## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Elective Course Descriptions

### Journalism 1

Credits: 1.0 Elective

This introductory course will provide students with both knowledge about the development of journalism as a communication instrument and practical experiences in journalistic techniques. Appropriate time may also be devoted to various school publications.

## Introduction to Engineering Design

Credits: 1.0 Engineering (Project Lead the Way)

Introduction to Engineering Design serves as a foundations course within the PLTW sequence. Students will learn how to document their work and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community. The major focus of this course is to expose students to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards and technical documentation. Transcripted college credit is available to students who receive a grade of 85% in the course and pass an assessment administered by the national affiliate for PLTW, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

#### **Medical Science**

Credits: .50 Science

This course is designed to allow students to explore the science content and careers related to the fields of medicine. This content is inclusive of the exploration of health issues, medical research, ethical issues, cultural diversity awareness and much more.

#### Latin American Area Studies

Credits: .50 Elective

This semester course extends student understanding of the Spanish and Portuguese speaking nations of North and South America. Emphasis is placed on the geographic, historical, and economic factors influencing these nations. Special attention is given to the contributions of the Indian, European, and African peoples in shaping the traditions and present day characteristics of Latin American societies.

# Research and Writing the Term Paper

Credits: .50 Elective

This semester course is designed for those students who wish to gain skills in writing longer papers based on the findings of others. Tools and methods of objective research will be explored. Students will learn the logical development and substantiation of a thesis. They will also have the opportunity to discuss problems of selecting, evaluating, and interpreting facts.