volume and figures, trigonometry, dividing and solving polynomials, rational expressions, exponential and logarithmic functions, sequences and series, as well as statistics. This course allows students to learn while having fun. Interactive examples help guide students’ journey through customized feedback and praise. Mathematical concepts are applied to everyday occurrences such as earthquakes, stadium seating, and purchasing movie tickets. Students investigate the effects of an equation on its graph through the use of technology. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

Bridge Math (Fall/Spring)
The total weight of two beluga whales and three orca whales is 36,000 pounds. The weight of each whale could be determined with just one additional fact. Bridge Math provides all the math tools needed to answer this “weighty” question. Course topics include, but are not limited to, linear equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, data representation and analysis, geometric constructions, symmetry, similarity, systems of linear equations and inequalities, functions, quadratic equations, exponential equations, rational equations, radical equations, and
graphing equations and functions. Students should come ready to reinforce and grow their existing algebra and geometry skills to learn complex algebraic and geometric concepts needed for future studies in math at the post-secondary level. Credit: (FALL 0.5/SPRING 0.5)

Statistics (Fall/Spring)
Decisions or predictions are often based on data or numbers in context. These decisions or predictions would be easy if the data always sent a clear message. The message, however, is often obscured by variability. Statistics provides tools for describing variability in data and for making informed decisions that take variability into account. In this course, data are gathered, displayed, summarized, examined, and interpreted to discover patterns and deviations from patterns. Students interpret categorical and quantitative data, make inferences and justify conclusions, analyze conditional probability and the rules of probability, as well as use probability to make decisions. By the end of the course, you will be a Statistician in the making—able to use learned methods and skills to interpret, communicate, and apply statistics. Credit: (FALL 0.5/SPRING 0.5)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English I/English I Honors (Fall/Spring)
In English I, students take a journey through important concepts such as equality, identity, opportunity, understanding, and the unknown—learning the foundations of communication and analysis. In each unit of the course, students explore a variety of STEM-related literature, including genre fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and speeches. Through the study of these writings, learners hone their skills in communication and analysis. To facilitate engagement and academic responsibility, students are also encouraged to make choices at different points in the course. Notable is the novel unit, in which students select a novel of interest. This practice gives ownership to the student and places each learner in a position to develop a deeper appreciation of reading based upon his/her particular interests. Credit: (FALL 0.5/SPRING 0.5)

English II/English II Honors (Fall/Spring)
In English II, students learn how the human experience—real life—is the foundation of the best stories, plays, poems, films, and articles. In each unit of the course, students explore a specific aspect of the human experience such as laughter, obstacles, betrayal, fear, and transformation. Through the study of literature, nonfiction, and life, students explore what it means to be human what it means to be fulfilled, triumphant, empowered, and transformed. As in life, students have many choices in this course. Students self-select some of the works they read and have countless choices when it comes to demonstrating what they have learned. Whether reading a poem or a novel, writing a story or an analysis, or studying a Shakespearean tragedy or a modern suspense film, students explore what it means to be human a subject on which they are already experts! Credit: (FALL 0.5/SPRING 0.5)

English III/English III Honors (Fall/Spring)
“Extra, extra, read all about it!” It is all right here in black and white in the pages of The Virtual Times newspaper. Published at key periods in American history, The Virtual Times takes us right into the action. The writing is clear and concise; the stories and opinions give us perspective; the sports and entertainment sections give us the color and flavor of the times. In English III, the writing and insights of authors throughout our history are collected in the fast-paced pages of The Virtual Times. Students gain an appreciation of American literature and the ways it reflects the times in which it was written. Learners discover how people thought and lived and wrote about their experiences. Students are also asked to observe, investigate, and report on stories of today. The goal is for students to be thorough, accurate, and compelling in their writing. Credit: (FALL 0.5/SPRING 0.5)

English IV/English IV Honors (Fall/Spring)
Why do people do what they do? English IV offers a front row seat to study the motives that have driven people’s actions for centuries. Along the way you will encounter epic heroes defying danger, tormented minds succumbing to the power of greed and ambition, enlightened thinkers striving for individual rights and freedoms,
sensitive souls attempting to capture human emotion, and determined debaters taking a stand on critical issues. Students read to analyze the way language is used to express human motivation and research to examine the results of actions in the real world. Lessons give learners the tools needed to gain insights from what they read and to use knowledge in creative and analytical writing. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

**SCIENCES**

**Biology/Biology Honors (Fall/Spring)**

Engaging in the study of biological science broadens the picture of the world around us. This course guides students through the study of living and non-living systems and how they interact with one another. Learners explore the world they live in by posing questions and seeking answers through scientific inquiry. Discovery takes place through observation and data collection. Students are introduced to the structure, function, diversity, and evolution of living matter. This is a course with real relevance encouraging curiosity and providing opportunity for students to work with hands-on lab activities and develop relationships through collaboratively learning. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

**Chemistry/Chemistry Honors (Fall/Spring)**

This course addresses key concepts of 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. The field of chemistry in relation to the scientific method is also explained. The course further addresses properties of solids, liquids, gases, state changes, solutions, flow of energy, enthalpy, hear, entropy, free energy, rates of reactions, equilibrium, acid-base theories, oxidation and reduction, electromagnetic cells, functional groups, polymerization, biochemical, and nuclear chemistry. Instruction also explores concepts through lessons and lab videos. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

**Physical Science/Physical Science Honors (Fall/Spring)**

Physical Science is designed as an interactive 21st century course focusing on basic physics and chemistry. Subjects covered include forces and motion, energy through waves, electricity and magnetism, the matter around us, and chemical bonding as well as reactions. Instruction is designed to serve as a foundation for the study of physical sciences. The utilization of scientific inquiry, web 2.0 tools, interactive experiences, higher order thinking, collaborative projects, real world application through labs, and a variety of assessments all aid the student to ultimately demonstrate a vast understanding of the importance of the physical and chemical properties of the world around them. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Economics/Economics Honors (Fall/Spring)**

Economic decisions affect us every day. Understanding economics means thinking about how scarcity or limited resources requires us to make choices and evaluate one option against others. In this course, students begin to recognize examples of economics in their daily lives. Learners begin to understand how the economic choices of larger groups, like businesses and governments, affect them. As students' progress, they recognize that the costs and benefits of choices connect individuals and groups all around the world. The purpose of this course is to help learners become smart consumers who understand the flow of an economy between individuals, businesses, governments, and the rest of the world. Credit: (0.5)

**Personal Finance/Personal Finance with Dual Credit Option**

Understanding financial management concepts is an important life skill. From credit to insurance to taxes, it is imperative that students understand the consequences of choices. Studying how to wisely manage money, learners become citizens that are fiscally responsible. A thorough understanding of financial concepts, with practical application through activities and projects, enable learners to leave the course with applicable, useful skills for life. Instruction
surveys the basic personal financial needs of most individuals and emphasizes the fundamentals of budgeting, saving, checking, investments, credit, use of insurance, and paying and preparing income tax returns. Students taking this course are better prepared for their financial futures. In partnership with Nashville State Community College (NSCC), MNPS Virtual School also offers students the opportunity to earn college credit through the Dual-Credit exam for Personal Finance. A qualifying exam grade earns the student three (3) hours of college credit. Credit: (0.5)

United States History/United States History Honors (Fall/Spring)
The United States began as an experiment in freedom and democracy. Since its establishment, the country and its people have endured social, political, and economic revolutions. In this course, students investigate the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from the end of the Civil War through today. Further, learners are asked to analyze and evaluate complex decisions made by political, business, and military leaders. Emphasis is placed on connections between the events of the past and the present. Instruction also provides the opportunity to conduct research and apply learning to current, real-world challenges. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

United States Government/United States Government Honors
Responsible citizenship, including civil and political participation, is essential to maintaining a representative government that truly embodies the people of the United States. In this course, students learn about the structure of our government and how it shares power at the local, state, and federal levels. Instruction also explores founding principles that inspired the Constitution and Bill of Rights, preserving the freedoms that students experience daily. More, learners examine the processes of each branch of government, the election cycle, and how citizens can impact public policy. The media, interest groups, and influential citizens provide examples of how the government can be affected by informed and active participants. Students also examine the court system and become a part of the process by participating in judicial decision making. Finally, learners discover the ways in which the United States interacts with countries around the world through domestic, foreign, and human rights policy. Completion of this course allows the learner to act as an informed citizen who is ready to participate in the American democracy! Credit: (0.5)

World History/World History Honors (Fall/Spring)
How did we get to where we are today? Join Ali and Soo-jin, our modern time travelers, as they journey through World History to take you on an adventure to discover the interconnectedness of world events and eras. Grab your passport for the adventure of a lifetime. Students learn how the Roman Empire developed in two very distinct directions. Next, learners discover the great intellectual and cultural contributions of Islamic Empires. Journey through the Middle Ages of Europe and Japan to learn how knights and samurais lived. Then, students investigate the rise and fall of some of the great kingdoms of the Americas and Africa. Later, students travel back to the Europe of the Renaissance and Reformation era. Hang on tight before you dive into the Age of Discovery when eastern and western hemispheric encounters created some turbulent times. Scholars also study the advancements in science and thought during the Age of Enlightenment and the social and political revolutions that followed. As learners’ meander through the 19th century, they learn about the transformation from an agricultural to an industrial world and the many changes that resulted from that shift. Students then discover the interconnectedness of nationalism and colonialism and the two massive world wars that were the end result. As learners approach the finish line, they learn about developments in our modern world and the implications that historical events have on us today. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Latin I (Fall/Spring)
There is a reason that “all roads lead to Rome.” Maybe it is because Romans built much of the ancient world’s highway system? Maybe it is also because the Roman culture and Latin language laid the foundation for much of the Western
culture. In this course, students find out for themselves as they take their first steps on a lifelong journey of discovery. Learners improve their command of the English language by studying Latin. Students also gain a better understanding of today's laws and culture by getting into the mind of a Roman. Instruction provides a foundation in Latin grammar and vocabulary while also acquainting learners with Olympic gods and the everyday life of typical Romans. The course sets the student on a journey as big as their imagination with a passport to some of the world's most exciting and engaging places! **Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)**

**Latin II (Fall/Spring)**
History-changing battles, great poets and statesmen, classic art and architecture, and a language that was heard throughout most of the known world flies off the computer screen in Latin II. In Latin I, scholars read the opening credits of this epic movie. In Latin II, the plots and characters that populated ancient Rome come alive. In this course, students build upon their knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary. In the process, learners sense the beauty of the language and the passion of those who spoke it. Latin is a clear, expressive, and flexible language. Further, Latin supports other academic areas of study such as engineering, art, commerce as well as systems of law. **Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)**

**Spanish I (Fall/Spring)**
¡Bienvenidos! Welcome! In this course, students go on a trip to Spain, Cuba, Colombia, and Argentina! As learners explore each of these countries, students learn about each place and its unique characteristics. During those travels, students practice speaking Spanish in many practical and useful ways. Scholars learn how to greet people, make proper introductions, speak about home, family, school, and community. As students develop basic vocabulary and grammar skills, learners expand upon knowledge and learning to speak about more complex topics such as shopping, weather, sports, entertainment, and leisure activities. New words and phrases are introduced with pictures, audio clips, and guided examples. Learners further discover basic Spanish grammar in order to build fluency and understanding of the structure of the language. There are many opportunities to practice what is learned through interactive activities in the form of games, written practice, listening, and speaking exercises and all while exploring the cultures of Spain, Cuba, Colombia, and Argentina! **Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)**

**Spanish II (Fall/Spring)**
In Spanish II, students travel virtually through Central America and the Caribbean, spending time in museums, traffic jams, and even the hospital. In this course, students broaden their Spanish vocabulary and knowledge of grammar. Learners meet people from many different countries and cultures. While waiting for the plane ride home, students also meet some Spanish-speaking people from different parts of the United States. The purpose of instruction is to strengthen Spanish listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Learners also experience the beauty and expressiveness of a language that is shared by different people and cultures throughout the world. **Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)**

**LIFETIME WELLNESS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Lifetime Wellness (Fall) with Physical Education I**
In Lifetime Wellness Fall with Physical Education I, students experience first-hand the many benefits of regular physical activity, proper nutrition, and sound decision making. With a focus on health and fitness, this course guides students to be active and healthy—now and for a lifetime. Effective strategies and techniques are a foundation of instruction so that students can continually make improvements in all areas of wellness. Learners, with the guidance of a training instructor, set personal goals in four areas of wellness: physical, emotional, social, and academic. Fitness assessments also enable students to establish baseline levels of fitness and work toward improvement in specific areas. At the end of each module, students submit a wellness plan documenting their daily physical activity, progress toward established baseline goals, changes in fitness assessment results, and reflections on personal progress. **Credit: (1.0)**

**Lifetime Wellness (Spring) with Lifetime Activities**
In Lifetime Wellness Spring with Lifetime Activities, students continue their studies from the
preceding course experiencing first-hand the many benefits of regular physical activity, proper nutrition, and sound decision-making. Learners continue assess their current physical condition and defined personal goals. Learners further apply fitness-training principles to workouts improving health-related and skill-related areas. Special Note: As part of this course, students are required to attend and successfully complete, independently, an in-person adult Heart Saver Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation course. Further, students must provide verification in the form of a card or certificate. Learners should begin planning for the CPR class early as it takes time to enroll, attend, and receive verification of completion. Credit: (1.0)

FINE ARTS

Art History & Criticism (Fall & Spring)
In Art History students examine the political, cultural, and religious changes throughout history that are depicted within art. This course is an opportunity for students to reflect on how art was and is used as a vehicle to communicate, depict political and religious propaganda, and serve as evidence of cultural shifts and changes. Students are challenged to contemplate the connection between art and context through reflective writing assessments and discussion-based assessments. Learners build upon knowledge throughout the course and examine how art reflects and communicates cultural change and evolution. Students develop the critical skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation by analyzing historical documents, working in a thematic context, developing proficiency in note-taking, free-response writing, and solving problems. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

General Music (Fall & Spring)
Music is part of students' everyday life. In this course, they learn how to understand the impact of music as well as how it represents the culture it was created within and reflects the spirit of the human condition. Students learn to know and understand music by being able to distinguish and identify cultures on both local and global levels. Students meet musicians and composers and learn how their music continues to influence what is listened to today. In this course, students gain a historical perspective of music, covering a variety of styles and developments from the Middle Ages through the 21st century. In their musical journey, students acquire basic understanding and knowledge of singing, listening, and playing instruments. Partnering those skills with an understanding of music composition and improvisation will make future music experiences more informed and satisfying. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM OF STUDY

MNPS Virtual School is excited to offer students the opportunity to take advantage of Advanced Placement courses, online, and even offers an Advanced Placement program of study for full-time attendees. Students earn college credit and advanced placement, stand out in the admission process, and learn from some of the most skilled, dedicated, and inspiring teacher-scholars. Enrollment in AP courses is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. All students are expected to take the AP exam. Complete course descriptions are included herewith.

AP English Literature & Composition (Fall/Spring)
AP English Literature and Composition engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, learners deepen their understanding of the way’s writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As learners read, students consider a work’s structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Special Note: Three sequential levels of high school English are required to enroll in AP Literature & Composition. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

AP Psychology (Fall/Spring)
AP Psychology is the equivalent of an introductory college course in psychology, which provides an overview of current research methods and theories in the field. Psychology is a diverse social and biological science with multiple perspectives and interpretations. The goal of this course is to immerse students in modern psychological investigation techniques, to accentuate the ethics and morality of human and animal research, and to emphasize
scientific critical thinking skills in application to the social sciences. **Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)**

**AP United States Government (Fall/Spring)**

Students investigate key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study the structure of the Constitution throughout the course, as well as its implications for the functioning of government today. Other foundational documents, landmark Supreme Court cases, and opportunities for research and civic action are key elements in this rich course that prepares students to be informed and active participants in U.S. society. **Credit: (FALL/SPRING 0.5)**

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**VIRTUAL ACADEMY OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY Course Catalog & Descriptions**

Since 2006, in partnership with business, civil, and post-secondary engagement, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools redesign high schools into smaller learning communities collectively known as The Academies of Nashville. In 2013, MNPS Virtual School announced the opening of a “Virtual Academy.” Full-time students enroll in The Virtual Academy of Business & Technology and complete a focused area of study in either business management or web-design. The Virtual Academy of Business & Technology enables students to learn through the lens of a career or academic theme in a highly personalized virtual learning community. Through the Virtual Academy, students are exposed to a multitude of career opportunities, industry skills, and potential employers by way of guest speakers, site visits, job shadowing, and internships. While the Virtual Academy’s offerings are designed for our full-timers, part-timers may also enroll on a first-come, first-served basis. Presented herewith is a listing of offerings for the upcoming school year.

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The business management program of studies prepares students for a career in planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive organizational operations. Career opportunities are available in every sector of the economy and require specific skills in organization, time management, customer service and communication. The business management and administration services industry, one of the highest paying industries, is projected to be one of the fastest growing through the year 2020. To learn more about specific courses, within the noted program of study, review the subsequence course titles and descriptions presented herewith.

**Introduction to Business & Marketing (Fall/Spring)**

Introduction to Business & Marketing prepares students for the growing complexities of the business world examining basic principles of business, marketing, and finance in addition to exploring key aspects of leadership, ethical and social responsibilities, and careers. Students’ academic skills in communications, mathematics, and economics are also reinforced with activities modeled within the context of business and marketing. Upon completion of the course, students are equipped with the foundational skills needed to succeed in business and beyond! **Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)**

**Business Communications (Fall/Spring)**

Business Communications is a course designed to develop students’ effective oral and electronic business communications skills. This course develops skills in multiple methods of communications, including social media, as well as electronic publishing, design, layout, composition, and video conferencing. Upon completion of this course, proficient students will be able to demonstrate successful styles and methods for professional business
communications using the proper tools to deliver effective publications and presentations. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

Business Management (Fall/Spring)
Business Management focuses on the development of the planning, organizing, leading, and controlling functions required for the production and delivery of goods and services. This applied knowledge course addresses the management role of utilizing the businesses’ resources of employees, equipment, and capital to achieve an organization’s goals. Students will participate in a continuing project throughout the course in which, individually or in teams, they will present recommendations to improve an existing business. Local business partnerships are encouraged to provide resources for faculty and students. Upon completion of this course, proficient students will be able to complete a full review of an existing business and offer recommendations for improvement as would a management consultant. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

WEB DESIGN PROGRAM OF STUDY

The web design program of study is shaped for students interested in designing and creating websites. Students develop fundamental skills in both theory and practical application of the basic web design and development process, project management and teamwork, troubleshooting and problem solving, and interpersonal skill development. Emphasis is placed on applying the design process toward projects of increasing sophistication, culminating in the production of a functional, static web site. As learners’ work toward this goal, they acquire key skills in coding, project management, basic troubleshooting and validation, and content development and analysis. Upon completion of this pathway, students are prepared for more advanced studies in web design. To learn more about specific courses, within the noted program of study, review the subsequence course titles and descriptions presented herewith.

Computer Science Foundations (Fall/Spring)
Computer Science Foundations is a course intended to provide students with exposure to various information technology occupations and pathways such as networking systems, coding, and web design. Upon completion of this course, scholars can describe various computer science occupations and professional organizations. Moreover, learners can demonstrate logical thought processes and discuss the social, legal, and ethical issues encountered in the computer science profession. Students further demonstrate an understanding of electronics and basic digital theory; project management and teamwork; client relations; causes and prevention of Internet security breaches; and writing styles appropriate for web publication. Finally, upon completion of Computer Science Foundations, students are prepared to make an informed decision about which computer science career to pursue. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

Web Design Foundations (Fall/Spring)
This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the essentials of web site design. From creating page layouts to coding, students create a complete website from scratch. Through real-world design scenarios and hands-on projects, learners build compelling, usable web sites using HTML, CSS, and basic graphic/image editing. Learners exit the course with a foundation in web design. Special Note: Computer Science Foundations is a prerequisite to Web Design Foundations. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

Web Site Development (Fall/Spring)
Web Site Development builds on the skills and knowledge gained in Web Design Foundations to further prepare students for success in the web design and development fields. Emphasis is placed on applying the design process toward projects of increasing sophistication, culminating in the production of a functional, static website. As students work toward this goal, learners acquire key skills in coding, project management, basic troubleshooting and validation, and content development and analysis. Artifacts of the work completed in this course are logged in a student portfolio. Upon
completion of this course, scholars are prepared to pursue a variety of postsecondary programs in the computer sciences. Special Note: Computer Science Foundations as well as Web Design Foundations is a prerequisite to Web Site Development. Credit: (FALL 0.5/ SPRING 0.5)

MIDDLE SCHOOL Course Catalog & Descriptions

MNPS Virtual School is excited to offer full-time and part-time enrollment options for middle school students. Under the instruction of a highly-qualified MNPS teacher-scholar, eligible sixth (6th), seventh (7th), and eighth (8th) graders enroll in v-English Language Arts, v-Mathematics, v-Social Studies, and v-Comprehensive Science. Additionally, students enroll in middle school related art options. Our middle school option provides a seamless pathway to high school enrollment and graduation from MNPS Virtual School. For informational purposes, detailed course descriptions are included herewith.

MATHEMATICS

6th Grade Mathematics/6th Grade Mathematics Honors (Segment I & II)

This course is designed to engage students at every turn. Students have opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of number manipulation by applying it to real-world scenarios. The course is packed with engaging activities that reinforce and let students practice the skills they learn throughout the course. Interactive learning and innovative videos keep the students engaged throughout.

The instruction in this course focuses on four critical areas of math: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole-number multiplication and division, and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems, (2) completing an understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers, (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations, as well as (4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking.

Instruction in the honors option focuses on two extra critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; and (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations.

7th Grade Mathematics/7th Grade Mathematics Honors (Segment I & II)

Do your parents like to start dinner with “What did you learn in school today?” Imagine being able to answer your parents’ dinnertime question with “I learned about transformations of shapes by sliding, flipping, rotating, and enlarging them on the coordinate plane. I compared my drawings with my friend’s drawings and listed the difference.” How surprised would your parents be to know that you answered this way by attending an interactive, online course for seventh (7th) graders at MNPS Virtual School?

Mathematics provides learners plenty of opportunities to create, investigate, and demonstrate knowledge at both the intermediate and advanced levels. Encountering animations, applications, videos, games, and real-world scenarios, learners may think this course is the latest video game. Students should get a seat belt, buckle in, and get ready to dive into learning for the time of their lives!

8th Grade Mathematics/8th Grade Mathematics Honors (Segment I & II)

Do you like to surf the net and play video games? Get ready to find this same intrigue and fun when you log into 8th Grade Mathematics. Encountering animations, applications, videos, games, and real-world scenarios, students may mistake the course as the latest video game. But no! It’s a MNPS Virtual School course! Students will love this hands-on math option. Truthfully, this course could easily become your favorite class ever! Students gain satisfaction in knowing they truly understand higher-level concepts such as systems of equations and central tendencies.
LANGUAGE ARTS

6th Grade Language Arts/6th Grade Language Arts Honors (Segment I & II)
Using a motif of heroes, helpers, and hope, students in the 6th Grade Language Arts class acquire the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in college, career, and beyond. Students become critical readers and thinkers delving into fiction and informational texts within the course. Students also learn to effectively write narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces and present ideas clearly and cohesively.

7th Grade Language Arts/7th Grade Language Arts Honors (Segment I & II)
Using a motif of mystery, monsters, and mayhem, students in the 7th Grade Language Arts class acquire the reading, writing, language, and speaking/listening skills necessary for success in college, career, and beyond. Students become critical readers and thinkers delving into fiction and informational texts within the course. Students also learn to effectively write narrative, informational, and argumentative pieces and present ideas clearly and cohesively.

8th Grade Language Arts/8th Grade Language Arts Honors (Segment I & II)
Maybe change would not be hard if we knew where it was all going. This course is not about telling fortunes, but it is about seeing how people and ideas have changed over time. The course is also about discovering which ideas have lasting value for each student.

Books, poems, and songs are filled with stories about people discovering the world around them and the world inside them. Authors share their reflections about how people respond to changes and challenges. In this course, students encounter the many faces of change. Learners are challenged to define and describe their own place in a changing world.

The purpose of this course is to give students the tools to understand and express who they are and where they want to go in life. By the end of the course, each student’s portfolio of writings will provide a descriptive self-portrait of a young adult’s inner workings.

SCIENCES

6th Grade Comprehensive Science (Segment I & II)
This course is the first in a series of three consecutive middle school science classes. The course introduces the disciplines of life science, physical science, and earth-space science. In addition, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts are integrated throughout the course. The lessons make real-world connections and require students to apply STEM skills like analysis, problem solving, science knowledge, and engineering practices. Hands-on and virtual laboratory investigations are included throughout the course to provide students opportunities for exploration through scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, and experimental procedures. By the end of the course, students will be practicing, experimenting, thinking, and talking like a scientist!

7th Grade Comprehensive Science (Segment I & II)
In this course, students explore the following: the disciplines of life science, physical science, and earth-space science. In addition, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts are integrated throughout the course. Learners further participate in activities and online laboratory experiences to apply what they learn.

8th Grade Comprehensive Science (Segment I & II)
Comprehensive Science introduces new information and reviews some basics of science to prepare students for high school science coursework. Topics covered include the following: (1) the disciplines of life science, (2) physical science, and (3) earth-space science. In addition, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts are integrated throughout the course. Students learn about properties of matter, physical and chemical changes, atoms and the periodic table of elements, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, the universe, and the solar system. Hands-on and
virtual laboratory investigations are included throughout the course to provide students opportunities for exploration through scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, and experimental procedures. By the end of the course, students will be practicing, experimenting, thinking, and talking like a scientist!

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**6th Grade Social Studies (Segment I & II)**

Somebody discovered the wheel. Somebody discovered written communication. Somebody even figured out how to count to ten. From the ancient river civilizations to China and its ancient dynasties, different civilizations left their mark on history. They also left their mark on how we live today. In this course, students join travel agent Mr. Lightfoot to travel back in time digging out the past of these ancient civilizations.

In ancient Egypt students visit the pyramids and find out the secrets of preserving mummies. They see how the Mayans developed astronomy to a precise science. They even investigate the difference between the Athenians and the Spartans. Students will journey through India discovering their contributions to medicine, moving on to Africa to follow the rise and fall of the ancient east African kingdoms of Kush and Axum. Throughout the centuries, and still today, our world is made up of dozens of different cultures. They all are different, and they all have made big contributions to what we know and who we are.

**7th Grade Social Studies (Segment I & II)**

In this course, students explore the social, cultural, geographical, political, and technological changes that occurred after the fall of the Roman Empire and in Medieval Europe. Students examine the period from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century, including the Islamic world, Africa, China, and Japan, but with a heavier emphasis on western civilization in Europe during the Renaissance and Reformation. Students also compare and contrast the history and geography of civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout these continents during medieval times. Learners examine the growth in economic interactions among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. Students further study the spread of Enlightenment philosophies and the examination of new concepts of reasoning toward religion, government, and science. Studies conclude with an examination of the Meso-American and Andean civilizations, and the age of European explorations.

**8th Grade Social Studies (Segment I & II)**

Learning about history allows individuals to examine how far we have come and what awaits us on our future path. In this course, students explore the history of the United States and analyze the cause and effect of historical events. Learners investigate history by using the tools of a historian to examine the geographic, political, economic, and sociological events that influenced the development of the United States. Scholars imagine what it was like living in the past by reading stories from the people who experienced it. This course begins with the engaging stories of what brought the earliest American colonists to the New World and ends with the struggles to repair the United States following the Civil War. Engaging in this study allows students to identify the themes of history that span across centuries and leads to a greater appreciation of the development of the United States and its resulting impact on world history.

**RELATED ARTS**

**6th Grade Comprehensive Physical Education**

Students who want to be fit but do not know where to start are invited to join a diverse group of virtual classmates who help with exploring and understanding fitness and health. With the support of these virtual friends, students determine current personal fitness levels and learn to improve those levels. Scholars also study safety rules for exercise, how to create equipment from household items, how different activities target different body parts, how to set and reach a goal, and sportsmanship. Students keep a log of physical fitness activities while exploring topics that include diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices. Coach Cardio helps measure growing fitness levels while learners complete their projects. Each project in the course leads to
improved understanding of personal skills and the environments in which activities are played.

### 7th Grade Comprehensive Physical Education

Each community is full of fitness opportunities that enable students to achieve new levels of fitness through sports, dance, aquatics, and more! This course provides a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values students need to develop a physically active lifestyle. A friendly cast of course characters help guide and enhance each student’s experience. Knowledge about safety rules for exercise, how to improve sport skills, how different activities target different body parts, and how to set and a goal are all part of the learning experience.

Activity choices are plentiful, leading to a healthy and physically lifestyle. The Presidential Fitness Challenge is also introduced, and students are encouraged to perform their best with a chance to earn the Presidential Fitness award. Students further keep a log of physical fitness activities while they explore topics such as diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices. A few projects deepen students’ understanding of individual health and skill-related fitness.

### 8th Grade Comprehensive Physical Education

Team sports, extreme sports, and outdoor sports are among the types of activities students learn about and participate in during this course! This interactive, highly animated class helps scholars learn safety rules for exercise, how to improve skills, and how to establish and accomplish goals. The course also provides an overview of many dual, team, extreme, and outdoor sports. Students have the opportunity to earn a national award by participating in the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Practicing game strategy to improve the chance of winning in competition, improving sport skill and performance, diversity in sports, nutrition, peer pressure, and making good choices balance out the topic’s students discover in this course. Fitness logs help students monitor physical activities. Finally, learners’ complete projects that lead to the knowledge, skills, and values they need to implement and maintain a physically active lifestyle.

### Art 2D

Where do super heroes come from? They live in the action-filled pages of comic books. Who gives them their super powers? It is the creative artist who puts energy and excitement into every drawing. You too can create your own super heroes and discover the power you hold in your pencil.

Using the tools, tricks and techniques of professional artists, students create people and objects that leap off the page. Learners start with a sketchbook and put down ideas and impressions. Students develop those ideas by using lines, colors, composition, and perspective. Learners finish with a collection of original artworks that tells the story their way. In this course, students experience the creative processes used by all artists. Students learn how to analyze, interpret, and evaluate art. Most of all learners have a portfolio of work that demonstrates skill and creativity as an artist. Special Note: Students need access to a scanner or a digital camera for submitting work for this course. In addition, learners need access to basic art supplies.

### Middle School Spanish

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Spanish language and the richness of its diverse cultures. In the Middle School Spanish course, you will learn beginning grammar and vocabulary skills to help build basic fluency and language proficiency. You will explore the culture of Spanish-speaking countries through engaging interactive games, videos, and audio recordings and apply what you learn through written practice, listening, and speaking exercises.
MNPS Virtual School is excited to offer full-time and part-time enrollment options for elementary school students. Under the instruction of a highly-qualified MNPS teacher-scholar, eligible fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) graders enroll in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Additionally, students enroll in elementary school related arts options. Our elementary school option provides a seamless pathway to middle, and high school enrollment and graduation from MNPS Virtual School. For informational purposes, detailed course descriptions are included herewith.

MATHEMATICS

4th Grade Mathematics (Segment I & II)
Are you a problem solver? Don’t just learn math—use it! In this course, students will have plenty of opportunities to use their math strategies. They will use equivalent fractions to crack secret codes, master multiplication facts to help find the Golden Math Statue, and use decimals to help friends at their big track meet. Math is everywhere!

In 4th grade math, students will add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit whole numbers. The course provides the opportunity for students to develop an understanding of adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions by whole numbers. Analyzing and classifying shapes is another focus of the course. Other engaging activities include learning about data/line plots, decimals, and measurement.

5th Grade Mathematics (Segment I & II)
Do you like video games? Where can math skills take you? In this course, they’ll take students to the Arctic circle where they will use division skills to help Billy navigate. Then, students will go inside a video game to build 3-D shapes using what they know about area and volume. Students will also visit a science fair to help their friend Saul organize his data. What other math adventures await?

In 5th grade math, students will add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions. The course also provides the opportunity for students to develop an understanding of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. Volume concepts is another focus of the course. Other engaging activities include learning about data, graphing, and classifying shapes.

LANGUAGE ARTS

4th Grade English Language Arts (Segment I & II)
Are you ready for an adventure? Grab your bags and passport and prepare for a virtual adventure! In this course, students will explore the world of reading and writing as they learn skills in spelling, word construction, grammar, cursive writing, and more. They’ll also use graphic organizers, videos, and assignments to practice opinion, narrative, and informative writing. Through engaging stories, games, and activities, students will investigate animals in the rainforest, solve a mystery using context clues, and travel around the world while writing in their Interactive Notebooks.

In 4th grade Language Arts, students will engage in a variety of topics as they explore the world of reading and writing. Students will put their skills to work as they learn all about word construction, cursive writing, spelling, context clues, vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar, and the writing process. They will write narratives, informational, and opinion essays. In this course, students will participate in engaging lessons that include interactives, informational and literature texts, graphic organizers, videos, and various practice activities. Topics vary from women in space to fairy tales and myths. Students will have the opportunity to investigate animals in the jungle, solve a mystery using context clues, and travel around the world in this rainforest-themed course.

5th Grade English Language Arts (Segment I & II)
We hope you enjoy exploration! Take a virtual cross-country road trip around the U.S. In this course, students will explore the world of reading and writing as they learn skills in spelling, word construction, grammar, cursive writing, and more. They’ll also use graphic organizers, videos, and assignments to practice opinion, narrative, and informative writing.
From matching games in the Big Apple to picturesque waterfalls in Hawaii, students will have plenty of adventures to share as they strengthen their writing skills from sea to shining sea.

In 5th grade Language Arts, students will engage in a variety of topics as they explore the world of reading and writing. Students will put their skills to work as they learn all about word construction, cursive writing, spelling, context clues, vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar, and the writing process. They will write narratives, informational, and opinion essays. In this course, students will participate in engaging lessons that include interactives, informational and literature texts, graphic organizers, videos, and various practice activities. Topics vary from trains and tractors to adventure stories about gold to novels about superheroes. Students will embark on a learning adventure from state to state in this “Road Trip Across the United States" themed course.

**SCIENCES**

**4th Grade Science (Segment I & II)**

Want to make a difference on Earth? Get hands-on learning about environmental impacts, energy, magnetism, and even octopus suckers! In this course, students won’t just learn about science, they’ll see it in action! Through problem solving, experimentation, creating models, and analyzing and interpreting data, students will explore the world of science like never before.

The 4th grade Science course is an intermediate course with concepts across many types of sciences including Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. Through defining problems, conducting investigations, using the scientific method, and using evidence, students will learn about properties of and changes in matter, mixtures, atoms, energy, force and motion, forms of energy, the solar system and galaxies, the water cycle, weather and climate, adaptations, the human body organs and functions, and organism structure, function, and comparison.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**4th Grade Social Studies (Segment I & II)**

Do you love games? This is your chance to create your own! Throughout this course, students will travel and collect game cards to uncover people, places, and events in their state. Through videos and games, students will also explore their own backyard while learning how to manage money like setting up a lemonade stand or how to create a savings plan to make those travel dreams a reality.

In 4th grade Social Studies, students explore the important people, places, and events that shaped the state in which they live. Students develop a firm understanding of important concepts and skills related to history, geography, economics, and citizenship.

**5th Grade Social Studies (Segment I & II)**

Pack your virtual suitcase and travel the world using maps and resources as a guide. Set sail across the Atlantic, watch Memory Moments videos highlighting American history events, use the In Other Words feature to understand primary sources, and solve real-world problems such as choosing where to set up a pet-friendly hurricane shelter. By the end of this course, students will create an entire scrapbook highlighting their favorite memories from the journey.

In 5th grade Social Studies, students focus on American history through 1850 from Native Americans through exploration, colonization, and early-American history. Students develop a firm understanding of important concepts and skills related to history, geography, economics, and citizenship.
understanding of important concepts and skills related to history, geography, economics, and citizenship.

**RELATED ARTS**

**4th Grade Physical Education (Segment I & II)**

Pump it up! Throughout this course, students will develop skills in how to throw, catch, kick, strike, dance, swim, and do basic gymnastics. Learn stretches, develop workout plans, gain sportsmanship, and create manageable fitness goals. Lift more, stretch farther, and get your heart racing faster to feel the burn as you hit your 60 minutes a day of fitness.

In the 4th Grade Physical Education course, students will advance their motor skills in how to throw, catch, kick, strike, dance, swim, and do gymnastics. They will learn components of fitness such as flexibility, strength training, cardiovascular health, and nutrition. Students will create manageable goals and develop teamwork and sportsmanship. They will improve their skills through practice and learn the importance of creating a healthy lifestyle through fitness and nutrition.

**5th Grade Physical Education (Segment I & II)**

Turn up the intensity! Dive into this course and learn how to throw, catch, kick, strike, dance, swim, and do basic gymnastics. Amp up the cardio and gain tips on a healthy diet. Develop teamwork and sportsmanship while striving for 60 minutes of daily activity. Using videos and demonstrations, students will discover ways to jump-start their fitness through drills, games, and activities to meet their goals and improve their skills.

In the 5th Grade Physical Education course, students will learn more complex motor skills through throwing, catching, kicking, striking, dancing, swimming, and gymnastics. Students will get creative using new ways to improve their skills and meet their fitness goals. They will understand the importance of overall wellness through creating meal plans and workouts and staying positive by exhibiting teamwork and sportsmanship. This course will also discuss how students can use technology to track their fitness.

**4th Grade Art (Segment I & II)**

Explore the Lascaux Caves in France or lacemaking and street art in Brazil! From Impressionism to Pop Art, students will learn about many styles of art and how to appreciate artists in their own community. By creating works of art inspired by Andy Warhol and Frank Stella, students will build their art techniques by practicing rhythm, pattern, symmetry, and other Principles of Design.

In 4th grade Art, students will explore many styles of art in their own community and around the world. Students will learn about the elements of art like line, space, color, shape, value, form, and texture. Through interactive practices, videos, and offline activities, students will build upon their art techniques by practicing rhythm, pattern, symmetry, and other principles of design.

**5th Grade Art (Segment I & II)**

Discover how optical illusions trick your eye with their artworks! No matter what a student’s interest—painting, pottery, glassblowing, sculpting, or graphic design, this course introduces students to all types of careers in the artistic field. Students will build on their art techniques, learn the art of critique, and travel across the world to explore how language and music influence art in different countries.

In addition to the learning about the elements of art like line, space, color, shape, value, form, and texture, this course introduces students to all types of careers in art fields.

**4th Grade Spanish (Segment I & II)**

In this course, students will be introduced to the Spanish language and culture through vocabulary, songs, stories, videos, and more. Along the journey, students will meet the famous Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and learn the story of Araña Pequeñita. They will also record and listen to themselves speaking new words in Spanish.

The Elementary Spanish Level Four course goes deeper into learning the Spanish language. Students will build their Spanish vocabulary and learn grammar rules that apply to the target language. They will explore countries in South America, along with their cultures and traditions. Students will learn about seasons and how seasons are opposite in Patagonia. They will be engaged in learning the
Spanish culture and language through interactive games and activities.

5th Grade Spanish
(Segment I & II)
In this course, students will be introduced to the Spanish language and culture through vocabulary, songs, stories, videos, and more. Along the journey, students will meet the famous Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and learn the story of Araña Pequeñita. They will also record and listen to themselves speaking new words in Spanish.

The Elementary Spanish Level Five course takes students on a journey to countries in Central America. Students will be immersed in the Central American culture and language. Students will dive deeper into grammar rules that apply in the target language. They will learn to write simple sentences in Spanish. Students will enjoy learning the language through interactive games and activities.