



Van Buren Freshman Academy

COURSE CATALOG

2024-2025



FRESHMAN ACADEMY



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year!

We're excited for this upcoming year and the incredible opportunities that it holds. Our students are the future leaders of the world's organizations, companies, and communities, so our approach to teaching and learning reflects that. Our goal is to provide you with the very best educational experience possible. We have high expectations for every student; however, we understand all students learn differently, and we will support students as they challenge themselves to meet and exceed those expectations.

Every student at the Freshman Academy is important, and all students have a place here. From our wide range of course offerings and extracurricular programs to our personalized Advisory program that includes clubs for everyone and individualized learning opportunities, you will be able to pursue your passions and discover new interests this year. I want to encourage you to try new classes, participate in clubs and activities, and establish new friendships. Take advantage of the opportunities available to you as we all work together to prepare for high school and beyond.

Parents/Guardians, thank you for partnering with us to support your student socially, emotionally, and academically. It is through the combined efforts of students, families, and staff that students can reach their full potential. We're excited to work with you to build tomorrow's leaders!

Whatever It Takes,

Dr. Michael Hensley
Principal, Van Buren Freshman Academy

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Principal:
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CALCULATIONS FOR GPA

Van Buren High School reserves the right to make changes as required in course offerings and curriculum. GPA will be figured with State Endorsed Weighted Credit Courses using 5.0 scale, and all other courses will use the 4.0 scale. Class rank will be calculated using the state GPA scale. Calculations of GPA will be based on grades earned in academic courses in grades 9 through 12. See Board Policy for complete GPA calculation policy.

**AP/State Endorsed Weighted
= 5.0 Scale**

A = 5.0
B = 4.0
C = 3.0
D = 2.0
F = 0

**On-Level, Honors, PAP, & CONC
= 4.0 Scale**

A = 4.0
B = 3.0
C = 2.0
D = 1.0
F = 0

ADVANCED PLACEMENT = AP Courses are taught on a college Level. They stress critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills. Students may receive college credit by taking and successfully passing the College Board AP exam. The student must pass both semesters of the AP course and take the appropriate AP exam to receive weighted credit. Weighting will be reduced to a 4.0 scale on the final transcript for students who do not meet these conditions.

CONCURRENT CLASSES Courses taught on a college level through Arkansas Tech University or University of Arkansas Fort Smith. Students receive college credit upon completion of the class with a C or above.

HONORS COURSES Courses are more rigorous than on-level courses. Students are introduced to higher order thinking skills and are prepared for AP Courses.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS Eligibility rules apply to all students competing in athletics or non-athletic activities.

For the fall semester of 9th grade, students are required to have passed 4 courses. For the spring semester of 9th grade, students must have passed 4 academic courses.

FRESHMAN ACADEMY



VBHS DIPLOMAS

| SMART CORE DIPLOMA | | HONORS DIPLOMAS |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Course Requirements | Credits | Smart Core Diploma + Additional Requirements |
| English Language Arts | 4 | College Prep |
| English 9 | 1 | 4 Honors, PAP, AP, CONC, or State Endorsed Weighted Credit 3.0 GPA at the End of 8 Semesters <i>At Least 23</i> Credits Total |
| English 10 | 1 | |
| English 11 | 1 | |
| English 12 | 1 | |
| Mathematics | 4 | College Prep Honors |
| Algebra 1 | 1 | 8* Honors, PAP, AP, CONC, or State Endorsed Weighted Credit <i>*At least 2 must be State Endorsed Weighted Credit*</i> |
| Geometry | 1 | |
| Algebra 2 | 1 | |
| Math Beyond Algebra 2 | 1 | |
| Science | 3 | 3.5 GPA at the End of 8 Semesters <i>At Least 23</i> Credits Total |
| Physical Science | 1 | |
| Biology Chemistry OR Physics | 1 1 | |
| Social Studies | 3 | College Prep High Honors |
| Civics | 0.5 | 12* Honors, PAP, AP, CONC, or State Endorsed Weighted Credit <i>*At least 3 must be State Endorsed Weighted Credit*</i> |
| Economics with Personal Finance | 0.5 | |
| World History | 1 | |
| US History | 1 | |
| Additional Requirements | 8 | 3.9 GPA at the End of 8 Semesters <i>At Least 23</i> Credits Total |
| Physical Education | 0.5 | |
| Fine Art | 0.5 | |
| Professional Communication | 0.5 | |
| Health/CPR | 0.5 | |
| Computer Science | 1 | |
| Career Focus Electives | 5 | |
| Total | 22 | |

FRESHMAN ACADEMY



4 YEAR PLAN

| FRESHMAN | SOPHOMORE | JUNIOR | SENIOR |
|--|--|---|---|
| ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS | | | |
| PAP English 9 Honors PAP English 9 | English 10 Honors English 10 | English 11 Honors English 11 AP Lit & Comp | English 12 Transitional English AP Language CONC Comp I/II |
| MATHEMATICS | | | |
| PAP Algebra 1 Honors PAP Geometry | Geometry Honors Geometry Algebra 2 Honors Algebra 2 | Algebra 2 Honors Algebra 2 Honors Algebra 3 CONC Algebra/Trig AP Statistics | Algebra 3 Honors Algebra 3 Transitional Math Pre-Calculus CONC Algebra/Trig AP Calculus AB <small>(2 periods)</small> AP Statistics |
| SCIENCE | | | EXTRA ELECTIVE |
| Physical Science | Biology Honors Biology AP Biology | Chemistry Honors Chemistry AP Chemistry Physics AP Physics | |
| SOCIAL STUDIES | | | EXTRA ELECTIVE |
| ProComm/Civics | World History Honors World History AP World History | US History AP US History CONC American Hist | |
| PATHWAYS & CAREER FOCUS ELECTIVES | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| Graduation Requirement Checklist | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Units of English <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Units of Math <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Units of Science <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Units of Social Studies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.5 Unit of Health/CPR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.5 Unit of PE/Athletic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.5 Unit of Fine Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0.5 Unit of Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Unit of Computer Science <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Units of Electives |



COURSES OFFERED

| COURSE CODE | COURSE DESCRIPTION | CREDITS |
|--|---|---------|
| CORE COURSES | | |
| English <i>4 Credits Required for Graduation</i> | | |
| 410100 | PAP English 9 Study of reading, writing, and speaking across many cultures, periods, and genres. | 1 |
| 41010H | Honors PAP English 9 Study of reading, writing, speaking across many cultures, periods and genres with extensive projects, research, and additional readings. | 1 |
| Mathematics <i>4 Credits Required for Graduation</i> | | |
| 430300 | PAP Algebra 1 Study of properties of equality, solving equations, graphs, tables, functions, patterns, relations, and polynomial operations. | 1 |
| 43130H | Honors PAP Geometry Study of dimensional shapes, perimeter, area, volume, triangle, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and trigonometric ratios with extensions. | 1 |
| Science <i>3 Credits Required for Graduation</i> | | |
| 423000 | Physical Science Integrated Study of matter and energy. | 1 |
| Social Studies <i>3 Credits Required for Graduation</i> | | |
| 472000 | Civics This one semester course provides students with a basic understanding of civic life, politics, government, as well as a short history of government's foundation and development in this country. | 0.5 |
| Oral Communications <i>0.5 Credits Required for Graduation</i> | | |
| 414210 | Professional Communications Career exploration, interests, and programs of study. Elements of communication. <i>This one semester course will give students 0.5 credit for Oral Communications and 0.5 credit for Keystone.</i> | 1 |



COURSES OFFERED

| COURSE CODE | COURSE DESCRIPTION | CREDITS |
|---|--|---------|
| <i>ELECTIVE COURSES</i> | | |
| <i>English Electives</i> | | |
| 41500 | Journalism 1 Introduction to multimedia journalism. Students will learn different writing styles and presentation styles (student-made websites, TedTalks, podcasts, documentaries). Students learn how to submit these works for publication for local, national, and sometimes international audiences. <i>This course is a prerequisite to Journalism 2 (Pointer Pack News).</i> | 1 |
| 479050 | Academic Study of the Bible A one semester English course that is designed to strengthen students' understanding of the Bible & its impact upon American culture. This nonsectarian, non-religious, academic course integrates the study of the Bible as a piece of literature. | 0.5 |
| 417010 | Creative Writing Writing of poetry, short fiction, and personal narrative with an emphasis on developing reflection and creativity. | 0.5 |
| 519063 | Studies of the Holocaust Humanities-based study of World War II and the Holocaust through the writings and creative productions (e.g., fiction, non-fiction, poetry, journals, articles, primary source documents, art, drama photography) of the time period and beyond. | 0.5 |
| <i>Social Studies Electives</i> | | |
| 474300 | Economics & Personal Finance Emphasizes economic fundamentals, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and personal financial management. <i>Meets graduation requirements.</i> | 0.5 |
| <i>Agricultural Science</i> | | |
| 491150 | Survey of Ag Systems A foundation course for all agricultural programs of study. Topics covered include general agriculture, FFA, leadership, supervised agricultural experiences, animal systems, plant systems, agribusiness systems, and power, structural, and technical systems. | 1 |
| <i>Business & Marketing Technology</i> | | |
| 492120 | Survey of Business Business applications necessary to live and work in a technological society. <i>This course is required for all business completers and it is recommended that the course be taken before other business courses.</i> | 1 |
| <i>Family & Consumer Sciences</i> | | |
| 493080 | Family and Consumer Sciences Designed to provide students with basic information and skills needed to function effectively within the family and within a changing, complex society. | 1 |

| <i>Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps</i> | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 480950 | JROTC Health Responsible leadership roles, rights and privileges as American citizens. <i>Satisfies Health requirement for graduation.</i> | 0.5 |
| 485950 | JROTC Physical Education Responsible leadership roles, rights and privileges as American citizens. <i>Satisfies PE requirement for graduation.</i> | 0.5 |
| <i>Pre-Engineering - Project Lead the Way</i> | | |
| 493960 | Engineering 1 Students will work both independently and in teams as they learn problem-solving skills using the design process. They get to use industry-standard 3D modeling software to create their own designs including puzzle cubes, Automoblox vehicles, miniature trains, and their own creation which can be printed out on our 3-D printer. <i>(Level One)</i> | 1 |
| <i>Computer Science - Project Lead the Way</i> | | |
| 465070 | Programming 1 Exposes students to a diverse set of computational thinking concepts, fundamentals, and tools, allowing them to gain understanding and build confidence. Students use visual, block-based programming and seamlessly transition to text-based programming to create apps and develop websites. They apply computational thinking practices, build their vocabulary, and collaborate to create products that address topics and problems important to them. **Can take the place of a 3rd year science OR a 4th year math per ADE** <i>(Level One)</i> | 1 |
| <i>Biomedical - Project Lead the Way</i> | | |
| 495000 | Principles of Biomedical Sciences Students analyze the evidence found at a crime scene and help the medical examiner uncover clues left on a body to solve a mystery. Questioning, diagnosing, and proposing treatment and care for patients, students track down the source of a mysterious outbreak at a local hospital. Taking on the role of medical professionals, students assess and stabilize a patient during an emergency and prepare for medical surge and mobile medical care. <i>(Level One)</i> | 1 |
| <i>Music</i> | | |
| 451009 | Band 1 Performing group participating in local, regional, state and national contests, concerts, band auditions, solo, and ensemble acts. <i>Must be in good standing in 8th grade band. Enrollment in both fall & spring semesters required.</i> | 1 |
| 452000 | Vocal Ensemble 1 Performance of all styles and periods of choral literature; public performances, concerts, individual and festival competitions required. | 1 |
| <i>General Arts</i> | | |
| 450060 | Art History A history course focusing on art starting in pre-history leading to the Renaissance. Some art making required. | 0.5 |
| 453100 | Visual Art Appreciation Students will discuss art and make artwork in various media. | 0.5 |
| 453030 | Music Appreciation Students will study general music forms. | 0.5 |
| <i>2-D Design Focus</i> | | |
| 450000 | Visual Art Foundations Students will learn the basic elements and principles of art through a variety of art making techniques and materials. <i>This course is a prerequisite for all 2-D studio classes.</i> | 1 |

| <i>Performing Arts Theatre</i> | | |
|--|--|-----|
| 459100 | Theatre 1 Introduction to theatre, acting, stage design and stage production. <i>Counts as a Fine Arts credit.</i> | 1 |
| 459240 | Technical Theatre Intermediate technical theatre, sound, lighting, costumes, props and design work. | 1 |
| <i>Spanish</i> | | |
| 440000 | Spanish 1 A one-year course structured for beginners with no experience with the Spanish language or culture. Students will learn necessary words and phrases for basic concepts such as the alphabet, numbers, weather, and telling time. Students will also learn to communicate both orally and written about a variety of topics. While grammar may be minimally addressed, this course is primarily to build vocabulary usage. | 1 |
| 540100 | Spanish 1 Native Speakers Level 1 for heritage language learners who have previous experience with Spanish language in the home or whose home language is indicated as Spanish. | 1 |
| <i>English Language Learners</i> | | |
| 696008 | Language Acquisition 1 Focus on early language acquisition for students with limited English proficiency. | 1 |
| 510040 | ELL English 9 Language arts for students with limited English proficiency. | 1 |
| <i>Physical Education Electives</i> | | |
| 480000 | Health Personal health, safety, and fitness, including first aid, nutrition, drug and alcohol abuse, STD's, eating disorders, mental disorders, First Aid & CPR. | 0.5 |
| 48501P | Physical Education Active participation in aerobic, strength training, and flexibility development; various individual and team activities. | 1 |
| <i>Sports</i> <i>All sports require a tryout and current physical.</i> | | |
| 48504A | Baseball Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504B | Basketball Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504C | Cheerleading Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504D | Dance Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504E | Softball Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504F | Football Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504G | Golf Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504S | Soccer Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504T | Tennis Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504V | Volleyball Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 48504W | Wrestling Two semester sport. | 1 |
| 485041 | Cross Country Fall semester sport. | 0.5 |
| 485042 | Track Spring semester sport. | 0.5 |

FRESHMAN ACADEMY



GOOGLE CLASSROOM

At the Freshman Academy, we utilize Google Classroom to send important information and activities to students throughout the year.
To access, go to the **Class of 2028** Google Classroom.



Class Code: v24s6z2

COURSE REQUEST

Student Name: _____

Student ID#: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

| Required Courses | | |
|--|--------|---|
| English - Choose ONE | | |
| | 410100 | PAP English 9 |
| | 41010H | Honors PAP English 9 |
| Math - Choose ONE | | |
| | 430300 | PAP Algebra 1 |
| | 43130H | Honors PAP Geometry |
| Science | | |
| X | 423000 | Physical Science Integrated |
| Social Studies | | |
| X | 472000 | Civics (SEMESTER) |
| Oral Communications | | |
| X | 414210 | Professional Communications (SEMESTER) |
| | 493850 | Keystone <i>*embedded in ProCom*</i> |
| Athletics | | |
| <i>All sports require a tryout and current physical.</i> | | |
| Full Year Sports | | |
| | 48504A | Baseball |
| | 48504B | Basketball |
| | 48504C | Cheer |
| | 48504D | Dance |
| | 48504E | Softball |
| | 48504F | Football |
| | 48504G | Golf |
| | 48504S | Soccer |
| | 48504T | Tennis |
| | 48504V | Volleyball |
| | 48504W | Wrestling |
| | 485041 | Cross Country <i>(Fall Semester ONLY)</i> |
| | 485042 | Track <i>(Spring Semester ONLY)</i> |

| Elective Courses | | |
|---------------------|--------|---|
| Full Year Electives | | |
| | 415000 | Journalism 1 |
| | 491150 | Survey of Ag Systems* |
| | 492120 | Survey of Business* |
| | 480950 | Army JROTC Health* |
| | 485950 | Army JROTC Physical Education* |
| | 465070 | Programming 1* |
| | 493080 | Family and Consumer Sciences* |
| | 493960 | Engineering 1* |
| | 495000 | Principles of Biomedical Sciences* |
| | 451009 | Band 1 |
| | 452000 | Vocal Ensemble 1 |
| | 450000 | Visual Art Foundations |
| | 459100 | Theatre 1 |
| | 459240 | Technical Theatre 1 |
| | 440000 | Spanish 1 |
| | 540100 | Spanish 1 - Native Speakers |
| | 48501P | Physical Education (Co-Ed) |
| Semester Electives | | |
| | 479050 | Academic Study of the Bible |
| | 417010 | Creative Writing |
| | 519063 | Studies of the Holocaust |
| | 474300 | Economics & Personal Finance |
| | 450060 | Art History |
| | 453100 | Visual Art Appreciation |
| | 453030 | Music Appreciation |
| | 480000 | Health/CPR |

*These courses are YEAR ONE in a Career Pathway.

1. Mark your English and Math choices.
2. Rank 5 FULL Elective Courses.
 - a. If you are choosing SEMESTER courses, remember that 2 SEMESTER courses = 1 FULL YEAR course.
 - b. Rank them in preference order: #1 being the one you want the most to #5 being the one you want the least.
 - c. If you are planning to play in a sport, be sure to mark that as well. It will take the spot of an elective course.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature