



COTTER SCHOOLS

**Academic Course Catalog
2010-2011**

**Cotter High School
Grades 9-12**

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MISSION STATEMENT

Cotter is a diverse Catholic school community of faith, scholarship, and service.

PHILOSOPHY

Cotter High School is a faith-based Catholic community dedicated to the teaching and living of Christian values in order to develop the whole person. To these ends, we stress three fundamental aspects of education: spirituality, academics, and student life.

We strive to be a spiritually vibrant Catholic community confident in our faith while embracing people of diverse beliefs. Ethically, we are grounded in the values of honesty, respect for God, for others, and for ourselves. Our community emphasizes personal and social responsibility as essential to Christian life.

We also seek to provide an interdisciplinary, well-balanced liberal arts education integrating the arts, humanities, and sciences. We foster an open atmosphere conducive to academic inquiry, the pursuit of knowledge, and personal growth. To these ends we use technology, as a means of helping students become critical thinkers and life-long learners in a global society.

Finally, we are committed to student life. We firmly believe the activities we offer encourage students to build adult relationships and become whole persons by teaching them the value and rewards of commitment and effort. Our activities are designed to help students learn what it takes to succeed in life by setting goals, personally as well as collectively, and by encouraging each student to reach her or his individual level of excellence.

Spirituality, academics, and student life comprise the foundation of our school community. It is our goal that our students develop a strong sense of family and community, recognizing that as important as the individual is, she or he still is part of something much larger than the self.

COTTER ACADEMIC PRINCIPLES

In addition to the basic graduation requirements, Cotter graduates will have demonstrated academic work and competency in the following areas by the time of graduation:

- participating in a faith-centered learning community and understanding fundamentals of the Catholic faith
- reading, viewing and listening to complex information in the English language
- writing and speaking effectively in the English language
- developing and interpreting artistic pursuits and expressions
- solving problems by applying mathematics principles
- researching, evaluating, communicating and using information
- understanding and applying scientific principles, concepts and methods
- understanding interactions and relationships among people and cultures
- using information to make informed decisions
- learning and communicating in a language other than English
- learning about and using technology efficiently and appropriate

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A. To be eligible for a diploma from Cotter High School, each student must complete the required twenty-four (24) credits of academic studies and eighty (80) hours of Community Service. See Program Scheduling and listings under each department for specific courses required for graduation.

English	4.0 Credits
Health/Physical Education	1.0 Credit
Mathematics	3.0 Credits
Religion	4.0 Credits
Social Studies	3.5 Credits
Science	3.0 Credits
*World Language	2.0 Credits
Visual & Performing Arts	1.0 Credit
Electives	2.0 Credits or more
Community Service	80 hours (10 hours per semester)
TOTAL	24 CREDITS
+ Freshman Seminar	1.0 Credit (beginning with the class of 2014)

B. All students must pass the required Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in Reading, Written Composition, and Mathematics. Parents with concern are encouraged to meet with Dave Forney, Counselor, regarding a “variance and/or exemption.”

* For students in Learning Center, World Language may be delayed until junior and senior year. With a current documented language disability, a written request from the parent to waive the World language requirement is required for consideration.

PROGRAM SCHEDULING

Freshman Program	(2014)	Sophomore Program	(2013)
• English	1.0 Credit	• Biology	1.0 Credit
• Freshman Seminar	1.0 Credit	• English	1.0 Credit
• Hebrew Scriptures	1.0 Credit	• Health Education/Physical Education	1.0 Credit
• Mathematics	1.0 Credit	• Mathematics	1.0 Credit
• Physical Science	1.0 Credit	• New Testament/Christian Soc. Justice	1.0 Credit
• Visual/Performing Art	1.0 Credit	• World Geography	0.5 Credit
• World Civilization	1.0 Credit	• World Language	1.0 Credit
• World Language	1.0 Credit	• Elective - required	0.5 Credit
• Community Service	20 Hours	• Electives – optional	1.0 Credit
		• Community Service	20 Hours

Junior Program	(2012)
• Chemistry (either 11th or 12th grade)	1.0 Credit
• Christian Morality/Religion Elective	1.0 Credit
• English	1.0 Credit
• Mathematics	1.0 Credit
• Physical Ed (either 11th or 12th grade)	0.5 Credit
• U.S. History	1.0 Credit
• Electives - required	1.5 Credits
• Electives – optional	1.0 Credit
• Community Service	20 Hours

Senior Program	(2011)
• Adult Christianity/Religion Elective	1.0 Credit
• Economics/Political Science	1.0 Credit
• English	1.0 Credit
• Electives- required	4.0 Credits
• Elective – optional	1.0 Credit
• Community Service	20 Hours
* Physical Education	
* .5 credit in an in-house Physical Education course is required for the classes of 2013. The classes of 2011 and 2012 may take either a class in Physical Education or be grandfathered in under the past policy. See the section on Physical Education for details.	

Schedule Changes: If students wish to change the courses for which they have registered, they should discuss the change with their counselor prior to the beginning of the semester. Students that are not in town to make changes may do so by email. Once the semester has begun, elective courses may be dropped or added, if space is available, during the first 2 days of the semester with the payment of a \$5.00 late fee. Incoming students who are placed in a level of Math or English that is deemed to be the incorrect level may be adjusted beyond that time based on teacher recommendation.

Dropping a Class: If students wish to drop a semester or year long elective course, they may do so up until the time of the first progress report (mid-quarter) as long as they are carrying 7 classes after the class is dropped. No class may be added. Beyond this time, an academic penalty will result and the student will not be eligible for the honor roll.

On-line courses and Make-up courses: Students are initially required to take their required courses at Cotter. If a student fails a required course, the student may repeat the course by taking an on-line course or enrolling at the Winona Area Learning Center for summer school. Elective courses may also be taken on-line through an approved online program. The counselors have information on how to apply for these programs.

Academic Honors Points: Students receive honor points for the grades they earn based on a 4.0 scale. An A = 4 points, A- =3.66, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.00, etc. The sum of these points divided by the number of credits earned determines the student's grade point average and class rank. Students enrolled in Honors H and Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses will receive an additional .33 honor point per 1.0 credit earned towards his/her GPA upon successful completion of the course.

College credit: Students may take advanced courses through a variety of programs that, upon successful completion, have potential to earn college credit. These include **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses held at Cotter, **Programs for Advanced College Credit (PACC)** in conjunction with Saint Mary's University of Minnesota that are also held at Cotter, retroactive credit for world language through freshman college placement testing, and the **College Level Examination Program (CLEP)**. **Post-Secondary Education Option (PSEO)** program is also an option for juniors and seniors who meet the eligibility requirements that are specific to each college. PSEO courses may be taken on a part-time basis; enrollment in a minimum of four courses at Cotter is required. Application for PSEO for the fall semester at Saint Mary's University or Winona State University should be completed before the end of January. MN State SE Technical applications for fall should be completed by May.

THE COUNSELING CENTER

Students are assigned alphabetically for academic advising and college planning.

(A-J) Sue O'Brien – Director of Counseling Services, 453-5000 Ext.5028, sobrien@cotterschools.org

(K-O) Linda Skwierawski – Counselor, 453-5000 Ext. 5023, lskwiera@cotterschools.org

(P-Z) Dave Forney – Counselor, 453-5000 Ext. 5011, dforney@cotterschools.org

For personal concerns, students may see the counselor of their choice by obtaining a pass from the Counseling Department administrative assistant, Deb Lisowski.

COTTER HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

ENGLISH

Department Director: Michael Costello (507-453-5000 Ext. 5103 or mcostell@cotterschools.org)

The focus of the English curriculum is learning effective communication through the development of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Through the study of literature, students strengthen critical thinking skills, employ collaborative learning, command a variety of writing styles, and improve their proficiency as oral presenters. Furthermore, the study of language and literature encourages the development of Christian values.

Required Credits for Graduation-4

English 9, ESL, or Transitional English	1 Credit
English10, ESL, or Transitional English	1 Credit
Research Writing/Am. Lit., AP Lang/Comp., or Transitional English	1 Credit
Lit. & Comp. or AP Lit. & Comp.	1 Credit

Transitional English (replaces English)

(Grades 9-11) Year 1 Credit

This course provides transition for those students moving from the English as Second Language program to the grade level English classes. English for international students focuses specifically on addressing the unique writing needs and developing the composition skills of students for whom English is not their native language. In addition, this course strengthens the necessary reading comprehension skills and understanding of literary terms required in grade level English classes. English Language Learners who arrive with an internet-based TOEFL score between 54-80 are automatically placed in our transitional English class. Credits earned in ESL classes will be applied toward English credits for graduation.

English 9 - Required

(Grade 9) Year 1 Credit

This course will emphasize developing and extending skills in critical thinking, writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Throughout the year, students will be engaged in the four basic types of writing: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive. Literature study of novels, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction will include review of significant literary elements. Romeo and Juliet provides an introduction to Shakespearean dramas. Night by Elie Wiesel uses the memoir form to focus on the Holocaust experience. In addition, students will research, write and deliver a persuasive speech; this project will introduce research writing and citing sources in MLA format.

English 10 - Required

(Grade 10) Year 1 Credit

This course refines the composition and communication skills taught in English 9. Various types of compositions are stressed as students continue to hone skills in prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Students participate in the study of two novels: Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird and Albert Camus's The Stranger. Additional highlights in the sophomore English curriculum include units in drama, poetry, short story, and non-fiction. One quarter will be devoted to speech and oral interpretation; each student will be expected to deliver a minimum of three speeches.

English 11 - Required

(Grade 11) Year 1 Credit

This course is an introduction to both academic forms of writing and the world of ideas present in the literary tradition of the United States. In the first semester students will discover early themes and writing styles of some America's greatest writers, including Poe, Hawthorne, Thoreau, and Dickinson. Writings include the various forms of expository and argumentative writing that culminate in the composition of a documented research paper. Semester two consists of a thematic exploration of modern American literature as well as a thematic exploration of the seminal concepts unique to the American experience. Students will discover the prose and poetic themes of some of America's outstanding authors including Fitzgerald, Porter, Whitman, Faulkner, Wright, and Steinbeck.

language tools necessary for academic success while also reinforcing their social and conversational language proficiency. All new ELLs without an internet based TOEFL score will be assessed at the beginning of the school year in the areas of reading, writing and oral language to determine the best placement for each student. Student placement throughout the school year is based on this initial assessment and ongoing teacher evaluation. New ELLs who have taken the TOEFL and who have a total minimum score of 80 may be placed in a grade level English class, provided they received a minimum score of 20 in the reading section and a 21 in the writing section. ESL credits earned at Cotter will be applied towards English credits for graduation.

ESL 2a (High Beginning)

(Grades 9-12) Year 2 credits

This class meets for two periods each day. All four areas of language learning are addressed with special emphasis on developing confidence in speaking and comprehension skills of spoken and written material. Reading selections at this level include a variety of adapted fiction and non-fiction materials, especially tales and simple legends. Students will begin to write using a short answer and paragraph format.

ESL 2b (Low Intermediate)

(Grades 9-12) Year 2 credits

Students at this level may use material and resources similar to the ESL 2a course, but are expected to demonstrate slightly more advanced language abilities in oral interaction, reading comprehension and written work. This course also meets for two periods per day.

ESL 3 (High Intermediate/ Low Advanced)

(Grades 9-12) Year 1 credit

At this level of learning English, students are expected to show strong communication skills in spoken and written English. The course content alternates advanced grammar lessons with thematic units using a variety of authentic non-fiction texts as well as short selections of fiction. Students will also be introduced to some basic literary terms and are encouraged to use critical thinking skills as they respond to a variety of themes and stories.

**Independent reading assignments are part of each ESL course to promote good reading strategies and ongoing vocabulary building.*

HEALTH EDUCATION/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Department Director: Nicholas Whaley (507-453-5000 Ext. 5110 or nwhaley@cotterschools.org)

The primary purpose of secondary school physical education at Cotter High School is to assist each individual to develop the skills, attain the knowledge, and acquire the attitudes that will result in a lifetime of participation in physical activity. It is our mission to help our students incorporate meaningful physical activity into their lives. Regular participation in appropriate physical activity is important to attain an optimal level of health and well-being, and achieve a high quality of life.

Required Credits for Graduation – 1*

Physical Education	1/2 Credit
Health Education	1/2 Credit

*The Freshman seminar includes an additional Physical Education component.

Physical Education

(Grade 10-12) 1st and 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

Physical Education is a vital component in the development of a student's physical, mental, and social well-being. Through this course students will have the opportunity to experience a variety of health and fitness related skills/activities that will provide enjoyable experiences for life long physical fitness. In conjunction with health class students will receive instruction in proper exercise techniques and practices, good nutritional habits, basic anatomy and elementary cardiovascular physiology. Additionally, students will be exposed to the rules and strategies of various fitness activities all while participating in individual skill practice and modified games/competitions.

Health Education - Required

(Grade 10) 1st or 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

The health habits created during junior high and high school will impact a student's entire life. This course will provide students with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to make health-promoting decisions while incorporating the physical,

mental, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions of health. In some form this course will also address the six major categories of risk behaviors that teens face today as identified by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC). Additionally, this course will encourage students to become better THINKERS, LEARNERS and COMMUNICATORS through the use of the TOP 20 Teens text and teaching materials. As students improve their thinking, learning and communicating (TLC) they will awaken the potential already inside of them. They will also have the opportunity to gain certification in Red Cross CPR.

Physical Education options for the classes of 2011 and 2012

Students in the classes of 2011 and 2012 may be grandfathered in under the past Physical Education policy. They may satisfy the .5 credit Physical Education requirement by taking a Physical Education course, any of the options listed below or by actively competing in and completing two (2) different interscholastic sport seasons before the fall of their senior year. Forms are available in the Counseling Office, and should be completed when the requirement is fulfilled.

Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts

Booklets are available in the Counseling Department with a listing of acceptable courses. Forty (40) hours of studio time must be completed to receive the 0.5 credit needed for the CHS physical education requirement. Hours may be accumulated from semester to semester. Tuition for Conservatory classes is in addition to Cotter High School fees.

American Red Cross Lifeguard Training & Water Safety Instructor

(Students must be 17 years old by the last session)

These Red Cross Advanced Level swimming courses prepare a student to be a lifeguard and swim instructor. Strokes are analyzed extensively and teaching methods are explored. Proof of certification in both courses is needed to earn 0.5 credit.

Registration is through Winona Park Recreation Office. Registration begins in August. Lifeguard training is held in October and April; Water Safety Instructor classes are held in March.

Japan Karate- Do Genbu-Kai

This traditional form of karate is taught at the Valencia Arts Center along with other variety of martial arts. Forty (40) hours of training must be completed to receive 0.5 credit.

LEARNING CENTER

Learning Center Coordinator: Alanna Googins (507-453-5000 Ext. 5039 or agoogins@cotterschools.org)

Skills, School, & Self

(Grades 10-12)

1st or 2nd Semester

0.5 Credit

For upper grade students who missed "Foundations" class, transfer students, 9th graders who need more support at school and with academics, students with documented learning disabilities

This class is a more in-depth look at study skills and the 10 basic steps to getting good grades as well as getting the most out of the high school experience. Students will discover their learning styles and find ways to build academic success. Discussions about time management and organization along with activities to help students be the best students they can be will be a part of this class. Students will have a chance to do word study with Latin and Greek roots and Visual Thesaurus. Opportunities to improve reading skills and strategies are also part of this class. Time to receive help on assignments will sometimes be incorporated.

Learning Center

(Grades 10-12)

1st or 2nd Semester

0.0 Credit

This is for students with documented learning disabilities, students who struggle and need more at-school support. The purpose of the Learning Center is to help support students with their academic studies. Small group and one-on-one help are provided, based on individual needs to strengthen the performance of the student. In addition to tutoring students in various classes, the Learning Center emphasizes organizational, study, and test-taking skills. Student placement, with the approval of the Learning Center coordinator, can be made through teacher referral or parent/student request. Our focus is to encourage students to use their strengths and find and hone their unique abilities.

MATHEMATICS

Department Director: Don Nitti (507-453-5000 Ext. 5068 or dnitti@cotterschools.org)

The Mathematics Department offers courses designed to provide a sound mathematical background needed in life as well as to prepare the student for college mathematics courses. The objectives of the mathematics curriculum are to cultivate the power of independent thinking, to increase the ability to analyze and solve problems, and to develop an understanding of the nature and structure of mathematics as needed to pursue higher Mathematics and Sciences. **A student wishing to pursue a degree at a 4-year college should complete Algebra II at a minimum. Pre-calculus is recommended.**

In math, with the material of the second semester being built on the material of the first semester, there is a separate grading policy. If a grade of "F" is earned the first semester, it is possible to obtain credit for the first semester by earning a "C" or better for the second semester. A "D-" will replace the "F" so credit is granted for both semesters.

Placement of students into their first mathematics course is determined by their scores on an entrance placement test, and results of standardized achievement tests taken during seventh and/or eighth grade.

Required Credits for Graduation – 3 credits with students successfully completing Algebra 2 or higher level course. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis.

Mathematics Sequence

Algebra I	1 Credit
Geometry	1 Credit
Algebra II	1 Credit
H Pre-Calculus	1 Credit
AP Calculus AB	1 Credit

Algebra I - Required - If this class was completed in 8th grade, enroll in Geometry.

(Grade 9) Year 1 Credit

This course is designed to cover the standard topics of Algebra I. Students are carefully eased into word problems and develop a systematic approach based on the type of problem. There is constant review of all algebraic skills. This course will provide an excellent background for the skills needed in technical and vocational training.

Geometry – Required - May substitute Honors Geometry

(Grades 9-10) Year 1 Credit

Students will use properties of geometric shapes combined with algebra to discover unique relationships found in polygons. Students will learn how to graph, transform, and calculate the area of polygons. Theorems and postulates will be used to reason and create geometric proofs. Students will also explore Trigonometry.

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra I

Honors Geometry- In place of Geometry

(Grades 9-10) Year 1 Credit

This course will cover all of the curriculum of Geometry as well as the more advanced topics in geometry that are included in the MN State High School Mathematics League and the American Regions Mathematics League curriculum. This course will emphasize proof techniques, including two column proofs, construction proofs using the dynamic geometry software Geogebra, and proof by contradiction. This course will also include sections on formal logic and the history of geometry.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of Algebra 1 teacher

Algebra II - Required

(Grades 9-12) Year 1 Credit

Algebra 2 builds on sequential approaches to content and learning from preceding courses. Geometric and algebraic concepts are extended and connected to topics in discrete mathematics. Functions are developed through tabular and graphical approaches. Special emphasis is given to the concepts of systems of equations, probability, polynomials and quadratics. A graphing calculator is recommended but not required for this course.

Prerequisite: Geometry or equivalent on placement exam.

May be taken at the same time as Geometry with Algebra I teacher's recommendation.

Honors Pre-Calculus

(Grades 9-12) Year 1 Credit

This course combines a wide range of exercise sets, meaningful applications to non-mathematical disciplines, and much more to help student understand and apply higher-level mathematics. Five units include Relations, Functions and Graphs; Trigonometry; Advanced Functions and Graphing; Discrete Mathematics; and Introduction to Calculus. Applications immediately engage students' interest with concepts reinforced through a variety of examples and exercises. Calculus concepts and skills are integrated throughout the course.

Prerequisite: Algebra II or equivalent on placement exam

Statistics

(Grade 12) Year 1 Credit

This course is intended for seniors interested in the fields of business, social science, natural science, mathematics, and the many other areas now requiring knowledge of probability and statistics. Statistical ethics, probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and regression are the major topics covered in this course.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Honors Statistics – Elective – Restricted

(Grades 11-12) Year 1 Credit

Covering the topics presented in a college level introduction to statistics course, this class prepares students for the AP statistics exams. Topics covered would include measures of center and spread, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, regression, bivariate data, and contingency tables

Prerequisite: AP Calculus 1 for juniors or Honors Pre-Calculus for seniors

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB – Elective – Restricted

This may also be taken for PACC Credit through SMU. See page 3 under *College credit*.

(Grade 10-12) Elective Year 1 Credit

This is a standard advanced placement AB Calculus course. It covers college level material using a college textbook. College credit may be earned by registration through St. Mary's University or through the Advanced Placement Program. Completion of the AP Calculus AB exam is a course requirement.

Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Pre-Calculus or equivalent on placement exam

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC – Elective – Restricted.

This may also be taken for PACC Credit through See page 3 under *College credit*.

(Grade 11-12) Elective Year 1 Credit

This is an advanced placement BC Calculus course. It covers college level material using a college textbook. The course covers the both St. Mary's University syllabus for Calculus II and the additional AP topics needed for the BC curriculum. College credit may be earned by registration through St. Mary's University or through the Advanced Placement Program. Completion of the AP Calculus BC exam is a course requirement.

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB and teacher approval.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Department Director: Bill Crozier (507-453-5000 Ext. 5107 or bcrozier@cotterschools.org)

Cotter High School is a faith-based Catholic community dedicated to teaching and living Christian values in order to develop the whole person. Three fundamental aspects within our religion curricula are stressed: spirituality, academics, and student life. To assist in the formation of these fundamental aspects, each student is expected to participate in an annual retreat.

Through course offerings, the Religion Department provides the academic information and foundation for each student to develop his/her faith-life. The Cotter High School Campus Ministry Program also offers each student opportunities and experiences that will help develop and enrich each student's appreciation of God's love and presence in his/her life.

Community Service Requirement: (Grades 9-12)

The Cotter experience has been effective due to its desire to awaken and form the whole person. The fullest definition of the human person includes the ability to “be for the other.” The community service facet of the Cotter educational experience allows students to see first-hand this truth of our humanity. Cotter students have much to offer; and the

community service program provides creative channels for students to serve and give of themselves for the betterment of their community. All students are asked to complete 10 hours of community service per semester. The completion of these hours will account for 5% of students' religion course grade for each given semester. The implementation of the community service program actually revolves around a key to living that Albert Schweitzer discovered: "The only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found a way to serve." Happiness is a tremendous gift from an educational system.

Bibles: Due to the importance of scripture in all religion classes, every student is required to have a personal copy of The Bible. Religion teachers will assist students in selecting a translation and edition that will most benefit the student. It is highly recommended that students purchase high quality Bibles and maintain them throughout their high school careers.

Sacraments: In 1999, the religion department decided to integrate the material of the sacraments course throughout the four years of religious education at Cotter High School instead of dealing with it separately in one semester. The materials from the sacraments' class can be found at the end of the course description in boldface type.

Additional note to Religion Department overview:

Starting in the 2010-2011 school year, we will be transitioning to the national core curriculum developed by the bishops of the United States. This curriculum will be Christ-centered and focus on evangelization and discipline. The framework for this curriculum has been approved by a unanimous vote of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. The freshman courses listed below are the first two courses in this sequence.

All students are required to take a Religion class every semester that they attend Cotter.

Required Credits for Graduation - 4

Religion 9	1 Credit
Religion 10	1 Credit
Religion 11	1 Credit
Religion 12	1 Credit
Community Service	80 hours (20/year)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture – Required

(Grade 9) 1st Semester ½ Credit

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

Who Is Jesus Christ? – Required

(Grade 9) 2nd Semester ½ Credit

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be.

The New Testament - Required

(Grade 10) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

This course will review the books of the New Testament and how they unlock some of the power and beauty of the message of Jesus of Nazareth. The style and themes of the four evangelists will be reviewed; the message of Paul will be studied through his various epistles, and the story of the Apostles and Holy Spirit will be told. This class will conclude with the remaining epistles and the Book of Revelation.

Sacramental elements: Jesus and the institution of the sacraments; early development of the sacraments in The Acts of the Apostles.

Christian Social Justice - Required

(Grade 10) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course focuses on major areas of injustice in the world including poverty, racism, hunger, sexism, the treatment of the elderly, and violence. Respect for life and living the bishop's statement of "the seamless garment" is central to the course's theme. It will review the imperative issued by Christ and Church to get involved personally. The students will study scriptures and the Church's written documents for a greater appreciation of our responsibility. Sacramental focus will be given to confirmation and a readiness to work towards the Kingdom of God.

Sacramental elements: The call to Christian living as baptized and confirmed members of the Church.

Christian Morality – Required

(Grade 11) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

The emphasis in this course is on understanding the nature, structure, function, and purpose of the human person. Students will develop an understanding of the teachings of the Church concerning moral problems. Students also continue to explore moral issues present in their everyday lives as well as the moral issues present in society. These questions are considered in light of the individual's conscience, faith, knowledge, and freedom. Elements of moral decision-making are also considered, along with a renewed examination of sin and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Sacramental elements: reconciliation and taking on new life in Christ.

World Religions - *Juniors may select this course or Campus Ministry - Elective for seniors.

(Grade 11) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

As citizens of a global community, it is essential that we have a basic knowledge of the religious systems that guide the lives of many of our neighbors. This course will look at the quest for the holy as seen in the major religions from around the world. The course will emphasize Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity; it will also survey other faiths. It will pay particular attention to the morality and beliefs encompassed in these religions.

Sacramental element: a comparative study of the symbols and signs of other faiths.

From Death to Life: The Paschal Mystery – *Seniors may select this course or Campus Ministry

(Grade 12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

Death and grief are two integral aspects of human life. The Christian approach to human suffering is one of hope. This course will view various aspects of dying, grief, and sorrow, on a personal and societal level to make sense of life's painful aspect. Elements of the class will include the theology of Hope, respect for life, dealing with death and dying, medical ethics, and cultural expressions of grief.

Sacramental Elements: Reconciliation, the anointing of the sick, and baptism.

The Adult Christian – Required – This must be taken at Cotter.

(Grade 12) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course begins by examining the roles dreams play in shaping our future. It then explores how those dreams can be realized through learning experiences, career options and healthy relationships in the post high school years. The student is challenged to see how his/her dreams are part of a larger plan of God for them that calls them to service and community. This call or vocation is lived out in one of the three main life styles, the single life, the vowed religious life, and married life. The unique challenges and opportunities of these lifestyles are studied to see how the Christian vocation can be fully lived out within them. This course is planned and coordinated with the senior Political Science and English classes with a view toward a cumulative project, striving to develop "A Good Society."

Sacramental elements: baptism, marriage, Holy Orders.

Campus Ministry – Restricted - This may replace World Religions or From Death to Life; it does not replace Christian Morality or The Adult Christian.

(Grade 11) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit - Focus on Liturgy, Prayer and Retreats

(Grade 12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit - Focus on Liturgy, Prayer and Community Service

Campus ministry fosters faith, community and service on the Cotter campus through a variety of programs and activities, such as retreats, prayer services, liturgies, service projects, spiritual formation programs and leadership training.

Sacramental element: Eucharist, Confirmation, Baptism, Reconciliation, hands-on practice in preparing liturgies and prayer services.

Requirements:

- Students must have an active prayer and faith life.
- Students must be Christian and have an understanding of and openness to Catholicism.

Prerequisites:

1. Admission to this course will be dependent on brief essay (several paragraphs typed) addressing why you want to be in Campus Ministry and a description of your prayer and faith life.
2. Department approval.

Submit your essay to Mrs. Corcoran by 4pm on Friday, March 26th.

Introduction to Religion- Sheltered Instruction (SI) – Restricted

(Grades 9-10) Year 1 Credit

This course is designed for international students who have had no background in Christian faith formation, knowledge of Christians' belief system or Christian culture. This course will provide students with the background and specialized vocabulary needed for further religion courses at Cotter. An introduction to Catholic practices, beliefs, and teachings will be presented to help students appreciate as fully as possible the rites and celebrations at Cotter. Upper class students will serve as mentors to help engage students in an open discussion and exploration of faith, beliefs and religion.

Sacramental element: Eucharist, confirmation, baptism, and reconciliation.

Elective Religion Courses

The following courses are offered on a pass/fail basis. They are electives and may not be taken in lieu of a regular religion course. These courses will focus on experiences and discussion rather than homework. They would be a good choice for students who do not have time for the demands of another academic class, but would prefer not to be in study hall.

Ministry through Mentoring

(Grade 11 or 12) 1st or 2nd semester 1/2 Credit

This Pass/Fail course is intended for outgoing Christian students knowledgeable in their faith. You will be working with international students in the Introduction to Religion class as a teaching assistant with a focus on connecting and helping the international students understand core Christian beliefs, traditions, and practices. **C+ or higher must be maintained to earn a passing grade for this P/F course. Limited enrollment. Teacher approval.**

Christ and Culture:

(Grades 11-12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

As the title suggests, images of Christ can be found throughout our culture. Through reading, viewing films, television shows and ads, and listening to music students will explore ways of seeing Christ in a culture that is often thought to be Godless. **Class participation is vital. C+ or higher must be maintained to earn a passing grade for this P/F course.**

Pray All Ways:

(Grades 11-12) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

In this prayer-centered class we will pray everyday. Every week we will focus on a different form or technique of prayer. Topics will include centering prayer, movement, liturgy of the hours, praying with art, prayer maze, praying with church fathers, adoration, and more. Students will keep a prayer journal and keep track of what forms best fit their praying style. **C+ or higher must be maintained to earn a passing grade for this P/F course.**

SCIENCE

Department Director: Sandra Blank (507-453-5000 Ext.5106 or sblank@cotterschools.org)

The Science Department offers studies in Life, Chemical, Physical and Earth Science to better know the world in which we live. Students are encouraged to expand scientific interests beyond the classroom. A foundation is given for further study in science and for careers in science and related fields.

Required Credits for Graduation – 3

Intro to Chem/Physics	1 Credit
Biology	1 Credit
Chemistry	1 Credit (beginning with the class of 2012)

Introduction to Chemistry & Physics- Required

(Grade 9) Year 1 Credit

This course is designed to heighten interest in the study of matter and energy in the world around them with an introduction to chemistry and physics. Students will be engaged in numerous lab activities, traditional classroom instruction, demonstrations, and creative computer projects and research. The 1st Semester of study focuses on chemistry topics with an emphasis on the composition, properties and behavior of matter. Semester 2 covers the physics topics of forces and motion. The year concludes with an exciting field trip and project related to forces of motion in action.

Biology - Required

(Grade 10) Year 1 Credit

This class is a comprehensive program that includes the classification of life forms, cytology, genetics, plant and animal anatomy and physiology, human biology and environmental issues. The course deals with the study of life on all levels and follows evidence regarding change in living things. Study of the developmental process is presented and adaptations and speciation are stressed. Integration of technology will be utilized throughout the year to enhance the learning process. Included in this course is the complete dissection of the worm, crayfish, perch, frog, and fetal pig.

Chemistry- Required beginning with the class of 2012 - This may be delayed until senior year due to math level.

(Grades 10-12) Year 1 Credit

This is a year long course intended to introduce students to the basic principles of Chemistry, and prepare them for entrance into other chemistry and science related courses. The course material is less rigorous and more conceptual with the overarching goal of developing a student's ability to think. Topics covered include data analysis, properties of matter, atomic theory, electronic structure, periodicity, chemical bonds, molar relationships, stoichiometry, and chemistry in our environment. Throughout the year, students will be actively engaged in the lecture and laboratory components of this course.

Prerequisite: Algebra II or senior year

Physical Geology - Elective

(Grades 10-12) 1st or 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course is designed to take a closer look at our dynamic earth, focusing especially on geology in Southeastern Minnesota. A study of many of the earth's ever-changing processes will be covered through hands-on lab exercises, computer-based projects, and traditional classroom instruction. Topics will include the rock cycle, weathering, glaciation, earthquakes, plate tectonics and volcanoes. Students will also identify and study the physical properties of important rock minerals and learn of important geologic resources.

Astronomy – Elective

(Grades 11-12) (Grade 10 with teacher approval) 1st or 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to the exciting universe that our world is a part of. Students will be required to read, discuss, and explore space through computer lab experiences that will give them the opportunity to extend their scientific knowledge about astronomy and put space at their fingertips. Topics explored will include the Earth-Moon system, the Solar System, Stars/galaxies and beyond. The use of mathematics will be required in determining the physical nature of celestial bodies. By investigating backyard astronomy concepts students will develop a working knowledge of the facts and relationships of different space principles, laws and theories. Nighttime viewing is required.

Physics - Elective

(Grade 12) Year 1 Credit

This year long course is designed to provide a framework for later course work and also for receiving fundamental information about the everyday world around us. This is a hands-on course with a laboratory component. Classical Mechanics, including acceleration, forces, projectiles and energy is emphasized first semester and waves, sound, and light, electricity, magnetism, and the origins of modern physics are emphasized second semester. This is a lab-based course that satisfies the college requirement of a lab-based science.

Prerequisite: A grade of "C" or better in Biology, Chemistry, and Algebra II.

Honors Human Biology – Elective – Restricted

May be taken for PACC Credit through SMU

(Grades 11-12) Year 1 Credit

This course studies the structure of the human body from the cellular level through the organ systems. Those systems included are the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, digestive, respiratory, cardiovascular, excretory, nervous and

reproductive. Disease is included to enhance an understanding of the normal in light of the abnormal. A complete dissection of a cat is required of the student as is college-prep study, testing, lecture and laboratory techniques.

Prerequisite: A grade of “B” or better in Biology and a GPA of 3.5.

Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry – Elective

(Grades 11-12) Year 2 Period Class 1.5 Credit

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of a first-year college chemistry experience, both conceptually and in the laboratory. The labs serve to supplement the learning in the lecture section of the course. This course is an in-depth study of the principles of chemistry. Problem-solving skills, both on paper and in lab, are emphasized. Then course provides instruction in each of the following five content areas: Structure of Matter, States of Matter, Reactions, Descriptive Chemistry, and Laboratory. Topics include atomic theory and structure, chemical bonding, molecular geometry, nuclear chemistry, gases, liquids and solids, solutions, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, kinetics, equilibrium, thermodynamics, reactivity, periodic relationships, and organic/biological chemistry.

Prerequisite: One year of Chemistry and/or Instructor Approval.

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics - Restricted

(Grades 12) Year 2 Period 1.5 Credit

This year long class is designed to prepare the student to take the “AP Physics C: Mechanics” and “AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism” exams.

The first semester is devoted to topics in Newtonian Mechanics, as preparation for the AP Physics C: Mechanics exam. Topics include force: translational motion in one and two dimensions; torque; rotational motion; Newton’s Law of Gravitation; orbits of planets & satellites; work; energy; linear momentum; angular momentum; translational and static equilibrium; conservation of energy and momentum, simple harmonic Motion (simple pendulum and mass on a spring); and other topics as needed.

The second semester is devoted to those topics in electricity & Magnetism that are covered by the “AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism” exam. Topics include electric field and electric potential for point charges and for other simple charge distributions; Gauss’s Law; capacitance; electric current & resistance; magnetic fields & forces; electromagnetic induction; Biot-Savart’s Law and Ampere’s Law; simple DC circuits; transient and steady state response of RC & LC circuits; resonant circuits; Maxwell’s Equations; and other topics as needed.

Pre-requisite: Completion or co-requisite of AP Calculus, GPA of 3.5, a solid background in Physics. The science area of the PLAN or ACT exam, and/or alternate assessment, will also be considered.

Registration capacity: 16 students

Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Sciences – Elective

(Grades 11-12) Year 2 Period Class 1.5 Credit

Like all other sciences, environmental science is the process of satisfying our curiosity about why things are the way they are and about how things happen the way they do. In learning about the various aspects of our environment, the student will quickly come to understand how interdependent life on Earth is. In many cases, we know so little about environmental interactions that we can’t even begin to predict long-term effects. What usually happens is that the answer to one question leads to a string of new questions. This class is devoted to exploring the key aspects that play a role in environmental studies. Further, the student will explore current environmental issues that are taking place in the world around them. Regardless of the reasons my students chose to take this course, my challenge to them is to think for themselves. In taking this course, they will not only learn a lot about science, but also will learn about the complex issues facing our environment and have an opportunity to earn college credit in the process through the AP exam. The students will explore different points of view and be exposed to a variety of differing opinions. I want my students to form their own opinions and make educated decisions and choices based on the information given in this class as well as research they participate in.

Prerequisite: A grade of “B” or better in Biology, GPA of 3.5.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Department Director: Randy Lisowski (507-453-5000 Ext. 5060 rlisowsk@cotterschools.org)

The Social Studies Department seeks to help students understand the responsibilities and duties of living in a democracy. The Social Studies courses attempt to show how people, events, and governments interact to create history and shape our present historical condition.

Required Credits for Graduation – 3.5 credits

World Civilizations	1 Credit
World Geography	1/2 Credit
U.S. History (colonial-present)	1 Credit
Political Science	1/2 Credit
Economics	1/2 Credit

World Civilization - Sheltered Instruction (SI) for international students – For those in ESL 2

(Grades 9 & 10) See World Civilizations for description of course.

World Civilizations - Required

(Grade 9) Year 1 Credit

This course is designed to survey the basic stages of the development of mankind from prehistoric to modern times with a geographical emphasis. The role of men and women in different religious, economic, cultural, social, and political settings will be thoroughly examined. The major civilizations are examined along with the development and growth of human thought and the way it reflects mankind through time. Concept development, a sense of history, and overall themes and patterns are stressed, along with the relating of geography to the economic, political, social, historical, and cultural aspects of human activity.

World Geography - Required

(Grades 10) 1st or 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course is designed to take an interdisciplinary approach to world geography. The objective is to relate physical geography to the economic, political, social, historical and cultural aspects of human activity. This course will provide the student with core knowledge about the world's geographic regions and relate that knowledge to current events in today's rapidly changing world. This course will also help students develop certain basic skills in geography. These include map reading, the interpretation of geographic charts and diagrams and the acquisition of the technical vocabulary of geography. Students will also complete one computer project in this course.

United States History – Required (May substitute AP US History)

(Grade 11) Year 1 Credit

This course in American History is designed to cover the stages in the development of the United States from Colonial America up to the present. Emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of the major elements involved, including political, cultural, and social influences and the role of citizens in these various stages. Reading, writing, thinking, concept development, technological research, and a sense of history are stressed.

Advanced Placement (AP) US History – (Replaces U.S. History)

(Grade 11) Year 1 Credit

This challenging course in United States History is designed to cover the stages in the development of the United States from the age of exploration up to the present. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, interpretation of original documents, developing an understanding of the major elements involved, including political, cultural, and social influences and the role of citizens in these various stages. Concept development, technological research, and a sense of history are stressed. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Students have an opportunity to demonstrate content mastery and earn college credit by taking an end of the course AP exam in May.

Prerequisite: Students must have completed English 10 with a B or better.

Economics – Required (May substitute AP Microeconomics)

(Grade 12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

We live in an economically vibrant world and are constantly engaged in economic activities. In order to understand these activities and the situations they create the student studies economic institutions and their relationship with each other, with government, and with the consumer. Fundamental economic concepts, microeconomics, macroeconomics, money & banking, the stock market and investment strategies, establishing credit and international and global economics are major areas of study.

AP Microeconomics – Replaces Economics - Restricted

(Grade 12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

The study of microeconomics requires students to understand that, in any economy, the existence of limited resources

along with unlimited wants results in the need to make choices. An effective Honors course, therefore, begins by introducing the concepts of opportunity costs and trade-offs, and illustrates these concepts by using the production possibilities curve or other analytical examples. The nature and functions of product markets and factor markets will be studied in some detail. Market failures and the role of government will also be addressed. Grades will be determined by quizzes, tests, written assignments and projects.

Students are required to demonstrate content mastery by taking an end of the course AP exam in May. This can allow them to earn college credit.

Prerequisite: Students must have earned a B+ or better in US History, English and Algebra 2.

Limited enrollment.

Political Science – Required (May substitute Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics)

(Grade 12) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

Many levels of government affect each of us in our daily activities. Government actions involve our responsibilities and freedoms. Since the actions of governments involve everyone in the class, the course seeks to give students an understanding of how and why governments function. Special emphasis is placed on constitutional law, the electoral process, the role of citizens, and the skills needed to participate effectively at the national, state and local level. This is an interdisciplinary class, and includes a senior thesis done in conjunction with the Religion and English departments.

Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. Government & Politics

(Grade 12) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course covers a range of issues of interest to high school students who thrive in an accelerated environment. Content of the class will include American politics, politics, national elections (congressional and presidential), the media, public opinion, and public policy with a focus on economic policy making. Time will also be devoted to preparing for the AP exam.

Global Issues –Elective

(Grades 11-12) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course examines major forces that have shaped the contemporary world: nationalism, revolution, democratization, globalization, ethnic and racial conflict, etc. Emphasis will be placed on the impact and influence of China, India and the Islamic culture on Contemporary History. The course will also examine the international impact of the Non-Western world on the United States and its role in global issues.

Minnesota History- Elective

(Grades 10-12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

This class tells the story of Minnesota from its beginnings to the present. A dominant theme is the adaptation of the people to Minnesota's often harsh environment that includes long and brutally cold winters. It will relate the persistence and change in the traditional frontier businesses in the twentieth century and recent developments in Minnesota society, including rapidly increasing metropolitanism, environmental concerns, and the conservative resurgence in politics. Minnesota's somewhat unique political history, which featured farm protest movements and the ultimate creation of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, is also discussed. The history not only provides descriptions of the essential events of Minnesota's past, but also offers an interpretation of major trends and characteristics of the state and its distinctiveness within the context of the nation's story.

Introduction to Psychology - Elective

(Grades 11-12) 1st or 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course studies many aspects of human behavior. It includes theories of personality development, experimental design, and learning theory. Application of psychological theory to everyday problems orients the student with various uses of psychology. Personality development, altered states of consciousness, motivation, and psychological testing are explored, as well as various psychotherapies, including stress management.

Sociology - Elective

(Grades 11-12) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This course examines collective behavior, major social institutions (marriage and family, religion, and education), the process of socialization, and deviance and social control. Scientific method, sex roles, racial and ethnic relations, and various cultures are explored in an attempt to explain the ways groups, societies, and cultures address human needs and concerns. Throughout the presentation of material, an attempt will be made to interpret patterns of behavior reflecting

values and attitudes that contribute or pose obstacles to cross cultural understanding along with an awareness of and sensitivity to human problems.

TECHNOLOGY

Introduction to Computer Science

(Grades 10-12) 1st or 2nd Semesters 1/2 Credit

This class is an introduction to computer science, computer programming, and to the use of Linux/Unix operating systems. The topics covered include: binary, octal and hexadecimal systems, data types, file types, file systems, users, directory trees, common Linux/Unix commands, devices, hardware, and the installation of software. Programming in a particular scripting language (e.g., Perl) will be covered extensively. This course is offered fall and spring semesters when there is sufficient demand for it. **DOES NOT count as one of the three (3) science credits needed for graduation. Registration capacity: 14 students**

Honors Electronics and Robotics - Restricted

(Grades 11-12) 1st and 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

This class is an introduction to electronics, with specific application to small mobile robots and the sensors for such robots. Prior programming experience is assumed since reprogramming the robots is an integral part of the course.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Computer Science or equivalent and consent of the Science Department Director.

Registration capacity: 12 students

WORLD LANGUAGE

Department Director: Ulrike Schorn-Hoffert (507-453-5090 or uschorn@cotterschools.org)

The World Language Department wants to equip students with strong communication skills in all areas of the target language, including the study of the respective cultures. To be successful, students are expected to be engaged and focused participants using the target language increasingly for communication as they progress to more advanced levels. A solid foundation in English grammar will facilitate the transition to a second language.

The grade levels indicated for each course are approximate guidelines. The respective language teacher together with the counseling department will assess and decide individual student need and placement to endure the best environment for academic success.

If a student passes the first semester, but fails the second semester of a language course, he or she may be required to repeat the entire year in order to receive full credit. If a student fails the first semester but earns a grade of C or better for the second semester, a D- will replace the F for the first semester.

Required Credits for Graduation – 2.0

2 Credits must be within the same World Language

Spanish I – Required

(Grades 9-12) Year 1 Credit

This novice low level class is designed for beginners only. It introduces students to the fundamental concepts of Spanish grammar, vocabulary, phonetics and culture. Through a variety of activities, students will begin to acquire the skills of conversation, listening comprehension, reading and writing. The geography of the Hispanic world, especially South and Central America, will be an integral part of the topics covered. Oral participation is a key skill of this level with communication in the target language being the ultimate goal. Students will focus on acquiring thematic vocabulary and the use of three simple. **No Prerequisite.**

Spanish II – Required

(Grades 9-12) Year 1 Credit

This level introduces students to the novice-high concepts of grammar, vocabulary, phonetics and culture. The students will continue to develop the skills, the conversation, listening comprehension, reading and writing. The culture of the Hispanic world, presented via legends, will be an integral part of the topics covered and will provide the source for

vocabulary. In addition, we will read two “written-for-beginners” books. Increased spontaneous participation and use of the target language in class are expected and necessary. Students will acquire additional thematic vocabulary and the use of additional verb tenses.

Prerequisite: a minimum grade of C in Spanish I or teacher’s approval.

Spanish III – Required or Elective (depending on entry level at the high school level)

(Grades 9-12) Year 1 Credit

In this level we review the simple tenses and complete the compound tenses. Students will further develop their communication skills, both verbal and written. More advanced concepts of grammar, vocabulary, phonetics and culture will be explored. The culture of the Hispanic world, especially simple stories and myths, will be an integral part of the topics covered and will supply the impetus for additional vocabulary. We will read another “beginner” book.

Prerequisite: a minimum grade of C in Spanish II or teacher’s approval

Honors Spanish IV – Elective

(Grades 10-12) Year 1 Credit

We begin with an intense review of all learned verb tenses. This level introduces students to the subjunctive and related verb tenses. The emphasized grammar will be the subjunctive, **ser/estar**, preterite/imperfect and **por/para**. In addition, more advanced concepts [detailing] of grammar, vocabulary, phonetics and culture will be explored. The topics for reading, discussion, projects and writing will e from contemporary and traditional literature focusing on authors and genres found on the Advanced Placement (AP) and other national assessment tools. Class is primarily conducted in Spanish and students are expected to speak Spanish as much as possible.

Prerequisite: a minimum grade of C in Spanish III

Honors Spanish V – Elective

(Grades 11-12) Year 1 Credit

Verb tenses are systematically studied and mastered via daily exercises. Miscellaneous grammatical concepts are reviewed as part of the maintenance program. Class is conducted in Spanish: students are expected to use Spanish in the classroom. Classic and contemporary literature and civilization/culture articles will provide the topics for reading, discussions, projects and writing activities. Students will view a contemporary *telenovela* serial to utilize and build listening comprehension skills. Some direct preparation for the AP exam and other national standardized assessment tools will be provided. Participation in the AP testing program is optional and voluntary.

Prerequisite: a minimum of grade C in Spanish IV

German I

(Grades 9-12) Year 1 Credit

This is an introductory course designed to familiarize beginning students with selected areas of the German language and culture. Through the exploration of thematic units such as family, school life, eating customs, geography, etc. students will practice conversational skills, basic grammar concepts and learn content specific vocabulary and phrases. Aspects of culture in the German-speaking world are integrated into each themed unit.

*German I is the first part of a two-year sequence with a German II course being offered the following year. Completing German I and II would fulfill the World Language requirement for Cotter students.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Department Director: Dave Gudmastad (507-453-5000 Ext. 5052 or dgudmast@cotterschools.org)

Required Credits for Graduation - 1

Visual Arts Choir Band

VISUAL ARTS

INTRODUCTORY ART COURSES

*If a student has successfully completed 8th grade art at CJHS or the equivalent, it may be substituted for the Intro to Art/Computer Art prerequisite when timing and scheduling allow.

Introduction to Art - Elective

(Grades 9-12) Semester 1 or 2 1/2 Credit

This traditional art course is an introduction to various art media, techniques and processes. The course will emphasize the basics of drawing as a foundation of all art media. Students will also have an opportunity to experience creating works of art in other 2-dimensional media as well as an introduction to printmaking and clay construction.

Computer Art - Elective

(Grades 9-12) Semester 1 or 2 1/2 Credit

This drawing & design course merges traditional art with technology, using the computer to explore the basic concepts of design: line, shape, space, texture, value, color, size and composition. Corel Painter and Wacom pressure-sensitive drawing tablets are used to create natural-looking, intuitive artwork that integrates the unique features of the software, maximizing the advantages of the computer as the ultimate artist's tool.

ADVANCED ART COURSES

Advanced Drawing – Elective

(Grades 9-12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

Enhance creativity and increase artistic confidence by learning to see the way artists see. Learn techniques in value drawing, gestures, contour drawing, figures, portraits, and landscapes.

Prerequisite: Intro to Art or Computer Art*

Printmaking/3d Construction – Elective

(Grades 9-12) 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

Explore a variety of means used to transfer an image with different printmaking techniques including silkscreen printing, monoprints, relief prints and collagraphs. Construct 3-dimensional art with clay, wire sculpture, plaster and paper.

Prerequisite: Intro to Art or Computer Art*

Painting - Elective

(Grades 9-12) Semester 1 or 2 1/2 Credit

This course takes an in-depth look at color theories and their uses in traditional acrylic painting. The first quarter consists of various exercises illustrating the properties of color, color schemes and brush techniques. The second quarter is devoted to exploring original ideas and completing more complex paintings on canvas, involving various techniques and subject matter. Painting projects include still-life, abstract, interior space, landscape and self-portrait.

Prerequisite: Intro to Art or Computer Art*

Graphic Design - Elective

(Grades 9-12) Semester 1 or 2 1/2 Credit

Using the graphics industry standard software, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, students apply design concepts to creating professional quality commercial imagery, typography, logos, and advertising layouts. Focus is on creating commercial designs that communicate their intended message while meeting the practical needs of marketing tools, print collateral, and target audience. Through a variety of projects, students discover the challenges of designer/client relationships, the brainstorming process, conceptual design solutions, creating mock-ups for critique, and producing final artwork that is pre-press ready. This class is a must for anyone considering a career in the fields of design, marketing or business.

Prerequisite: Intro to Art or Computer Art*

Graphic Design II - Elective

(Grades 9-12) 1st Semester 1/2 Credit

Students use Adobe After Effects, the premiere video compositing & animation software of the television and motion picture industries, to assemble still graphics, logos, type, characters, audio and video and create layered, moving imagery. Graphic design skills are applied to motion and editing techniques to execute the type of 2-D animation sequences commonly seen in television series, commercials and introductions to feature films. This course also includes a unit in the basics of traditional, frame-by-frame animation; students practice this method using a combination of Adobe Illustrator and After Effects. People possessing the skills learned in this class are in high demand for television, film and graphic design career markets.

Prerequisite: Graphic Design

