

SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Students who participate in Special Education programs qualify under state and federal guidelines and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). New referrals are made through the Student Study Team (SST). The Special Education classes focus on students' individual needs. Federal law dictates that education should take place in the "least restrictive environment", so students are mainstreamed into regular education classes whenever possible. In order to receive a high school diploma, students will need to meet all state and district requirements.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST PROGRAM (RSP) - 9th - 12th Grades

The Resource Program is designed to help students who have specific learning disabilities and need extra help in school. Students work on improving reading, writing, spelling and math skills. Extra help and tutoring is provided with regular education class assignments and homework. Courses commonly offered in RSP include English, math, algebra, pre-algebra, social studies, science, with an emphasis on literacy.

- **Foundations Pre-Algebra:** This class will cover prerequisite skills needed to be successful in the Foundations Algebra course. It will review math concepts to ensure a solid understanding for the coursework covered in the next class. Whole Numbers, Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Exponents, Prime Factorization, Fractions, Decimals, Least Common Multiple, Estimation, Angles and Probability.
- **Foundations Algebra:** This class is geared to the learning modalities and pacing needs of students who benefit from hands on demonstrations, instructions repeated and rephrased and checking for understanding. Subjects covered include: Variables, Expressions and properties explore differences between numerical and algebraic expressions and equations. Problem solving strategies, order of operations and familiarity with properties such as commutative, associative, distributive, identity property of addition & multiplication and the multiplicative property of zero. Simplifying expressions and understanding and using the vocabulary. Equations, integers – add, subtract, multiply and divide. Integer exponents, roots, simplifying and evaluating expressions and the coordinate plane and graphing.
- **Foundations English 1/2:** Students enrolled in this class will be participating in a modified 9th grade or 10th grade English curriculum. Reading comprehension, vocabulary development and writing skills will be covered, and they will also be participating in study skills and vocational planning. Students are required to keep a three ring binder.
- **Foundation English 3/4:** Students enrolled in this class will be participating in a modified 11th grade or 12th grade English curriculum. Emphasis will be on reading comprehension, vocabulary development and writing skills. They will also be participating in study skills and vocational planning.
- **Foundations Earth Science:** This class is a study of the earth including descriptions of the earth, the earth in relation to the moon system, solar system, the stars and galaxies. We study earth chemistry, minerals, rocks and the earth's atmosphere which includes weather and climate. The earth's water, weathering and erosion and the forces in the earth as well as a record of the earth's history complete the curriculum for this course.
- **Foundations Biology:** This class is the study of the basic unit of life, organizing living things, classifying animals and plant groups, bacteria, protists and fungi. It covers how animals stay alive, how plants live and the human body systems. We deal with reproduction, growth and development, staying healthy, genetics, ecology and the behavior of organisms.
- **Foundations Social Sciences:**
 - 9th grade: Social Science 1
 - 10th grade: World History
 - 11th grade: US History
 - 12th grade: Government and Economics

Social Science classes cover the same standards as regular education classes, with smaller class size, slower pace, more class discussion, modified texts, and supports are in place to ensure student success with the goal of eventual transition to regular education classes.

SPECIAL DAY CLASS (SDC) - 9th - 12th Grades

The Special Day Class focuses on the needs of students who require support in most academic areas. Classes are modeled after comparable general education classes, with additional emphasis on basic skills, problem-solving, social development, and employment preparation activities.

- **Essentials English:** This English course is offered for students in 9th-12th grade who have IEPs and require a small class setting in order to be successful. The course provides opportunity for literature analysis, students will read fiction and non-fiction novels and be expected to reflect and engage with the text. The course provides instruction in writing including formal essays, short stories, free writing and research projects. Speech assignments vary from the informal to the formal presentation. Individual and group tasks are assigned as well. The majority of work will be completed during class time in order to provide structured feed-back and support within the classroom.
- **Essentials Math:** This Math course is offered for students in 9th-12th grade who have IEPs and require a small class setting in order to be successful. The course provides students with the opportunity to begin identifying and making connections with Algebraic terms and equations. Students will also be provided with opportunities to review basic math skills in order to strengthen their core knowledge of the fundamentals of math. Students will be given opportunities to represent their knowledge using hands-on projects, computerized math programs, and written work. Instruction will be provided in both large groups and small groups and the majority of work will be completed during class time in order to provide structured feed-back and support within the classroom.
- **Essentials Science:** This Science course is offered for students in 9th-12th grade who have IEPs and require a small class setting in order to be successful. The course provides the opportunity for hands-on learning (including experiments), internet research (modules and student projects), classroom book work, and the opportunity for students to make connections between the physical earth, its processes, the living things found within it and their daily life. Students should expect to participate in individual and group assignments along with daily classwork and tests. The majority of work will be completed during class time in order to provide structured feed-back and support within the classroom.
- **Essentials History:** This History course is offered for students in 9th-12th grade who have IEPs and require a small class setting in order to be successful. Over the course of 4 years, students will be provided in-depth study of selected topics in World History, U.S. History, Economics, and American Government. Students should expect to participate in individual and group assignments along with daily classwork and tests. The majority of work will be completed during class time in order to provide structured feed-back and support within the classroom.

