

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT 81**



2023-2024 Comfrey High School Course Description Guide

Register online: <https://comfrey.mntm.org/page/4078>

Graduation Requirements

English	4 credits
Social Studies	3.5 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Art/Fine arts	1 credit
Physical Education/Health	1.5 credits
Computer	1. credit
Electives	6 credits
Total Credits	23 credits

Comfrey High School Course Descriptions

Art

Commercial Graphic Design

1 semester/.5 Credit

Grade 9

This course will teach students to use artistic techniques to effectively communicate ideas and information to business and customer audiences via illustration and other forms of digital or printed media. Topics covered may include concept design, layout, paste-up and techniques such as engraving, etching, silkscreen, lithography, offset, drawing and cartooning, painting, collage and computer graphics.

Digital Media Design & Production

1 semester/.5 Credit

Grade 9

Digital Media Design and Production courses teach students the fundamentals of graphic design and production and provide students with the opportunity to apply these principles to printed media, digital presentation media, and interactive media. Topics may include graphic design, animation, audio production, video production, web design, and use of digital cameras and technology.

Photojournalism/Yearbook

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is coordinated with the production of the school yearbook using the online application Pictavo. Other school related media products such as posters, brochures, cafeteria digital display screens, locker signs, and promotional postcards will be created. This course provides students with the opportunity to improve their desktop publishing, photo composition, and digital photography skills, and to apply their creativity in the computer lab.

Fibers and Textile Design

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Students will apply the fundamental processes of artistic expression in creating textiles and fiber works. Techniques and processes such as fashion design, weaving, crocheting, needlepoint, embroidery and quilting will be offered. This course will help students understand the artist's intent in creating fiber works of art in our textiles shop area.

Ceramics/Pottery

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course provides knowledge of ceramic techniques (e.g., kiln firing and glazing) and processes with an emphasis on creative design and craftsmanship. This course includes clay modeling, hand building, coil building, and throwing on the potter's wheel.

Fundamentals of Design Courses/ART SURVEY

2 semesters/1 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Students apply the concepts and approaches in the symbolic aspects of art and design to two- and three-dimensional problems so that they demonstrate a range of abilities, techniques, and problem-solving. This class is on a quarterly three-week rotation: three weeks in the computer lab, three weeks in the shop and three weeks in the art room.

- 1st Quarter - Architectural Design - the fundamental processes of artistic expression of designing buildings, open areas, communities, and environments with an aesthetic effect.
- 2nd Quarter - Ceramics/Pottery - knowledge of ceramic techniques (e.g., kiln firing and glazing) and processes. Options may include clay modeling, hand building, coil building, casting, and throwing on the potter's wheel.

- 3rd Quarter - Crafts - survey of a wide range of crafts; some possibilities include calligraphy, quilting, silk-screening, cake-decorating, mask-making, crocheting, paper-making, etc.
- 4th Quarter -Sculpture - exploration of representational and abstract sculpture through subtractive (carving), additive (modeling) and assemblage techniques in one or more mediums.

Shop Art/Sculpture

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course promotes creative expression through three-dimensional works incorporating the elements of art and principles of design. This course explores representational and abstract sculpture through subtractive (carving), additive (modeling), and assemblage techniques in one or more media such as concrete, plaster, clay and/or wood in our shop environment.

Visual Art–Drawing/Painting

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course provides instruction in drawing and painting using a variety of media and techniques, incorporating the elements of art and principles of design. Students will explore the process of responding to art through analysis, critique and interpretation. Tools which will be included are technical pens, markers, colored pencils, calligraphy pens, airbrush tools, acrylics, watercolors, and oil paint.

Crafts

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Students may explore types of folk art and the materials and ways in which objects have been created for practical, religious, spiritual and cultural needs of people around the world. Some topics offered: calligraphy, silk-screening, cake-decorating, glass etching, mask-making, paper-making, string art, etc.

Art Portfolio Independent Study

This course is designed for portfolio presentation for preserving and protecting art. Students will create, select, respond to, and present work that clearly reflects newly obtained technical skills, increasing conceptual thinking and personal interests.

English Language Arts

English 7/8

English 7/8 helps students transition from the expectations and level of work in elementary to high school. The class focuses on building students' reading comprehension, writing ability, grammar usage, and vocabulary. Students will learn how to write organized paragraphs using textual evidence from nonfiction texts, format assignments using MLA, and organize an essay that clearly responds to a prompt. A second focus for the year will be developing research strategies through writing a research paper on a topic of choice. Finally, students will develop their literary analysis skills during novel units.

English 9/10

2 Semesters/1 Credit

English 9/10 builds upon the Minnesota English Language Arts standards in reading, writing, speaking, and listening at a high school level. Students will explore different types of literature that will develop their comprehension of a story and how it relates to their lives. There will be ample writing practice in the form of short responses, paragraphs, and essays. Students will be exposed to different writing styles, learn how to refine language and grammar choices, and develop vocabulary skills, and small group speaking skills.

English 11/12

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Over the course of two years, English 11/12 will encourage students to think critically about the world around them and will prepare them for life after high school. Analyzing will be a main tool used while reading, writing, and speaking as students will develop strategies to be able to comprehend and respond more deeply to the messages presented in a text and how these messages relate to the world.

College Now Composition

1 Semester/.5 Credit

Grades 11, 12

This course is a college level composition class. Students will develop composition skills through a series of assignments designed to help them first explain a concept and then, after extensive research, defend a position on that concept. The class consists of multiple writing assignments as well as metacognitive writing in which students analyze their growth as writers. This course is eligible for college credit through SMSU.

***Instructor approval required**

College Now Literature
1 Semester/.5 Credit
Grades 11, 12

This course is a college level course in literature. Students will read a variety of texts including poetry, short stories and novels to explore their understanding of different elements of fiction. This course is eligible for college credit through SMSU.

***Instructor approval required**

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

Grade 7

This 7th Grade Math course is a one-year course that will cover topics in the Minnesota State Standards for Grade 7. These topics include the real numbers; algebraic expressions; equations and inequalities; ratio, proportion, and percent; functions and graphs, and systems of equations.

Algebra I

Grade 8

This Algebra course is a one-year course that will cover topics in the Minnesota State Standards for Algebra. These topics will include variables, functions patterns and graphs, rational numbers, solving equations, solving inequalities, graphs and functions, and linear equations and their graphs.

Intermediate Algebra

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grade 9

This Intermediate Algebra course is a one-year course that will cover topics in the Minnesota State Standards for Algebra. These topics will include systems of equations, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations and functions, radical expressions and equations, and rational expressions and functions.

Geometry

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grade 10

This Geometry course is a one-year course that will cover topics in the Minnesota State Standards for Geometry. These topics will include the tools of geometry, reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, relationships within triangles, quadrilaterals, similarity, and right triangles and trigonometry.

Algebra II

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grade 11

This Algebra course is a one-year course that will cover topics in the Minnesota State Standards for Algebra. These topics will include tools of algebra; functions, equations, and graphs; linear systems; matrices; quadratic equations and functions; polynomials and polynomial functions; radical function and rational exponents; and exponential and logarithmic functions.

Algebra II - Advanced

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grade 11, 12

This course is a one-year course that will cover topics in the Minnesota State Standards for Algebra and Trigonometry. These topics will include tools of algebra; functions, equations, and graphs, quadratic equations and functions; polynomials and polynomial functions; radical function and rational exponents; exponential and logarithmic functions, and a deeper dive into trigonometry.

Music

Junior High Choir

Grades 5, 6, 7 (required)

The junior high choir class is designed for students to attain and apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of part singing and musical interpretation. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for presentation along with other necessary musical skills. Attendance at all performances is a requirement for this course. Additional opportunities are available to choir students through participation in solo and small group performing ensembles. Students may also be selected to participate in honor choirs and/or festivals.

Junior High Band

Grades 5, 6, 7 (elective)

The Comfrey Junior High Band program is designed to enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of students. Musical opportunities are provided for every child to learn the basic skills of playing and reading music, developing repertoire, broadening listening skills, and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. The junior high school band class is designed for students to attain and apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical

ensemble. Students will continue developing the skills of instrument playing and musical interpretation. Attendance at all performances is a requirement for this course. Additional opportunities are available to band students through participation in pep band and solo/small group performing ensembles. Students may also be selected to participate in honor bands and/or festivals.

***Instrument maintenance fee may apply for usage of school-owned instruments.**

Concert Choir

2 Semesters/.5 Credit

Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

The high school concert choir class is designed for students to attain and apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of part singing and musical interpretation. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for presentation along with other necessary musical skills. The skills attained in this class will provide a basis for the appreciation and continuation of musical participation into adulthood. Attendance at all performances is a requirement for this course. Additional opportunities are available to choir students through participation in solo and small group performing ensembles. Students may also be selected to participate in honor choirs and/or festivals.

Concert Band (grades 8-12)

2 Semesters/.5 Credit

Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

The high school concert band class is designed for students to attain and apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of instrument playing and musical interpretation. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating expression for presentation along with other necessary musical skills. The skills attained in this class will provide a basis for the appreciation and continuation of musical participation into adulthood. Attendance at all performances is a requirement for this course. Pep band is also a required portion of this class. Additional opportunities are available to band students through participation in solo and small group performing ensembles. Students may also be selected to participate in honor bands and/or festivals.

***Instrument maintenance fee may apply for usage of school-owned instruments.**

Guitar Ensemble

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course offers all students an opportunity to perform and create music. The course focuses on the basic fundamentals of guitar playing and emphasizes a quick arrival to performance level. Students will

learn various styles of guitar playing. A prior knowledge of music is helpful but not necessary. Students are required to own/rent an approved acoustic guitar.

***Instrument maintenance fee may apply for usage of school-owned instruments.**

Percussion Ensemble

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course offers all students an opportunity to perform and create music. Focus is on the basic fundamentals of percussion playing and emphasizes a quick arrival to performance level. Students will learn various styles and instruments in the percussion area. A prior knowledge of music, specifically rhythm, is helpful but not necessary.

***Instrument maintenance fee may apply for usage of school-owned instruments.**

Music Theory/Fundamentals

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to enhance understanding of music fundamentals. The essential aspects of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form are studied through analyzing, listening to, and creating music. This course is recommended for students who plan to continue to study music beyond high school. Course emphasis will be on advanced understanding of music theory, arranging, and composing original pieces.

History of Rock and Roll

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to address the questions: Where did rock and roll come from? How is it related to American culture and did it have any effect on our history? Students will study the History of Rock and Roll and learn how this powerful genre of music has helped define worldwide culture. This is not an active music-making course. There are no necessary skills in music reading needed.

Music Technology

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Music Technology will introduce students to the world of sound production, basic recording and music notation. Students will learn how to record and manipulate sound, orchestrate songs and compositions, and finalize a recording of live music. Basic understanding of microphones, sounds mixers, garage band, finale, and other music technologies will be included.

Physical Education/Health

Physical Education

Grades 7, 8

This course provides the opportunity to learn a variety of sports and fitness based activities as well as sport movements. Health topics relate to nutrition, fitness, and wellness. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive interactions.

Physical Education

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grades 9, 10

This course provides the opportunity to learn a variety of sports and fitness based activities as well as sport movements. Health topics relate to nutrition, fitness, and wellness. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive interactions.

***Students in grade 10 may opt out of physical education during one semester to take an elective with instructor approval.**

Lifetime Health and Fitness

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is an introduction to general fitness principles and techniques that students can take with them throughout life. Students will work on improving overall fitness through activities that will help them build strength, endurance, and flexibility. Students will also work on improving their understanding of nutrition through activities that require meal planning and cooking. Students will develop an understanding of general fitness through cardiovascular and resistance training. Students will learn how working out can help to reduce stress and develop a positive outlook and self-image.

Science

Life Science

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grades 7, 8

Life Science is a full year course that gives an overview of our living world. Topics include the scientific method, matter, microscopes, characteristics and needs of life, cells, taxonomy, the six kingdoms of life, ecology, evolution, and genetics. Students will study and explore topics using small and large group discussion, technical reading, hands on projects, and labs.

Physical Science
2 Semesters/1 Credit
Grades 7,8

Students will evaluate interactions between Chemistry, Physics, and select principles of Earth Science encountered in everyday activities. This course focuses heavily on experimental skills, utilizing formal lab procedures and scientific lab write-ups. The experimental process uses a variety of technical writing approaches and includes an introduction to a variety of engineering concepts. Also as part of the course, students will gain a familiarity and proficiency with standard lab equipment. Student focal points in chemistry are: properties and states of matter; atomic structure and the use of the periodic table; chemical bonds and chemical reactions; and nuclear chemistry. Student focal points in physics are: the basic fundamentals of forces and motion; work, power, and energy; with explorations in sound, the electromagnetic spectrum, electricity, and magnetism.

Earth Science
2 Semesters/1 Credit
Grade 9

Earth Science is a full year course designed to investigate general chemistry topics, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, climate, meteorology and astronomy. Students will study and explore topics using small and large group discussions, hands on projects and labs, interactive computer simulations, technology, engineering and math. This course will help prepare students to gain knowledge of the processes that occur on Earth.

Biology
2 Semesters/1 Credit
Grade 10

Biology is a full year life science course. An appreciation of living forms will enable students to perceive the relationship of organisms to one another and their environment. Students will also gain an understanding of the chemical components that make up plants, animals, and microorganisms.

Chemistry
2 Semesters/1 Credit
Grades 11, 12

Chemistry is a full year course that deals with the chemical nature of the world around us. The emphasis of the course is on understanding of atomic theory, chemical bonding, and inorganic reactions.

Human Anatomy and Physiology

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This full year course focuses around the study of the structures of the 11 different human body systems and the medical terms that are used to describe the structures of the human body. The class is designed to give students the basic foundations in the study of the human body so they will be prepared to take on the rigors of a college level human Anatomy and Physiology course in the future. This foundation will also prepare students who wish to pursue career choices in health care fields as physicians, nurses, physical therapists, athletic trainers, x-ray technicians, and others.

*Students in grade 10 will require permission from the instructor to be in this course.

Forensic Science

2 semesters/1 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This is a full-year course that will explore and provide an understanding of the scientific principles involved in criminal investigations, including the forensic techniques and processes necessary to collect, identify and analyze biological, chemical, and physical evidence. Topics of study may include but are not limited to fingerprinting, blood type analysis, DNA and genetics, toxicology, decomposition dating, physiological systems of the body, hair and fiber analysis, blood splatter and trauma direction, ballistics, and tool markings as well as crime scene documentation. Students will participate in case studies of real-life crimes, mock investigations and various lab activities.

Nutrition Science

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

In this half-a-year course, students focus on the examination of individual nutrients by studying nutrient structure and function in the human body, nutrient composition of food, and the selection of foods that meet nutrient needs, maintain health, and provide satisfaction. Topics covered include digestion, absorption, and metabolism of carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins; vitamins and minerals; physical activity; nutritional needs throughout the life cycle; and an evaluation of nutritional claims. This course will have hands-on activities and will use the FACs room to perform labs and experiments.

Plant Science
1 semester/.5 credit
Grades 10, 11, 12

In this semester course, students will focus on the science of plants and other living organisms. Students will gain knowledge about the propagation of plants for food, fiber, and commercial uses. Topics may include soil science, irrigation, pest and weed control, crop production, and farm and commercial operations. Students will learn how to apply biology, life science, and chemistry to real-life processes of plants and vegetation, either in laboratories or in the field. This course will have hands-on activities along with labs and experiments.

Social Studies

U.S. History
Grade 7, 8

This course is designed as a basic crash course through our country's history from European exploration and settlement to present day.

Topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Reasons for exploration/settlement
- Early conflicts between Europeans and Native Americans
- Early conflicts between rival European countries competing for land in the United States
- The Revolution
- Our Nation's early history
- Westward Expansion
- Industrialism
- 20th Century Wars (Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, The Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, War in the Middle East, etc.)

Global Studies
Grade 7, 8

Students will learn and use skills based around the five themes of geography. In this class they will start with basic skills including mapping and vocabulary associated with geographic topics. Students will then tour the globe using these skills and learning about different areas in the United States as well as around the world.

Civics

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grade 9, 10

Civics is a study of the structure and the role of our government. During this class students will learn about how the government functions and the system that they are a part of. Students will also study topics such as the legal system, the political process and the rule of law. They will also gain basic understandings of different governmental systems around the globe and the impact of these governments on their populations.

American History

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grades 9, 10

In this course students will study the history of our country from its origins to present day history. They will start with Native American culture, its historical roots and its impact on our country. After studying Native American cultures, students move on to European exploration and settlement and then transition to the road to revolution and our start as an independent country. As the course moves throughout the year, students weave their way through specific events and how they have impacted the United States and its standing amongst the rest of the world.

World History

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

World History is an overview of the history of human society from early civilization to modern world history. Students look at economic, political, social, religious, military, scientific and cultural developments that have taken place during the history of mankind.

Economics

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 11, 12

In this course students learn basic economic principles in the following broad topics:

- Microeconomic
- Macroeconomics
- Personal Finance
- Financial Literacy

Geography

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 11, 12

In this course students build off of the five themes of geography by looking at specific continents and countries around the globe. They study these continents and countries geographically, historically, culturally and economically. Some topics include but are not limited to the following:

- The Physical Environment
- The Political Landscape
- The relationship between people and the land
- Economic Development
- The movement of people, goods and ideas

Psychology

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

The course introduces students to the study of:

- The Field of Psychology
- Human Behavior
- Human Growth
- Human Development
- Human Personality Traits
- Social Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Mental Health and Mental Disabilities

Political Science

2 Semesters/1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Political Science is a more in-depth look at our government system in the United States. Students examine the role of government and the nature of political behavior, action and power. They also will look at the justice system and the rule of law and how it impacts people culturally and economically.

World Cultures

1 semester/.5 credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is a study of specific regions around the world. Each semester students choose a different region and examine the culture of that region based on history, geography and economics and how these play a role in each region's culture. Students also have the opportunity to cook foods from each of these regions to get a "taste" of this portion of the region's culture.

Modern History
2 Semesters/1 Credit
Grades 10, 11, 12

This class provides an overview of specific historical events in the past few centuries. It includes research on the impact of events historically, socially, culturally and economically. Students will study the military events, legal systems, and religions and explore how these things have played a role in society during specific time periods.

Work Based Learning

Work-Based Learning
2 semesters/2 credits
Grade 12

Work-Based Learning (WBL) is an educational program that combines classroom instruction with practical work experience. The program's mission is to enhance student knowledge by combining classroom learning with hands-on work experience.

Components included in the classroom portion of this experience include, but are not limited to: personality type, career exploration, labor laws, work place safety, and practical money skills. Also included is soft skills training including: communication, teamwork, networking, problem solving, critical thinking, and professionalism.

The workplace portion of this class involves students using the classroom skills to enhance their lives through work. Students will be placed with an employer helping them gain and grow skills that will aid in career selection and job placement in their future.

Students spend a portion of this two-period class in the classroom and a portion in the workplace.

***This class is a 2-hour class**

***Expenses will apply to this course. See instructor for more details**

Minnesota Career Fields, Clusters & Pathways

■ Marketing

- > Merchandising
- > Marketing Management
- > Marketing Communications
- > Marketing Research
- > Professional Sales

■ Business, Management, and Administration

- > Administrative Support
- > Operations Management
- > Business Information Management
- > Human Resources Management
- > General Management

■ Hospitality and Tourism

- > Lodging
- > Recreation, Amusements and Attractions
- > Restaurants and Food/Beverage Services
- > Travel and Tourism

■ Finance

- > Banking Services
- > Business Finance
- > Securities and Investment
- > Accounting
- > Insurance

■ Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

- > Animal Systems
- > Agribusiness Systems
- > Environmental Service Systems
- > Food Products and Processing Systems
- > Natural Resources Systems
- > Plant Systems
- > Power, Structural, and Technical Systems

■ Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications

- > Audio/Video Technology and Film
- > Journalism and Broadcasting
- > Performing Arts
- > Printing Technology
- > Telecommunications
- > Visual Arts

■ Information Technology

- > Information Support and Services
- > Network Systems
- > Programming and Software Development
- > Web and Digital Communications



Minnesota
Department
of Education

**Foundation
Knowledge and Skills**
Academic and Technical Literacy
Employability • Ethics • Systems
Teamwork • Career Development
Problem Solving • Critical Thinking
Information Technology Application
Legal Responsibilities • Communication
Safety, Health and Environment
Social Studies • Math • Science
English • Personal Finance

■ Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

- > Correction Services
- > Emergency and Fire Management Services
- > Law Enforcement Services
- > Legal Services
- > Security and Protective Services

■ Human Services

- > Consumer Services
- > Counseling and Mental Health Services
- > Early Childhood Development and Services
- > Family and Community Services
- > Personal Care Services

■ Government and Public Administration

- > Revenue and Taxation
- > Foreign Service
- > Governance
- > National Security
- > Planning
- > Public Management and Administration
- > Regulation

■ Education and Training

- > Administration and Administrative Support
- > Professional Support Services
- > Teaching/Training

Health Science Technology CAREER FIELD

■ Health Science

- > Biotechnology Research and Development
- > Diagnostic Services
- > Support Services
- > Health Informatics
- > Therapeutic Services

Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology CAREER FIELD

■ Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

- > Facility and Mobile Equipment Maintenance
- > Health, Safety, and Environmental Management
- > Logistics Planning and Management Services
- > Sales and Services
- > Transportation Operations
- > Transportation Systems/Infrastructure Planning, Management, and Regulation
- > Warehousing and Distribution Center Operations

■ Architecture and Construction

- > Construction
- > Design/Pre-construction
- > Maintenance/Operations

■ Manufacturing

- > Production
- > Manufacturing Production Process Development
- > Maintenance, Installation, and Repair
- > Quality Assurance
- > Logistics and Inventory Control
- > Health, Safety, and Environmental Assurance

■ Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- > Engineering and Technology
- > Science and Mathematics

Additional Resources

www.cte.mnscu.edu/programs/index.html
www.mnpos.com

Legend:

■ = Career Cluster

> = Career Pathway

Explanation provided on reverse side.