



COTTER
S C H O O L S

WHERE STANDARDS, VALUES, *and you* MATTER

Academic Course Catalog

2020-2021

Cotter High School
Grades 9-12
Cotter Junior High School
Grades 7-8

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MISSION

Cotter Schools is a private, independent, coeducational school in Winona, Minnesota that has been guided by Catholic beliefs and values since 1911.

As an international learning community, serving grades 7-12, we hold our students to the highest academic standards and challenge each of them to develop their full potential academically, physically, spiritually and socially.

We believe in the intrinsic goodness of all persons, and strive to model the values of faith, service, and community as we encourage and support our students to become more than they can imagine.

COTTER GRADUATE PROFILE

Men and Women of Intellectual Competency

Cotter Schools graduates are problem solvers who think critically and creatively. They are young men and women who are communicators, collaborators, and cooperative learners. Cotter graduates are lifelong learners who are curious about the world around them and the future.

Men and Women of Health and Wholeness

Cotter Schools graduates are aware of healthy habits of living such as mindfulness, fitness and nutrition and are formed in the use of the tools for following through on those habits.

Men and Women with an Appreciation of the Arts

Cotter Schools graduates have an appreciation of beauty and the arts (performing, instrumental, vocal, visual) and recognize the importance of the aesthetic in their personal lives and in the world around them.

Men and Women of Faith, Compassion and Respect

Cotter Schools graduates have an appreciation of a relationship with God and have respect for and knowledge of Catholic and Christian beliefs and practices. Cotter graduates understand the life-changing effects of compassion on themselves and witness to this through respect for others.

Men and Women of Service and Justice

Cotter Schools graduates engage in a lifetime of service; they choose to do the right and just thing in all situations and mentor others in doing the same.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a diploma from Cotter High School, each student must complete the required credits of academic study 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	0.5 Credit
Mathematics (including Algebra 2)	3.0 Credits
Physical Education*	0.5 Credit
Religion	4.0 Credits
Science	3.0 Credits
Social Studies	3.5 Credits
Visual & Performing Arts	1.0 Credit
World Language	2.0 Credits
Electives	2.5 Credits
Community Service	80 hours (10 hours per semester)
Senior Capstone	0.25 Credits

Credits required to graduate: 24.25 Credits

*Physical Education - 0.5 credit is required to fulfill graduation requirements. Students may take a Physical Education course or satisfy the requirement by participating in two different sports at Cotter before senior year.

Community Service Requirement: (Grades 9-12)

A foundational principle embraced at Cotter High School is that each person is intrinsically good and is loved by God. This principle motivates us to serve others. The Community Service component 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.

Each high school student is required to complete 20 hours of community service each year, with a minimum of 10 hours per semester. Additionally, each student must complete at least 4 different service experiences within those 20 hours.

PROGRAM SCHEDULING

Freshman Program

• English 9	1.0 Credit
• Introduction to Chemistry & Physics	1.0 Credit
• Mathematics	1.0 Credit
• Visual/Performing Art	1.0 Credit
• Religion 9	1.0 Credit
• World Civilization	1.0 Credit
• World Language	1.0 Credit
• Community Service	20 Hours

Sophomore Program

• Biology	1.0 Credit
• Health Education	0.5 Credit
• Mathematics	1.0 Credit
• Religion 10 or elective	1.0 Credit
• World Geography	0.5 Credit
• World Language	1.0 Credit
• Written Com/Oral Communication	1.0 Credit
• Electives – optional	1.0 Credit
• Community Service	20 Hours

Junior Program

• Chemistry	1.0 Credit
• Religion 11 or elective(s)	1.0 Credit
• Mathematics (required through Alg. 2)	1.0 Credit
• Research Writing/American Literature or AP Language & Composition	1.0 Credit
• U.S. History or AP U.S. History	1.0 Credit
• Electives - required	1.0 Credit
• Electives – optional	1.0 Credit
• Community Service	20 Hours

Senior Program

• Economics, Political Science, or Honors Political Science	1.0 Credit
• Literature & Composition or AP Literature & Composition	1.0 Credit
• Religion 12	1.0 Credit
• Electives- required	3.0 Credits
• Elective – optional	1.0 Credit
• Community Service	20 Hours

THE COUNSELING and ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

- Mr. Dave Forney – Personal Counselor, 453-5106, dforney@cotterschools.org
- Mrs. Mitzi Storm – Personal and Academic Counselor, 453-5000 Ext. 5023, mstorm@cotterschools.org
- Mrs. Kathleen Klick– Academic Advisor, 453-5000 Ext. 5027, kklick@cotterschools.org
- Mrs. Grace Welle – Academic Resource Center Coordinator, 453-5000 Ext. 5015, grwelle@cotterschools.org.

Registration and Schedule Changes: The counselors will meet with any student upon request to review and help select the most appropriate courses considering the student's goals and interests. A Course Preference Form will be sent home with each student. Families are asked to review it and contact the counselor with questions. Along with the required and elective courses, additional alternate courses should be selected. If the student's preferred courses are granted, the student is expected to take these courses. It is important that students and families take time to select the appropriate classes, as changes to schedules may not be possible at a later date. Students placed in a level that is later deemed to be inaccurate or inappropriate may be adjusted beyond that time based on teacher recommendation.

Dropping a Class: If a student wishes to drop a semester or yearlong elective course, he/she may do so up until the time of the first progress report as long as he/she has 6 classes remaining. No class may be added at this time. Dropping a course beyond this time will result in an academic penalty.

On-line courses and Make-up courses: Students must take their required courses at Cotter. If a student fails a required course, the student may repeat the course the following year at Cotter, take an on-line course, or enroll 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 Resource Center

(Grades 9-12)

Academic Resource Center offers academic assistance to students with a variety of needs. Staff are available to work with students in building the skills needed for academic success including the following: study skills, time management, note taking, organization, and testing strategies. Staff and administration will also work with students to develop an *Individual Learning Plan* to provide a framework for a successful classroom experience. Staff is available to help students with completing assignments, monitoring academic progress, and preparing for tests. The Academic Resource Center offers a small group environment allowing extended individual attention as needed. Students may access Academic Resource Center services by submitting an application available from the principal's office.

Earning College Credit: Students may take advanced courses through a variety of programs that, upon successful completion, have the potential to earn college credit.

- **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** These rigorous courses are held at Cotter Schools. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May. The associated fee will be billed to the student at the time the AP tests are ordered. In past years, the fee is approximately \$50 per test. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP test as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the academic counselor if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class. Depending on the student's score and the college or university that the student attends, college placement or credits may be awarded.
 - AP U.S. History
 - AP Calculus AB
 - AP Calculus BC
 - AP Literature and Composition
 - AP Language and Composition
 - AP Physics

- **Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC):** Students who enroll in these courses are concurrently enrolled in St. Mary's University. The courses are held at Cotter and taught by Cotter instructors, and if students earn a C or better in the class, they receive college credit from St. Mary's University at a significantly discounted price per credit.
 - AP Literature and Composition - 3 credits
 - AP Language and Composition – 3 credits
 - Advanced Political Science - 3 credits
 - AP U.S. History - 3 credits per semester (or 6 credits for the year)
 - AP Calculus AB - 4 credits
 - AP Calculus BC - 4 credits
 - Honors Human Biology - 3 credits

- **Project Lead the Way (PLTW):** These courses are taught by PLTW certified instructors at Cotter. Students who successfully complete the course with an 80% or better, and earn a score of 4 or higher on the PLTW end of course assessment can receive college credits from St. Cloud State University. (Currently, \$100 for 3 credits)
 - Introduction to Engineering and Design
 - Principles of Engineering

- **Post-Secondary Education Option (PSEO):** This program is available to juniors and seniors who meet the eligibility requirements, which are specific to each college. PSEO courses may only be taken on a part-time basis since students must take all of their required courses at Cotter. Students need to arrange their schedule at Cotter, so that they can take a PSEO class at the beginning or end of the day. Please note that by taking a PSEO class, you may not be able to take other specific honors or elective classes at Cotter. Students also need to be sure their PSEO schedule does not overlap with any classes at Cotter. Students will not be able to arrive late or leave early from a Cotter class due to their PSEO schedule. Students cannot be enrolled in more than 7 classes, so each PSEO class that a student takes will create an academic resource hour in their Cotter

schedule. Some students may be taking their class during this time, while others may have that time to work on their PSEO class work. Please note that students will not receive credit twice for the same course material repeated at the college level.

PSEO applications for the fall semester at Saint Mary's University need to be completed before the end of January, and Winona State University and MN State SE Technical applications should be completed before May 1st. Students can direct specific questions to the Academic Advisor.

- **Retroactive credit for world language through freshman college placement testing is also an option for some students.**

COTTER HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

ENGLISH

Department Director: Mr. Michael Costello

507-453-5000, Ext. 5103, 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 – 4.0

English 9, Honors English 9, ESL or Transitional English	1.0 Cr.
Written Comm./Oral Comm., Honors Written Comm./Oral Comm., ESL or Transitional English	1.0 Cr.
Research Writing/American Literature, AP Language & Composition or Transitional English	1.0 Cr.
Literature & Composition or AP Literature & Composition	1.0 Cr.

Transitional English

(Grades 9-12)

Year

1.0 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. Students are placed in transitional English based on their placement testing score and on teacher approval.

English 9 - Required

(Grade 9)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is a literature-based course that emphasizes developing and extending skills in critical thinking, writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Students are exposed to a variety of classical and contemporary genres: novels, short stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction. This includes *Of Mice and Men*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Lord of the Flies* and *Night*. The class lays a foundation of skills

that students will need throughout high school such as: study and organizational habits, MLA citations, significant literary terms, literary analysis, close reading, vocabulary, discussion skills, writing essays, grammar and usage.

English 10 – Required

(Grade 10)

Year

1.0 Credit

English 10 is a required full year class made up of two semester courses: Oral Communications and Written Communication. Both these semester courses are designed to improve skills in literature, grammar, writing, and communication with the primary emphasis on literature and speech. The first semester of this course is Oral Communications, a speaking course centered on five different types of speeches to be presented and the study of various classical and recent speeches. A plethora of communication skills will be covered, including: understanding and overcoming stage fright, developing effective listening strategies, conducting interviews, engaging in group conversations and inter vs. intrapersonal communication. Second semester will cover written communication and center on refining the composition and literary skills taught in English 9. Coursework involves an intensive novel study of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, examination of a variety of non-fiction works, including the memoir “Glass Castle,” and analyzing a group of short stories. In addition, students will engage in a mini research writing project as well as student-led literature circles.

English 11: Research Writing /American Literature - Required (May be replaced by AP Language and Composition)

(Grade 11)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is an introduction to academic writing and the world of ideas present in the literary tradition of the United States. Students will discover a wide range of themes and styles in seminal works of American literature. Common texts include *The Great Gatsby*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Into The Wild*, and *The Crucible*. Writings include various forms of expository and argumentative essays. In the first semester, students will write a research paper focusing on a person or event from American history; this is a joint project with the students’ Social Studies classes. A focus of all writings in the course will be taking clear positions and supporting them with evidence.

Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition – Restricted (Replaces English 11)

(Grade 11)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is designed to challenge those students who have excellent language skills, as well as the ability and inclination to study and discuss various conventions of language in depth. There will be an emphasis on developing an enriched critical vocabulary for analyzing texts and arguments to prepare for the AP Language exam’s analysis, synthesis, and argument essays. Students will read a wide range of essays, both fiction and non-fiction, and analyze them in terms of identifying arguments and the rhetorical strategies employed in developing these ideas. In the first semester all juniors will write a research paper focusing on a person or event from American history, this is a joint project with the students’ Social Studies classes. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May. The associated fee will be billed to the student at the time the AP tests are ordered. In past years, the fee was approximately \$50 per test. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP test as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the Academic Counselor if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class. Class size is typically limited to 15 students and students

are selected on the basis of test scores, grades in English, and teacher recommendations. For transferring ELL students a minimum IBT TOEFL score of 100 is required, an SAT writing score of 600, or PSAT writing score of 60.

English 12: Literature and Composition – Required (May be replaced by AP Literature and Composition)

(Grade 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

The literary journey of this class will expand on the American experience of junior year English. The readings include a variety of American and world literature, including essays, novel, poems, short stories and plays. These readings will help students to continue developing a sense of our literary heritage while honing reading, discussing and writing skills. An important tool in this process will be an enriched critical vocabulary. Writings will include critical essays, personal narratives, poetry, stories, and editing of scripts. In the first semester, students will write an essay that may be used in the college application process. In the fourth quarter, a research paper and persuasive speech will be completed as part of the senior year capstone project.

Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Composition – Restricted – PACC option

(Replaces English 12)

(Grade 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This is a two-semester course for students of superior ability and motivation. Students will read a wide range of serious, imaginative literature from a number of genres and eras. These readings will help students to continue developing a sense of our literary heritage while honing reading, discussion, and writing skills. An important tool in this process will be an enriched critical vocabulary. Writings will include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays, personal narratives, poetry, and stories. Students will assemble and edit a writing portfolio as part of this course. A research paper and persuasive speech will be completed as part of the senior year capstone project. This course may also be taken for PACC credit through SMU. See “College credit” under Counseling Center. Pre-requisite: ACT English and Reading test combined sub-scores of 48 or combined sub-scores in Critical Reading and Writing of 1100 on the SAT, and teacher recommendation. All course and test accommodations must be approved by CollegeBoard. Limit of 15 students per class. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May. The associated fee will be billed to the student at the time the AP tests are ordered. In past years the fee is approximately \$50 per test. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP test as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the Academic Counselor if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class.

Journalism

(Grades 10-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

Journalism is an elective course that provides the practical hands-on application of journalism concepts and skills through team leadership, story generation and editing, page layout and production. Through the curriculum, students will understand how to gather and produce quality stories to be used in a variety of publications. They will learn the importance of media ethics, including journalistic integrity and responsibility. This class is responsible for the student publication, *The Cotter Chronicle*, and will be introduced to video editing and web content management systems to assist in the production of this publication. The structure of this class will enhance student leadership development. This class may be taken consecutive years.

Yearbook

(Grades 11-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Yearbook is a production-based elective course that creates the Cotter yearbook. Because the staff is solely responsible for the content, design, layout, and sale of the book, students who choose to be a part of this class must ensure that it runs efficiently and effectively. Students are responsible for taking photos, designing pages, conducting interviews, managing operations, making announcements, maintaining signage, and composing, designing, and editing all elements of text, graphic art and photography layouts. Students are expected to be organized, motivated, and possess strong reading and writing skills upon entering the class

ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Program Coordinator: Mrs. Ulrike Schorn-Hoffert, 507-453-5090, uschorn@cotterschools.org

Cotter High School offers several levels of ESL (English as a Second Language) to meet the different needs of English Language Learners (ELLs). Skills in the areas of reading and writing, listening and speaking are taught and practiced through thematic, content-based units along with explicit grammar instruction. Various aspects of the target culture will be an integral part of all course units. The Cotter ESL program aims to provide students with level-specific English language tools necessary for academic success while also reinforcing their social and conversational language proficiency.

All new ELLs will be assessed at the beginning of the school year using an extensive standardized testing program 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. ESL credits earned at Cotter will be applied towards English credits for graduation.

ESL I (High beginning)

(Grades 9-12)

2.0 credits

All four areas of language learning (reading, writing, listening, speaking) are addressed with special emphasis on developing confidence in speaking and comprehension skills of spoken and written material. Specific sessions address vocabulary enrichment using the VOCABULARY POWER series and basic English grammar topics. Reading selections at this level include a variety of adapted fiction and non-fiction materials, especially tales and simple legends.

ESL II (Low intermediate)

(Grades 9-12)

1.0 credit

ESL II students will continue to focus on vocabulary, grammar and reading comprehension strategies along with written work that is based on thematic units using both fiction and non-fiction materials. Academic language will be used increasingly to facilitate moving into ESL III or Transitional English the following year depending on student skills. We will continue specific vocabulary building lessons and activities based on the VOCABULARY POWER series.

ESL III (high intermediate/ low advanced)

(Grades 9-12)

1.0 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 and vocabulary 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 strategies as they respond to a variety of themes and stories. Students will continue their English studies the following year in the Transitional English Course or regular English class depending on academic readiness.

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

**All students in ESL I, II, and III may be assigned to language lab sessions to support oral language development. They will also meet once each week with language partners to practice and improve conversation skills in an informal setting.*

HEALTH EDUCATION/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Department Director: Mr. Nick Whaley, 507-453-5000, Ext. 5110, 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 – 1.0

Health Education	0.5 Credit
Physical Education	0.5 Credit

Health Education - Required

(Grade 10)

Semester

0.5 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).

Physical Education - Required

(Grades 10-12)

Semester

0.5 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.

Fitness and Nutrition – Elective

(Grades 10-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

The goal of this class is to provide each student with the fundamental skills, knowledge and training needed to reach their individual fitness goals. The ultimate purpose of fitness training is to develop "functional strength" which will help individuals perform their best in their chosen activities and throughout their day. This course will also focus on nutrition with the intent of fueling the body and mind for optimal performance. Additional areas covered will include the following: strength training, yoga, mindfulness, crossfit and Olympic lifting. Lifetime wellness activities such as canoeing, biking and rock climbing may also be covered dependent on weather and equipment availability. A week's worth of classes may look like the following: Monday - strength training/Olympic lifting; Tuesday - classroom sessions on nutrition and basic physiology; Wednesday/Thursday - Yoga/Mindfulness activity or outdoor pursuit; Friday - Crossfit W.O.D.

*Credit to satisfy the Physical Education requirement may be earned by participating in a Physical Education course anytime during grades 10-12. A student may also earn credit to satisfy the requirement by competing in and completing two different sports seasons at Cotter or co-op program with Winona Senior High. If a student has not fulfilled the two Sport Rule before senior year, he/she must take Physical Education senior year.

MATHEMATICS

Department Director: Mrs. Alison Heltemes, 507-453-5000, Ext. 5058,
aheltemes@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 – 3.0

Students must successfully complete Algebra 2 or a higher level math course. Exceptions may be made on an individual basis with proper documentation. It is recommended that college bound students complete 4 credits.

Required Mathematics Sequence

Pre-Algebra	0 Credit
Algebra 1	1.0 Credit
Geometry	1.0 Credit
Algebra II	1.0 Credit

Elective Mathematics Courses

College Algebra	1.0 Credit
Pre-Calculus	1.0 Credit
Statistics	1.0 Credit
AP Calculus AB (I)	1.0 Credit
AP Calculus BC (II)	1.0 Credit
Advanced Semester Electives	0.5 Credit

Pre-Algebra

(Grade 9) Year No Credit

This course is designed to be a bridge between Arithmetic and Algebraic thinking. This course aims to move from concrete thinking to abstract thinking. The major concepts in algebraic thinking will be introduced. An emphasis is placed on problem solving, reasoning skills, and using algebra in the real world. During the course, students will also strengthen their arithmetic skills.

Algebra 1 - Required

(Grade 9-10) Year 1.0 Credit

This one-year course is designed to cover the standard topics of Algebra. 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. Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or equivalent on placement test.

Geometry – Required

(Grades 9-11) Year 1.0 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: Algebra 1 or equivalent on placement test.

Algebra II - Required

(Grades 9-12) Year 1.0 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 math teacher's recommendation.

Statistics

(Grade 12)

Year

1.0 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, seniors only.

College Algebra

(Grades 11-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is for students who want to continue their math studies, yet struggled with some of the concepts in Algebra II. This course continues coverage of linear systems, quadratics, rational equations and radical equations. Time is spent on matrices and real world finances. This course covers some of the topics presented in a college level algebra course. This course is designed to prepare students for Pre-Calculus or college level mathematics. Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II. *Students who have completed Pre-Calculus or a higher math course are not eligible to take College Algebra unless recommended by a math teacher.*

Pre-Calculus

(Grades 9-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course combines a wide range of exercise sets, meaningful applications to non-mathematical disciplines, and much more to help students understand and apply higher-level mathematics. Five units include Relations, Functions and Graphs; Trigonometry; Advanced Functions and Graphing; and Matrices. Concepts are reinforced through a variety of examples and exercises. Calculus concepts and skills are integrated throughout the course. Recommended: An Algebra II grade of C+ or higher, it is recommended that College Algebra be taken before taking advanced courses. Exceptions may be granted based on teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB – PACC option

(Grade 10-12) Elective

Year

1.0 Credit

This is a standard advanced placement AB Calculus course. It covers college level material using an AP Calculus textbook. College credit may be earned through the Advanced Placement Program. Recommended: Grade of “B” or better in Pre-Calculus or equivalent on placement exam. Exceptions may be granted based on teacher recommendation. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May. The associated fee will be billed to the student at the time the AP tests are ordered. In past years the fee is approximately \$50 per test. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP test as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the Academic Counselor if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class. All course and test accommodations must be approved by the College Board.

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC – PACC option

(Grade 10-12) Elective - Restricted

Year

1.0 Credit

This is an advanced placement BC Calculus course. It covers college level material using an AP Calculus textbook. The course covers both St. Mary’s University syllabus for Calculus II and the additional AP topics needed for the BC curriculum. College credit may be earned through the Advanced Placement Program. Recommended: AP Calculus AB and teacher approval. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May. The

associated fee will be billed to the student at the time the AP tests are ordered. In past years the fee is approximately \$50 per test. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP test as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the Academic Counselor if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class. All course and test accommodations must be approved by the College Board.

Discrete Mathematics (Every other year if numbers permit)

(Grade 11-12) Elective First Semester 0.5 Credit

This course will cover topics that can be addressed using discrete as opposed to continuous solutions. One of the aims throughout the course will be to develop proof writing skills. Specific topics that will be covered include basic logic, lists and sets, relations and partitions, permutations and symmetry, and discrete probability. Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB concurrent or completed.

Elementary Linear Algebra (Every other year if numbers permit)

(Grade 11-12) Elective-Restricted Second Semester 0.5 Credit

This is an introduction to elementary linear algebra. Topics include systems of linear equations and their solutions, vectors, matrix operations and inverses, determinants, and an introduction to vector spaces. Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB and teacher approval.

Non-Euclidean Geometry (Every other year if numbers permit)

(Grade 11-12) Elective-Restricted First Semester 0.5 Credit

In this class, students will examine the postulates of Euclid. They will then study differing forms of Geometry in which Euclid's "Parallel Postulate" is negated. This may include Spherical Geometry and Hyperbolic Geometry. Students will study graphs in different Geometries and different properties involving curved surfaces. Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB concurrent or completed.

Number Theory (Every other year if numbers permit)

(Grades 11-12) Elective-Restricted Second Semester 0.5 Credit

This college level course is an introduction into the study of number theory. Number theory is the study of the properties and relationships between types of numbers; we will examine the positive integers for a majority of the semester. In the course students will investigate cryptography and modulo operations. Students will be expected to write proofs and be able to communicate their answers both orally and in written form.

Vectors and Multivariable Calculus (Every other year if numbers permit)

(Grade 11-12) Elective-Restricted 0.5 Credit

Topics for the course include a short review of equations in polar and parametric form and then cover vectors in 2-space and 3-space; partial derivatives and multiple integrals; vector calculus. Graph equations in various coordinate systems (polar, cylindrical, spherical). Perform Calculus operations on functions of several variables. Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC concurrent or completed.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Department Director: Steven McGlaun, 507-453-5055, smcglaun@cotterschools.org

Cotter High School is a faith-based Catholic community dedicated to teaching and living Catholic Christian values in ways that help students develop as faith-filled, ethical persons. Three fundamental aspects within our religion curricula are essential: academics, spiritual growth, and service. These elements are manifest in the following ways: students take four years of religion classes, engage in required service, and 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 offers students opportunities and experiences that will help develop their personal spirituality and enrich their appreciation of God’s love and presence in his/her life. Service opportunities and requirements are currently directed by the Religion Department as well.

Circle of Grace

To ensure that every student learns and understands their intrinsic goodness, the *Circle of Grace*, a Winona Diocese curricular requirement, is a component of all religion classes. Students and teachers learn about their own sacredness, the sacredness of others, and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults (taken from the “Introduction to *Circle of Grace*.”) Part of each grade level 7-12, each year.

Curriculum Requirements

Students are required to take a Religion class every semester.

Required Credits for Graduation = 4.0.

Religion 9:	1.0 Credit
Religion 10 or approved elective:	1.0 Credit
Religion 11 or approved elective:	1.0 Credit
Religion 12:	1.0 Credit

Introduction to Sacred Scripture – Required

(Grade 9) Year 1.0 Credit

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. This will include such topics as Revelation, the development of Sacred Scripture, understanding of the Old Testament and its relationship to Christian beliefs and values, the historical and social context of both Testaments, and an introduction to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God.

The New Testament: The Mission of Jesus Christ - Required

(Grade 10) Semester 0.5 Credit

The purpose of this course is to help students understand what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what Christian discipleship entails. Discipleship is explored through the study of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Church: Its Signs and Symbols - Required (unless taking Skills for Christian Leadership)
(Grade 10) Semester 0.5 Credit

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that the Church is the living Body of Christ commissioned to be a witness to the Gospel in the world today. Students will be introduced to the fact that the Church is founded on Christ, established through the Apostles, and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

Christian Morality: Our Response to God’s Love – Required (unless taking Skills for Christian Leadership)
(Grade 11) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course will focus on the development of virtue and character and moral decision-making. It will provide an opportunity to consider the value of the Christian view of life and living, with Jesus’ command to love as its norm. Students are provided a method of moral decision making which will help them continue in their formation of conscience and guide them in making moral and ethical decisions in their daily lives.

Social Justice: Responding to the Call of Jesus – Required (unless taking Skills for Christian Leadership)
(Grade 11) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course will explore Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and its relationship to Christian living. Students will focus on understanding the seven principles of CST and how they inform our response to the needs of all of God’s children. This course will utilize Church documents and other relevant writings in order to understand CST and look at ways to address current issues.

World Religions - Required

(Grade 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course is an introductory survey of religious traditions. Given our world today where we are exposed to so many different cultures, studying the different religions provides for the student more insight into different cultures and thereby a better understanding of our global community. There is great wisdom in each of these faith expressions which, when examined respectfully, can enrich and deepen one’s own faith understanding.

Christian Vocations: The Call of Christ – Required

(Grade 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls each person to live out their commitment in a specific life style. In this course, students learn how the vocations to married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life are similar and how they differ. Students learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

Christ in Culture (Elective – does NOT substitute for required religion classes)

(Grades 11 or 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course explores the question, “Where is Christ today?” You’ve studied the historical Jesus, now take a look at Christ and Christ figures in art, movies, TV, books, cartoons. Some classic examples of film will be explored as well as children’s literature and modern novels. Can Christ be found in music? How do I begin my search for an encounter with Christ? Reading, response essays, short projects and student led topics all a part of this offering.

Philosophy and Christian Thought (Elective – does NOT substitute for required religion classes)
(Grades 11 or 12) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course considers major philosophical questions in conversation with theology. Special consideration is given to philosophical questions regarding God, certainty, reality, knowledge, philosophical foundations of science, and ethics. The course is designed to consider the power and limits of human reason as applied to the “great questions” as well as the relationship between philosophy and theology, especially within the Catholic tradition.

Skills for Christian Leadership (Elective - fulfills one semester of Grade 10 or 11 religion requirement)
(Grade 10 spring semester, Grade 11 fall semester) Semester 0.5 Credit

Focus on liturgy, prayer, community service, retreats & community building at Cotter Schools. Class activities will involve public speaking (large and small groups) and planning events such as prayer services, junior high retreats, school Masses, etc. Training will be provided for all tasks, including public speaking. It is not necessary to be Catholic, but students must have an understanding and openness to Catholicism. Prerequisites: Admission to this course is dependent on Religion department approval. Students should be organized, open-minded and responsible, as well as have an active prayer and faith life.

SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

Department Director: Ms. Katie Halvorson, 507-453-5000, Ext. 5078,
khalvorson@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 – 3.0

Intro to Chemistry/Physics	1.0 Credit
Biology	1.0 Credit
Chemistry or Physics	1.0 Credit

*Students may take either Chemistry or Physics to complete the science requirement. Please note that students interested in a health career may be required by their college to have completed high school chemistry.

Introduction to Chemistry & Physics - Required

(Grade 9) Year 1.0 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

1.0 Credit

This class is a comprehensive program that includes the study of ecosystems and environmental issues, cytology (study of cell structures, functions, energy, growth, and reproduction), genetics and biotechnology, evolution, and the classification of Earth's biodiversity. The course deals with the study of life on all levels and follows evidence regarding change in living things.

Cotter Bike Lab – Flex Activity

(Grade 9)

Flex Hour /Year

Cotter has a large collection of bicycles for student and staff use. Imagine taking a class on a bike ride to study science, art, literature, architecture, nature, or all the things out there to learn about. How about just for fun, over a lunch break or during a Flex period? The Cotter Bike Lab students will be trained in the art of bicycle mechanics and they will repair, maintain and organize all of Cotter's bicycles. Restricted to 16 students.

Chemistry - Required (May take Honors Chemistry or Physics in place of Chemistry to satisfy the third year of science)

(Grades 10-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is designed to introduce the students to the basic principles of chemistry, and prepare them for entrance into other chemistry and science-related courses in college. Topics covered include data analysis, properties of matter, atomic theory, electronic structure, periodicity, chemical bonds, molar relationships, stoichiometry, thermochemistry, kinetics, and acid-base chemistry. Throughout the year, students will be actively engaged in the lecture, collaborative learning groups, and laboratory activities. This is a lab-based course that satisfies the college requirement of a lab-based science.

Physics - Required (May take Chemistry or Honors Chemistry in place of Physics to satisfy the third year of science)

(Grade 11-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of physics, and prepare them for entrance into other chemistry and science-related courses in college. This is a hands-on course with a laboratory component. Classical mechanics, including acceleration, forces, projectiles and energy, waves, sound and light, electricity, magnetism, and the origins of modern physics. Throughout the year, students will be actively engaged in the lecture, collaborative learning groups, and laboratory activities. This is a lab-based course that satisfies the college requirement of a lab-based science. Prerequisite: A passing grade in Algebra I.

Astronomy – Elective (Offered Spring of 2021, 2023)

(Grades 10-12)

Second Semester

0.5 Credit

The goal of this class is to show students their place in the universe that surrounds planet Earth. Subjects studied include the history of astronomy, astronomical tools and scale, observation of the night sky, astronomical cycles (day-night, seasons, moon phases, constellations, etc.), the Solar System (planets, asteroids, meteors, comets), stars, galaxies, the universe, and cosmology. Share in an adventure to understand the depth and beauty of the cosmos!

Honors Human Biology – Elective – PACC option

(Grades 11-12) Year 1.0 Credit

This course studies the structure (anatomy) and function (physiology) of the human body from the cellular level through the organ systems. Those systems included are the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, lymphatic, digestive, urinary, and reproductive. The study of disease is included to enhance an understanding of the normal in light of the abnormal. An ongoing and complete dissection of a cat is required of the student as is college-prep study, testing, lecture and laboratory techniques. Prerequisites: a grade of B or higher in Biology, be enrolled in grade-level English, and have a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Environmental Science – Elective (Offered Fall of 2020, 2022)

(Grades 11-12) First Semester 0.5 Credit

This course studies the scientific concepts and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Introduction to Engineering (PLTW) – Elective (Offered every other year – 2020, 2022)

(Grades 11-12) Year 1.0 Credit

Engineers make a world of difference! Students are introduced to the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to identify and design solutions to a variety of real problems. They work both individually and in collaborative teams to develop and document design solutions using engineering notebooks and 3D modeling software. Are you ready to design the future?

Principles of Engineering (PLTW) – Elective

(Grades 10-12) Year 1.0 Credit

This Project Lead the Way course introduces students to the engineering process. Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of structures and materials, and automation. Students develop skills in problem solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration and presentation.

Honors Chemistry – Elective - Restricted

(Grades 11-12) Year 1.0 Credit

The Honors Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of a first-year college chemistry experience. This course is an in-depth study of the principles of chemistry. The lab experiments serve to supplement the learning in the lecture section of the course. Problem-solving skills, both on paper and in lab, are emphasized. The course provides instruction in each of the following content areas: atomic theory and structure, chemical bonding, molecular geometry, nuclear chemistry, gases, liquids and solids, solutions, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, kinetics, equilibrium, thermodynamics, acid/base chemistry, organic/biochemistry, periodic relationships, and electrochemistry. Throughout the year, students will be actively engaged in the lecture, collaborative learning groups, and laboratory activities. This is a lab-based course that satisfies the college requirement of a lab-based science.

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics – Elective - Restricted (Offered every other year - 2021, 2023)
(Grades 12) Year 1.0 Credit

This yearlong 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. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May. The associated fee will be billed to the student at the time the AP tests are ordered. In past years the fee is approximately \$50 per test. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP test as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the Academic Counselor if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class. Pre-requisite: Completion or co-requisite of AP Calculus, GPA of 3.5, a solid background in Physics and an ACT/PLAN Science sub-score of 24. All course and test accommodations must be approved by College Board. Registration capacity: 16 students.

Introduction to Computer Science (Offered every other year- 2021, 2023)

(Grades 10-12) Second Semester 0.5 Credit

This class is an introduction to coding using JavaScript. Other topics include: binary language, loops, Boolean logic, basic computer science terms and definitions, introduction to various hardware and software applications and lots of critical and creative thinking opportunities. This course DOES NOT count as one of the 3.0 science credits needed for graduation. Registration capacity: 15 students.

Electronics and Robotics (Offered every other year- 2020, 2022)

(Grades 10-12) Second Semester 0.5 Credit

This class is an introduction to robotics and computer programming (coding). LEGO EV3 technology is used to explore the infinite possibilities of the field of robotics. This course has a strong emphasis on mechanical engineering (through building and designing) and critical and creative thinking (through programming).

Registration capacity: 12 students

SOCIAL STUDIES

Department Director: Ms.Elizabeth Stevenson, 507-453-5000, x5061,
estevenson@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

World History	1.0 Credit
Human Geography	0.5 Credit
U.S. Social Studies	1.0 Credit
U.S. History	1.0 Credit
U.S. Government & Politics	0.5 Credit
Economics	0.5 Credit

United States Social Studies (may be required for international students - for those not having taken U.S. History in the U.S. during junior high or middle school.)

(Grade 9, 10, or 11th grade if also enrolled in ESL II) Year 1.0 Credit

This course is designed for international students who are not yet familiar with the social, cultural, and political history of the United States. Students will be introduced to elements of geography, history, and culture, as well as research practices. Some topics to be covered include the American Revolution, American Civil War, US Civil Rights Movement, US Constitution and Government, and U.S. Geography. As part of the course, we will compare U.S. history and laws to international history and laws. Students will also complete a major investigative project, exploring an element of American culture and engaging in academically honest practices of research and citation. Students will take an active role in developing a foundation for more in-depth U.S. History topics to be covered during junior year. Pre-requisite- ESL II or higher level of English

World History - Required

(Grade 9) Year 1.0 Credit

In this course, students will explore the development of human societies and civilizations from prehistory to modern times. They will analyze how different parts of the world change over time, including the emergence and decline of political, economic, and social forms of organization. Students will learn how to think like historians by analyzing different interpretations of historical events and building their own arguments about history by writing a thesis statement and supporting it with evidence from primary and secondary sources. By the end of this year-long course students will be able to apply their knowledge of history to understand the modern world.

Human Geography - Required

(Grades 10) Semester 0.5 Credit

This course is designed to take an interdisciplinary approach to human geography. The objective is to relate human and 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, patterns, and characteristics 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, utilizing geographic information systems and the acquisition of the technical vocabulary of geography. Students will explore their assigned region of the world through the lenses of population, land use, culture, and political/economic issues.

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

(Grade 11)

Year

1.0 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 - PACC option

(Grade 11)

Year

1.0 Credit

The purpose of the AP United States History course is to offer a first-year college-level course to high school students. While learning historical content surrounding seven themes and nine time-periods, students will develop historical thinking skills including comparing and contextualizing historical events, developing arguments using historical evidence, interpreting and synthesizing historical narratives, and using chronological reasoning. This course requires students to have a strong work ethic and the ability to work independently to cover the breadth and depth of information and concepts necessary for success. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Students that are enrolled in an AP class are required to take the corresponding AP exam in May and may receive college credit. The associated fee will be billed to the student at the time the AP tests are ordered. In past years the fee is approximately \$50 per test. We will notify families of the exact cost of the AP test as we learn of it from the College Board. Please contact the Academic Counselor if the associated fee will prevent the student from registering for the class. Prerequisite: Students must have completed English 10 with a B or better and be recommended by their 10th grade Social Studies teacher. Students must meet with the instructor before summer vacation to pick up course materials.

Economics – Required

(Grade 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Economics drives virtually every part of our lives, and the forces that drive economics are the focus of this course. Students will be introduced to microeconomics, the study of personal or business economic decisions, and macroeconomics, the decisions made by government or international actors, and evaluate the effect these decisions have on their lives. Students will also study personal finance, including financial planning and budgeting, spending, saving, investing, and borrowing.

United States Government and Political Science – Required (may substitute Honors US Government)

(Grade 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

In this course students will gain a strong understanding of the structure and function of the United States government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. They will analyze the creation of the United States government, including the political philosophies and historical situations that shaped the US Constitution. Students will examine how the interpretation of the US Constitution has changed over time. They will study how the United States government works at the local, state, and federal levels, including the political process, elections and voting. They will evaluate how the United States government interacts with other nations and international organizations.

Honors United States Government and Political Science - PACC option

(Grade 12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Students will analyze the creation, structure and function of the United States government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. They will analyze the creation of the United States government, including the political philosophies and historical situations that shaped the US Constitution. Students will examine how the interpretation of the US Constitution has changed over time. They will study how the United States government works at the local, state, and federal levels, including the political process, elections and voting. They will evaluate how the United States government interacts with other nations and international organizations. Honors students will be required to complete more challenging writing, research, and project-based assignments and complete additional reading outside of class.

Your Brain on Psych: an Introduction to Normal and Abnormal Psychology – Elective

(Offered every other year in the fall- 2021, 2023)

(Grades 11-12)

First Semester

0.5 Credit

An introduction to psychology allows students to explore scientific, ethical, and social aspects of psychology. We will study how the brain works, how psychologists and scientists study the brain and behavior, why humans act as they act, how sleep, drugs and hypnosis affect the brain, and how to recognize and treat different brain disorders. Whether you are interested in a career in psychology, studying in college, wondering why you or your friends are how you are, curious how you can improve relationships with others, or just want to learn something new, this course is right for you!

Who are We?: An Introduction to Sociology – Elective

(Offered every other year in the fall- 2020, 2022)

(Grades 11-12)

First Semester

0.5 Credit

Do you have a family? Friends? Enemies? How do you get along with them? Have you ever experienced peer pressure? Do you do what social media tells you to? Why is that? In this course we will study how people interact in small and large groups and what shapes our role in society. We will use popular sources such as books, movies, TV shows, ads, etc to understand how our identities, values, and behaviors have been and continue to be shaped by social factors, as well as conduct our own sociological research.

Good vs Evil: Totalitarianism, Wars, the Holocaust, and the Revolutionaries Who Fought Back - Elective (Offered every other school year in spring- 2021, 2023)

(Grades 11-12)

Second Semester

0.5 Credit

Adolf Hitler, the British Empire, Apartheid, Pol Pot--what do these have in common? All have supported systems of varying degrees of injustice in the 20th century. And all were overthrown by individuals or groups seeking to right the wrongs in society. In this class, we will explore a variety of topics through readings, film, and lively discussion. While specific topics will be chosen by the class as a whole, possible areas we explore are life inside Nazi Germany, the methods used by war criminals in controlling their countries, and the overthrowing of oppressive regimes through the use of peaceful and non-peaceful revolutionary movements and people such as the Black Panthers, the Arab Spring, and the Chinese Revolution.

Street Law: What it Means to be on the Wrong Side of the Law – Elective

(Offered every other school year in the spring- 2022, 2024)

(Grades 11-12, with permission) Second Semester 0.5 Credit

Pulled over for a burnt out tail light? Or maybe speeding? Sorry - there's no such thing as a Get Out of Jail Free card, but knowledge of the law and how it works will keep you out of jail in the first place! This course explores issues in law, diving deep into the criminal justice system, processes, and players. With guest speaker options ranging from judges to police officers to attorneys to crime lab technicians, you will have the opportunity to answer all the questions (and then some) you may have about the law and what it means in your life!

WORLD LANGUAGE

Department Director: Mrs. Ulrike Schorn-Hoffert, 507-453-5090, 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 language teacher together with the counseling department will assess and decide individual student need and placement to ensure the best environment for academic success. If a student should fail the first semester, he or she needs to repeat that semester the following year in order to receive full credit.

Required Credits for Graduation – 2.0 (2 credits must be within the same World Language)**Spanish I - Elective** (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Grades 9-12) Year 1.0 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. No Prerequisite.

Spanish II – Elective (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Grades 9-12) Year 1.0 Credit

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

Spanish III – Elective (may be used to fulfill the World Language requirement)

(Grades 9-12)

Year

1.0 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. Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in Spanish II or teacher's approval.

Spanish IV – Elective

(Grades 10-12)

Year

1.0 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, preterit/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 be from contemporary and traditional literature focusing on authors and genres found on national assessment tools. Class is primarily conducted in Spanish and students are expected to speak Spanish as much as possible. Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in Spanish III or teacher approval.

Honors Spanish V – Elective (offered only if student numbers permit)

(Grades 11-12)

Year

1.0 Credit

Prerequisite: Minimum of grade C in Spanish IV.

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 will fulfill the World Language requirement for Cotter students. The German I and II course sequence will be alternately offered every other year unless the schedule and student interest would warrant yearly courses.

German I – Elective

(Grades 9- 12)

Year

1.0 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 unit. Successful communication at a basic level of German is the main goal of this language course. No prerequisites.

German II – Elective

(Grades 10 - 12)

Year

1.0 Credit

Practice in the four areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing will continue based on selected components of the textbook DEUTSCH AKTUELL as well as other multimedia resources. We will expand our understanding of German vocabulary, grammar and cultural concepts aiming for improved communication skills. Students are encouraged to use German increasingly as the language of classroom conversation. As in German I, active participation, speaking effort in German and listening focus will greatly contribute to student success in this course.

Prerequisite: successful completion of German I or equivalent language background.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Department Director: Mrs. Cathy Snyder, 507-453-5000, Ext. 5053, csnyder@cotterschools.org

Required Credits for Graduation – 1.0 (Visual Arts, Choir, Band)

INTRODUCTORY ART COURSES

Introduction to Creative Thinking - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Develop creative thinking skills and apply those ideas to creating works of art. Learning will include understanding of the art elements as they are used in various art media. Students will have an opportunity to create as well as respond to and appreciate works of art in a critical manner.

Computer Art - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Learn to draw and paint on the computer! Use pressure-sensitive tablet technology to create traditional-style artwork while exploring the basic design elements. Learn to maximize the advantages of using the computer as your artistic tool – the media choice of professional designers and illustrators. Software: *Corel Painter*. Hardware: Wacon tablet and pen.

ADVANCED ART COURSES

Completion of either Introduction to Creative Thinking or Computer Art is required to register for an advanced art course. Students can take an introductory art course in the fall semester and an advanced art course in the spring semester.

Advanced Drawing – Elective

(Grades 9-12)

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 Creative Thinking or Computer Art

Film & Video – Elective (Offered every other year- 2020, 2022)

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Learn the artistic, practical and career aspects of film production – all while having fun making movies! Gain skills in concept development, storyboards/scripts, camerawork, lighting, editing styles, sound effects, music, graphics and special FX. This class culminates in a team-driven, student-directed final film project. Software: *Adobe Premiere Pro*. Prerequisite: Computer Art.

Graphic Design - Elective

(Grades 9-12)

Semester

0.5 Credit

Discover how to turn your interest in art and design into a creative and lucrative career! Learn to use design elements and incorporate marketing techniques to create professional commercial images: ad layouts, posters, typography, logos, t-shirt design and web design. Learn how the design process works, from brainstorming initial concepts, to producing mockups for client presentation, to producing final artwork. Software: *Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop*. Prerequisite: Computer Art.

Modern Photography – Elective (Offered every other year – 2021, 2023)

(Grades 9-12) Semester 0.5 Credit

Everyone’s favorite art medium! Improve your picture-taking skills, learn how to get the best images from your camera, and develop your artistic “eye.” Explore photographic techniques and styles: portraits, abstracts, framing, lighting, exposure, motion and depth of field. Professionally enhance your photos by retouching, color-correcting and adding special effects. Students provide their own camera. Software: *Adobe Photoshop*. Prerequisite: Computer Art.

Painting - Elective

(Grades 9-12) Semester 0.5 Credit

Develop and improve your traditional painting skills: learn the color wheel and how to use color properties, color schemes, brush textures, design elements and materials to your advantage to create effective and eye-catching acrylic paintings on canvas. Explore original ideas, painting styles and subject matters. Prerequisite: Computer Art.

Sculpture/Printmaking – Elective

(Grades 9-12) Semester 0.5 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. Enrollment is limited to 15 students.

Prerequisite: Intro to Creative Thinking or Computer Art.

Band - Elective

(Grades 9-12) Year 1.0 Credit

Band is open to all students in grades 9-12. Participation in this course includes participation in Concert Band and small ensembles for all students. The band rehearses four (4) days per week for one period. Lessons, concerts, contests, and public performances are a required part of the course. Students without prior band experience should make special arrangements with the band director. Each student must play a yearly audition for ensemble and chair placement. Band is a performance course and attendance at all performances is required.

Jazz Band – Elective – Restricted

(Grades 9-12) Year 0.5 Credit

Jazz Band rehearses twice (2) or three (3) times a week for one hour. Instruction in basic theory and jazz improvisation are major components of this course. Jazz band is a performance course; students must be present for all concerts, contests, and public appearances. Enrollment is limited to 20 students. Prerequisite: Audition and concurrent participation in concert band.

Chorus - Elective

(Grades 9-12) Year 1.0 Credit

Chorus is open to all students in grades 9-12. It consists of four basic aspects: building a unified choral tone, developing individual voices, improving music reading skills, and placing musical selections in an historical context. Lessons are required of every chorus member. Chorus is a performance-based course; students must be present for all concerts, contests, and public performances.

Show Choir – Elective - Restricted

(Grades 9-12)

Year

0.5 Credit

Show Choir is a choral music group with emphasis on popular music. Choreographed dance, movement, and staging are also an integral part of this music group. This is a performance course; students are expected to participate in all concerts, contests, or any other public performances. Prerequisite: Audition and concurrent participation in concert choir.

2020-2021 COTTER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

To qualify for a certificate of completion from Cotter Junior High School, each student must complete the required number credits of academic study. Each incoming student is required to take one year of band **or** choir.

Community Service Requirement: A foundational principle embraced at Cotter Schools is that each person is intrinsically good and is loved by God. This principle motivates us to serve others. The Community Service component 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.

Each junior high school student is required to complete 10 hours of community service each year, with a minimum of 5 hours per semester. Additionally, each student must complete at least 2 different service experiences within those 10 hours.

GRADE 7

Language Arts
 Life Science/Design and Modeling
 Mathematics
 Geography
 Religion
 Spanish 1A or Learning Center (by recommendation)
 Art (one semester), Physical Education (one semester)
 Electives: (Choose one or two) Band, Choir

GRADE 8

Language Arts
 Earth Science/Automation and Robotics
 Mathematics
 American History
 Religion
 Spanish 1B
 Physical Education and Health and Wellness Education
 Electives: (Choose one or two) Band, Choir, Learning Center

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

7th Grade Physical Education/Health Semester Required

Physical Education/Health is a vital component in the development of a student's physical, mental, and social well-being. Through this semester long course students will have the opportunity to experience a variety of health and fitness related skills/activities that will provide enjoyable experiences for lifelong physical fitness. In conjunction with health class students will receive instruction in proper exercise techniques and practices, good nutritional habits, and basic anatomy. 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.

8th Grade Health/Physical Education Year Required

This year long 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. 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.

LANGUAGE ARTS

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

Language Arts - Grade 7 Year Required

Seventh grade English emphasizes interpersonal communication, critical reading, and personal writing skills. Students have ongoing and consistent practice in sentence structure, including grammar and spelling. Vocabulary expansion is integrated into the curriculum throughout the year. In addition, using various models, students will focus their study of literature on plot, character development, setting, point of view, figurative speech, and theme. Students will practice writing sequence of events, predicting outcomes and making inferences. Emphasis is placed on appreciation, enjoyment, understanding, critical thinking and development of stimulating reading and writing skills and habits. Poetry and reading a novel are integrated into the curriculum.

Language Arts - Grade 8 Year Required

This course develops strong critical thinking skills through the composition of well-structured expository, descriptive, and persuasive paragraphs. This class also reviews and builds on previously taught grammar and usage skills, then moves to incorporate increasingly complex patterns in students' writing. The writing process -- including an emphasis on revision -- and audience awareness exercises enhance students' abilities to tailor their voices in appropriate genres for various purposes. In addition, students read and analyze short stories, poetry, non-fiction, and

Native American biographies. Word processing and the Internet will be components of individual units.

Teen Press 7 & 8 – Elective

(Grades 7-8)

Flex Hour Semester/Year

Spend one flex period a week learning interviewing techniques, video editing, and researching subjects and scheduling interviews locally, and perhaps, regionally. Students must be willing to attend some events or conduct interviews outside the school day, though these will be set up around students' existing schedules.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department offers courses designed to provide a sound mathematical background needed to succeed in life as well as to prepare students for more advanced mathematical courses. The objectives of the mathematics curriculum include the following: 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. In addition, the mathematics department envisions every student functioning at a level appropriate for his or her capacity to learn and to ensure each class includes challenges and successes for every student. 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.

Basic Math - Grades 7 and 8

Year

Placement Required

General math is a transition course for students who have completed sixth grade math but are not ready for Pre-Algebra.. Basic mathematical concepts and skills are reviewed and reinforced. This course focuses on the following skills: fractions, decimals, percents and ratios; perimeter, circumference, area and volume; exponents, scientific notation and signed numbers. Students receive consistent guided practice with problem- solving techniques through word problems.

Pre Algebra - Grade 7 and 8

Year

Placement Required

This course is designed to be a bridge between Arithmetic and Algebraic thinking. This course aims to move from concrete thinking to abstract thinking. The major concepts in algebraic thinking will be introduced. An emphasis is placed on problem solving, reasoning skills, and using algebra in the real world. During the course, students will also strengthen their arithmetic skills.

Algebra 1 – Grade 7 and 8

Year

Placement Required

This one-year course is designed to cover the standard topics of Algebra. 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. Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or equivalent on placement test.

RELIGION

The religion department strives to guide and challenge students in their process of becoming conscious, active, self-determined, integrated members of the Christian community, who will continue to carry on the Good News and build the Kingdom of God. In addition, the religion

department seeks to help students develop a solid understanding of what it means to be Catholic, which will overflow into all aspects of the Cotter community. Courses are designed to maintain a strong academic focus on Church teachings, provide daily opportunities for prayer and spiritual enhancement, and remain flexible for opportunities for discussion of immediate concerns impacting our lives and the lives of those around us.

Religion - Grade 7 & 8

Year

Required

Liturgy and Sacraments (Offered every other year – 2020, 2022)

This course focuses on understanding the Catholic Mass and the sacraments celebrated in the Catholic Church. Students learn to identify and explain basic parts of the Mass and come to a deeper understanding of why Catholics do what they do at Mass. Each of the seven sacramental celebrations are studied with a special focus on the meaning of their rituals, symbols, gestures and prayers. Students will also plan and lead class prayer and grow in their ability to locate Scripture passages.

Life of Jesus: Who do you say that I am? (Offered every other year – 2021, 2023)

This course takes a deeper look into the mystery and life of Jesus Christ. The mystery of the Trinity will be explored. The fully human and fully divine nature of Jesus Christ is a major focus. Students will deepen their knowledge of Jesus' ministry on earth and his teachings about the Kingdom of God. Students will plan and lead class prayer and grow in their ability to locate Scripture passages.

SCIENCE

The vision of the science department is to develop a comprehensive science program that fosters inquiry in students and helps students communicate scientific principles and ideas using technology and other media.

Gr. 7: Life Science

Semester

Required

Life Science is designed to introduce 7th graders to the study of living things. In this class we will discover how living things relate to one another and to their surroundings. We will begin our study of Life Science with the cell and its functions and build through the five kingdoms to plants and animals. Along the way we will learn about the processes that organisms exhibit how different organisms perform these processes. Most importantly we will be relating Life Science to ourselves and the world around us.

Gr. 7: Design and Modeling (PLTW)

Semester

Required

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Gr. 8: Earth Science

Semester

Required

Earth Science is the study of the planet Earth and its' place in space. In this class, all eighth graders will be introduced to the Earth Science branches of geology, meteorology, astronomy, oceanography and Environmental Science and will learn how these branches are connected.

Gr. 8: Automation and Robotics (PLTW) Semester **Required**

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

LEARNING CENTER**Learning Center – Grades 7 and 8** **Elective**

The Learning Center class provides academic assistance as well as tutoring in various academic areas. It also provides students with guidance in the areas of study skills, organization, writing skills and other areas as needed. Students may be referred by faculty, parents and/or administration. A student can be enrolled in the Learning Center part or full-time depending on a student's schedule and learning needs.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies department seeks to prepare students to be thoughtful, active citizens in our democratic society and to make them aware of the responsibilities that go along with citizenship. Students will obtain the tools of learning, learn to make rational decisions, and develop talents to assist them in their future careers. Teachers strive to help students become more knowledgeable and make them aware of the current events and how they impact our lives and the lives of those around us. The social studies' program helps students formulate a workable set of Christian values; to meet challenges; and to think, create, interpret and apply their knowledge to the world around them. Emphasis is placed on inquiry and understanding so that students can function productively in a multicultural, ever changing, and increasingly interdependent world.

United States History - Grade 7 **Year** **Required**

This course is designed to cover American history from colonial times to the Korean War. In addition to acquiring knowledge of the history of the United States, an emphasis will be placed on developing social studies' skills including analyzing primary and secondary documents, understanding graphics, evaluating cause and effect relationships, writing, and reading maps. A primary goal of this course is to aid students in developing critical thinking skills and appreciating how they fit into the overall story that is US history.

Geography - Grade 8 **Year** **Required**

This course is intended to be a survey of the cultures and geography of all areas of earth. The analysis of maps, the ability to organize information, interpret graphics, accurately placing countries on a world map, and appreciating all cultures will be emphasized. Students will be asked to consider how land affects the way in which ideas, social structures, and global trends are developed and intertwined.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

All students will be required to participate in the visual and performing arts as an essential element of a well-rounded education and personal growth. Through the arts, students are exposed to varied interests, knowledge and experiences, thereby becoming strong and productive adult members of society.

Art - Grade 7

Semester

Required

This course is an introduction to the basic principles and elements of art. Emphasis will be placed on hands-on learning through a variety of media and art experiences. In addition, this class will incorporate art appreciation and technology-enhanced activities and assignments.

Band - Grades 7 and 8

Year

Elective

Band is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. Students without prior band experience should make special arrangements with the band director at the beginning of the school year if they are interested in taking part in this class. The band rehearses four (4) days per week for one period. Individual lessons are required of every band member, and each student must play a yearly audition for chair placement. Grades will be based on regular lesson attendance, rehearsals, and participation. Band is a performance course; therefore, students must be present for all concerts, contests, and public performances. Junior High Jazz Band is an optional ensemble that meets once per week.

Choir - Grades 7 and 8

Year

Elective

Choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade students. The junior high choir will provide opportunities to learn, prepare, and present programs in the area of vocal music. Vocal techniques and tone production are studied in various styles of music, ranging from early sacred to popular selections. Opportunities to form smaller ensembles will be available for singing at such functions as school masses and community singing. Choir is a performance-based course; therefore, students must be present for concerts and public performances. Junior High Show Choir is an optional ensemble that meets once per week.