MESA VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



9-12th Grade Class Descriptions 2024-2025

Full-time students work with MVCS staff to select and schedule 6-7 classes each semester, working toward graduation requirements. Part-time students are asked to indicate a preference for classes; schedules for these students is confirmed AFTER full-time students are scheduled. Part-time students choose one of the following options for classes; they may not take Independent Study or Work Experience.

- 2 MVCS classes
- 1 MVCS class and 1 D51 crossover class
- 1 MVCS class and 1 CMU class
- 1 D51 Career Center program
- 1 CMU Tech program
- 3-11 college credits at CMU

Descriptions of classes are grouped by type below. Prerequisites are included when relevant; placement tests may be required for some classes.

MVCS On-site Classes

Each class meets one, two, or three days a week in person **on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** and includes work in between class days that **must be documented and will require parental oversight**. Each class is designed to be worth 0.5 credits per semester and provide a student with the equivalent of 77 hours of instruction during a semester. Most classes require that tests be taken during a separate session in the MVCS Test Lab (offered at various times throughout the week on a drop-in basis). Required off-site time for each type of class is as follows:

- 1x/week class = 3 hours/week off-site work + additional homework as assigned
- 2x/week class = 2 hours/week off-site work + additional homework assigned
- 3x/week class = 1hour/week off-site work + additional homework as assigned

Typical Grade	_	Grad. Req. Class Type	Sem.	Name	Description
9	3	MATH	YR	Algebra I	This class serves as the foundation for upper-level mathematics and covers equations, inequalities, linear functions, exponents, polynomials, quadratic functions, and exponential functions. Students with a grade of C or less are required to attend Math Lab. Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or equivalent.
10	2	MATH	YR	Geometry	This spatial mathematics class covers two-dimensional geometry, three-dimensional geometry, and an introduction to trigonometry. Students with a grade of C or less are required to attend Math Lab. Prerequisite: Algebra I.
9	1	МАТН	YR	1X Geometry	This class covers the same topics as the 2x/week version of the class. It is designed and scheduled appropriately for students who are advanced a year in math, to allow them to follow the rest of the 9 th grade schedule without conflicts. Students with a grade of C or less are required to attend Math Lab. Prerequisite: Passing Algebra I in 8 th grade with a B or higher.

11	2	MATH	YR	Algebra II	This class covers a variety of mathematical functions, matrices, and trigonometry. Students with a grade of C or less are required to attend Math Lab. Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry.
12	3	МАТН	YR	Pre-Calculus	This is a college-preparatory class, cementing the algebra concepts learned throughout prior math classes while covering an overview of calculus topics, including continuity and limits. Prepares students for college mathematics, including College Algebra and/or Calculus. Students with a grade of C or less are required to attend Math Lab. Prerequisite: Algebra II.
9	3	SCI	YR	Introduction to Chemistry & Physics	This class is a broad introduction to the combined concepts chemistry and physics, covering the high school Colorado Academic Standards for Physical Science. Students explore the sub-atomic model, chemical processes and energy, properties of elements, nuclear processes, Newton's second law, forces and energy transfer, properties of energy, conversion of energy, waves, electromagnetics, and application of these principles to technology. This class meets the graduation requirement for physical science. Requirements: Students should have taken or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1.
10	3	SCI	YR	Biology	This class explores the fundamental characteristics of life, enabling students to master ecosystems, environmental health, populations, and cellular biology, then advancing to the molecular level up to DNA expressions that give us the diversity of life. Lectures and labs cover topics including classification, genetics, population dynamics, ecology, and zoology. This class meets the graduation requirement for life science. Prerequisite: Intro to Chemistry and Physics.
11	2	SCI	YR	Environmental Science	This class is an interdisciplinary study that describes how humans interact with the environment. Our use of the natural world brings with it many problems, and this field of study examines these problems and seeks to discover remedies. By understanding the natural processes (physical and biological) that operate in the world, as well as the role that technology plays in our society, we can use problem-solving initiatives to improve environmental conservation. Major topics this class includes are: natural resources, ecological history, ecological footprints, water/watersheds/wetlands, energy (renewable-nonrenewable), waste & recycling, biodiversity, agricultural methods, building techniques and transportation methods. This class meets the graduation requirement for earth science. Prerequisites: Intro to Chemistry and Physics & Biology.
12	2	SCI	F	Terrestrial Zoology	This class is focused on terrestrial animal development, classification, identification using anatomical structures, physiology, and uniqueness. A review of major terrestrial animal phyla is conducted as well as specialized cell structures, ecology, reproduction, and species interactions. Special projects compare and contrast specialized animal locomotion, species diversity, niche habitats, and keystone species. For example, one of these projects examines the wide variety of different types of flight across different groups of animals. Animal behavior and specific habitat needs are reviewed concerning wise conservation of habitat and species diversity. Units span the entire globe to show the need for ongoing study of new and endangered species. Prerequisite: Biology. Recommended for Juniors and Seniors.
12	2	SCI	S	Aquatic Zoology	This class is focused on terrestrial animal development, classification, identification using anatomical structures, physiology, and uniqueness. A review of major aquatic phyla is conducted as well as specialized

					cell structures, ecology, reproduction, and species interactions. Special projects compare and contrast specialized animal locomotion, species diversity, niche habitats, and keystone species. Animal behavior and specific habitat needs are reviewed concerning wise conservation of habitat and species diversity. Units span the entire globe to show the need for ongoing study of new and endangered species. Prerequisite: Biology. Recommended for Juniors and Seniors.
9-12	1	COMPSCI	F	Computer Science Foundations	This class is designed to meet the high school computer science graduation requirement. The class introduces students to the fundamental concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore the impacts of computing and technology. The class creates opportunities for students to analyze problems, use creative thinking, and collaborate on developing solutions to real-word issues using computing. The class lays a foundation for more advanced computer science class and a variety of career pathways.
9-12	1	Elect.	S	Career Exploration	This class is a practical, hands-on guide to career exploration and planning, covering all of the career clusters in the National Career Clusters Framework. Students explore the career pathways within each cluster, learning the academic and skill requirements for different career pathways, and learn about jobs available in each pathway and the work these professionals do. This class guides students through the process of creating an academic and career plan based on their interests, abilities, and life goals. Students craft a résumé and a cover letter for applying for an entry-level job in their chosen career.
9	2	socs	YR	Global Studies	Students apply geographic representations and perspectives to analyze human movement, spatial patterns, systems, and the connections and relationships among them. Additionally, they investigate the characteristics of places and regions, and the changing nature among geographic and human interactions. This class incorporates Genocide and Holocaust studies required by CDE.
10	2	socs	YR	U.S. History	Students investigate the causes and effects of significant events in United States history from colonial times to the present. They evaluate primary and secondary sources, examine complex events, study the development of political ideas, explore the impact of major scientific and technological innovations, and analyze ideas critical to the understanding of American history. Students gather and analyze historical information (including contradictory data) from a variety of sources to support or reject hypotheses and/or create an historical argument; they also differentiate between facts and historical interpretations, recognizing that a historian's narrative reflects his or her judgment about the significance of particular facts.
11	2	socs	F	American Government	Students are prepared for their roles as informed, connected, and engaged American citizens and Global citizens ready to participate in the American political system. Students learn the ramifications of political decisions at the local, state, national, and international levels as well as their interdependent nature. Students study the basic building documents of the American political system, their history, and their impact on current policies. Students also investigate the structure of the American government system, the three branches, Federalism, and how these philosophies interact to form the American political milieu.
11	2	socs	S	Economics	This class helps students understand the science of economics by using the free market as an exemplar. Through this study, students will be able to make better financial, employment, and personal decisions. Students study how economies work by examining the basic elements of human action within the free

					market system, with comparisons to mixed economies and socialist economies. Additionally, the class will explore basic personal finance topics such as budgeting, saving, investing, and taxes.
12	2	socs	F	Psychology	This class is designed to help students become more aware of themselves as unique individuals. They examine a variety of topics including memory, biology of behavior, stress, learning and conditioning, developmental stages, defense mechanisms, and personality theory. Students apply their knowledge through hands-on activities and use overarching themes to make connections among various topics and theories.
12	2	SOCS	S	Southwest Archaeology	This class delves into the rich cultural heritage of the American Southwest. Through lectures, hands-on exercises, and the study of archaeological sites and artifacts, students explore the ancient civilizations that once thrived in this region. Topics include archaeological methods, cultural practices, and the societal impacts of these ancient peoples. By the end of the class, students have been prepared for further studies in anthropology, archaeology, or history.
9-12	1	SOCS	F	Anthropology	This class provides an in-depth exploration of humanity, examining the evidence of our biological and cultural development in various global regions. It aims to understand the commonalities and differences in human cultural behaviors in said regions. Students learn to analyze the relationship between our material circumstances and our ability for creative thinking and action.
9-12	1	SOCS	S	Criminology	This class delves into criminology, the comprehensive study of crime, examining why it occurs through psychological, biological, and sociological lenses. Students explore various types of crimes, their impact on society, and how the criminal justice system addresses offenders and their actions. Please note that because crime, by its nature, involves human behavior at its most extreme, studying it requires students to confront challenging realities which could make them uncomfortable.
9	2	ELA	YR	English Language Arts 9	This class paves the way for a successful high school English career. It addresses the Colorado Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Research. Students read a variety of literature (novels, short stories, poetry) and non-fiction selections, and write with every unit. Students also give an individual, multi-media presentation. Foundational vocabulary and grammar skills are emphasized.
10	2	ELA	YR	English Language Arts 10	This class addresses the Colorado Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Research. Students read a variety of literature (novels, short stories, poetry) and non-fiction selections, and write with every unit. Students also give an individual, multi-media presentation. Foundational vocabulary and grammar skills are emphasized.
11	2	ELA	YR	English Language Arts 11	This is a comprehensive language arts class that covers literary analysis and reading comprehension, vocabulary development, grammar, usage & mechanics, and composition skills. The goals of the class are to enable students to analyze and comprehend literature from a variety of genres, understand and apply literary terminology, increase critical thinking skills, and improve both written and oral communication skills. The class addresses Colorado Academic Standards for reading, writing, and communication.

12	2	ELA	YR	English Language Arts 12	This is a comprehensive language arts class that covers literary analysis and reading comprehension, vocabulary development, grammar, usage & mechanics, and composition skills. The goals of the class are to enable students to analyze and comprehend literature from a variety of genres, understand and apply literary terminology, increase critical thinking skills, and improve both written and oral communication skills. The class addresses Colorado Academic Standards for reading, writing, and communication.
9-12	2	ELA	S	Creative Writing	This class focuses on expressive writing in many different forms. Students have the opportunity to explore several different types of poetry and prose styles, as well as responding to literature, art mediums, quotes, and music. Originality and writing that shows thought are emphasized. Strategies to avoid writer's block and new ways to uncover ideas for writing will be studied. Peer reviews and sharing ideas are essential elements to this class.
10-12	2	ELA	F	Journalism	This class offers students an exploration into the dynamic world of news reporting and storytelling. Through hands-on experiences, interactive discussions, and practical assignments, students delve into the fundamentals of journalism, including news writing, interviewing techniques, and ethical considerations. They learn to critically analyze information, distinguish fact from opinion, and adhere to journalistic standards of accuracy and integrity. From investigating local issues to covering global events, students hone their research, writing, and communication skills while gaining a deeper understanding of the role of journalism in society. This class is not open to freshmen.
10-12	2	ELA	S	Yearbook	This class offers students an exciting opportunity to capture the memories and essence of their school year through the art of storytelling and visual design. Through hands-on experiences, students learn the fundamentals of yearbook production, including photography techniques, layout design, writing captions, and organizing content. They work closely with peers and faculty to document school events, celebrate achievements, and showcase the diverse experiences of their fellow students. From concept to completion, students develop essential skills in teamwork, organization, creativity, and attention to detail while producing a timeless keepsake that preserves the spirit of their school community. This class is not open to freshmen.
9-12	1	PE	F	Physical Education	This class emphasizes the importance of lifelong physical activity. Students learn strategies for setting and achieving personal fitness goals, as well as principles of nutrition, injury prevention, and stress management. With an emphasis on inclusivity and enjoyment, the class empowers students to lead active, healthy lifestyles and fosters a lifelong appreciation for physical activity and well-being. Students are responsible to plan and engage in a minimum of two hours of off-site fitness activity per week.
9-12	1	PE	S	Health & Wellness	This class shows students how wellness is an integration of physical and mental well-being. Going beyond concepts of nutrition, weight-management, etc., students use the Core Purpose curriculum to identify their personal purpose which functions like a "North Star" and is at the core of how individuals can and want to change and live their best life. Students are challenged toward personal development through self-assessments, real-time examples, neuroscience, and positive psychology. Tools and skills are provided to bolster student growth and create a step-by step roadmap to live out their purpose.

9-12	1	ARTS	F&S	Art	This class uses the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to guide students through various projects. Students will explore different themes and prompts using pencil, pen, watercolor, colored pencil, and other supplies. Art history and art appreciation are interwoven throughout the lessons, and creativity and originality are emphasized. Students maintain a sketchbook practice for the duration of the course, allowing them weekly opportunities to explore their own individual art expression.
9-12	1	ARTS	F	Photography	This is a course that focuses on the visual elements in photography rather than the technical aspects/workings of a camera. While considering the Principles of Design, students will learn about composition, perspective, balance, lighting, focus, and more. The class will study the work of notable photographers and famous photographs, while also exploring their own approach to photography. *Note: Students enrolled in this course may choose to use a camera, digital camera, or smartphone for their photography assignments.
9-12	1	ARTS	F	Piano	This class allows students to begin or continue their acquaintance with piano keyboarding. Students work at their own pace through exercises assigned individually in the online Piano Marvel platform. Additionally, students are introduced to general music and theory concepts relevant to their musical level. At home, students log practice time and complete music theory or other assignments.
9-12	1	ARTS	S	Percussion	This class allows students to begin or continue their acquaintance with rhythm work and percussion. They are introduced to general music and theory concepts relevant to their musical level. At home, students log practice time and complete music theory or other assignments.
9-12	1	ARTS	F	Dramatic Interpretation	This class offers students an introduction to the art of performance and storytelling. Through interactive exercises and performances, students delve into the nuances of character development, script analysis, vocal projection, and stage presence. Students learn to embody characters, convey emotions, and engage audiences with compelling narratives, honing their acting skills through solo performances and ensemble collaborations. Whether aspiring actors or simply eager to explore the power of dramatic expression, students emerge from the course with a deeper appreciation for the performing arts and the skills to captivate and inspire through performance.
9-12	2	ELECT	F&S	Spanish 1	This class focuses on high frequency vocabulary and language structures. The language is learned through a variety of activities including stories, video media and technology, cultural exploration, etc.
9-12	2	ELECT	F&S	Spanish 2	This class is designed to increase students' competence in Spanish. The focus is on more advanced language structures and expanded vocabulary in context. Students demonstrate increasing spontaneity and flexibility in their ability to communicate in the target language in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
9-12	2	ELECT	F&S	Connection: Online Class	Online classes are taken in an online platform chosen by MVCS (e.g. CDLS, ALEKS). Students work through the curriculum independently using on-site time with a teacher to verify progress, assess comprehension, discuss learning goals, and extend learning. Students are limited to 1 class of this type each semester. These classes are especially intended to meet elective graduation requirements while also meeting the following types of student needs:

					 Having flexibility to resolve schedule problems.
					 Exploring a topic of interest which is not directly offered by MVCS.
					Classes that meet core graduation requirements are not listed below. Advisors determine if an online class in
					a core area is a necessary option for the student.
					Online class titles are reviewed for inclusion in our list on an ongoing basis. Additional classes such as AP, credit recovery, etc. may be available.
9-12	2	ELECT	F&S	Connection:	Independent Study classes are designed to allow full-time students a flexible class option. ISCPs may be for
				Independent	any subject that the student needs as a graduation requirement except for Physical Education,
				Study	Health/Wellness, computer science, or financial literacy. The scope of the class is defined through the
					Independent Study Class Proposal (ISCP) process. Prior to the semester, the parent (or responsible student)
					submits an ISCP form which includes the proposed class description, curriculum, and plan for working through
					measurable goals week by week. A committee reviews all ISCPs and may require alterations; ISCPs that do not
					meet the committee's approval criteria will be denied. Students work through the class material
					independently; on-site time with a teacher is used to record progress, assess comprehension, discuss learning
					goals, extend learning, and interact with peers. While a parent is often highly involved in this type of class, the
					supervising teacher directs the student's progress through the class as with any other class. Costs for this class
					option (books, materials, fees, etc.) are the responsibility of the parent. Students may only take 1 semester-
					long independent study class each semester. Part-time students may not enroll in independent study.
9-12	0	ELECT	F&S	Work Experience	, , , , ,
					dedicated to the successful performance of job duties. A Work-Based Learning Agreement, a brief written job
					experience reflection, and a written evaluation from the employer is required. A student must have 72
					documented hours to receive .5 elective credit. This class must be incorporated into the student's ICAP plan.
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Credit may also be available for test prep (e.g. WorkKeys), internships, and credit recovery. Discuss this with your Advisor if applicable.

Study Hall

Some students must stay on site while not in class, particularly if the student has a sibling on site taking a class during a period the student does not have one scheduled. Such students are enrolled in a monitored study hall which is not a credit-bearing class. Additionally, students struggling to complete work at home may be required to enroll to provide a structured study environment. Students are expected to bring work to complete quietly; they are not allowed to play electronic games or use social media/YouTube. Reading is encouraged if there is no schoolwork to complete. Attendance is taken and absences must be excused by a parent as for any other class.

D51 Crossover Classes

Students may enroll in 1-2 classes each semester (up to 2 high school credits total in the year) offered on the campus of their neighborhood traditional D51 school (GHJS, CHS, Fruita 8/9, FMHS, PHS). Classes may be in any subject, provided the receiving school has available space. MVCS coordinates with the receiving school to complete class registration.

CMU Tech Concurrent Classes

CMU Tech offers technical education for students which simultaneously yields credit on both a high school and college transcript. In terms of scheduling and credit, CMU Tech classes are the equivalent of three classes (total of 1.5 high school credits each semester); they can all be used to meet graduation requirements for elective credit, and some classes may yield credit for ELA, science, or math. The CMU Tech campus is within short walking distance of the MVCS campus. Students must meet eligibility requirements to enroll. CMU Tech programs are listed below. Other programs may be available.

- Agriculture Science
- Animal Career Preparation
- Applied Business
- Computer-Aided Design
- Construction Electrical
- Construction Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Digital Filmmaking

- Early Childhood Education
- Electric Lineworker
- Machining Technology
- Nurse Aide/Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Fire Science
- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

- Information and Communication Technology
- Land Surveying
- Mechatronics
- Medical Office Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Transportation Services
- Welding

CMU Concurrent Classes

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) offers education for high school students which yields credit on both a high school and college transcript. Students must meet eligibility requirements to enroll. Academic Advisors must approve all concurrent class enrollments.