

Keene Central School



Course Description Handbook

2007-2008

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Introductions and Policies

A Message From the Principal

“The programs offered by a school reflect the values of the community balanced with what is economically feasible. Curricula are at the very soul of what is academia. Keene Central School believes that all students deserve the best possible education, that students in a small rural school deserve the best variety of courses and the most challenging curriculum possible. As you read through this material you will find that the greatest variety and rigor possible. This is meant to be a guide. The school counselor and I welcome any questions or need for clarification you may have as you read through each section.” – Mrs. Johnston

Attendance Requirement in Class

The district believes that classroom participation is related to and affects a student’s performance and grasp of the subject matter and, as such, is properly reflected in a student’s final grade. For purposes of this policy, classroom participation means that a student is in class and prepared for work.

Consequently, for each marking period a certain percentage of a student’s final grade may be based on classroom participation as well as the student’s performance on homework, tests, papers, projects, etc. as determined by the building administrator and/or classroom teacher.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Consistent with the importance of classroom participation, unexcused students’ absences, tardiness, and early departures will affect a student’s grade, including credit for classroom participation, for the marking period.

At the senior high school level (9-12) any student with more than 15% or 27 absences in a full year course may not receive credit for the courses. However, it is district policy that students with properly excused absences, tardiness and early departures for which the student has performed any assigned make-up work, assignments and/or tests shall not be counted as an absence for the purpose of determining the student’s eligibility for course credit. District procedures will specify how student tardiness and early departures will be calculated and factored into the District’s minimum attendance standard. For additional attendance policies please consult the Keene Central School Student Handbook.

Customized Education Plans (CEP)

Parents who wish to have a CEP considered for their child must meet with the school counselor and superintendent prior to the semester in which such a plan would take place to develop such a plan. Teachers will be consulted when feasible. Attendance, course expectations, schedules and special make-up options will be determined as components of each plan. Plans once approved by the superintendent will be shared with teachers for implementation.

Challenging Courses for Credit

Course credit may be earned through the following process: successful completion of a pre-approved project in the field of study that demonstrates competency and understanding and a score of 85 or higher on the NYS Regents exam. See the school counselor for details and requirements. Up to six courses for regents credit may be challenged.

Academic Intervention Services (AIS)

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) means customized instruction and/or student support services, which supplement the instruction provided in the general curriculum and assists students in meeting the State Learning Standards. AIS is intended to assist students who are at risk of not achieving the State Learning Standards in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and/or science, or who are at risk of not gaining the knowledge and skills needed to meet or exceed designated performance levels on State assessments. AIS shall be made available to students with disabilities on the same basis as non-disabled students, provided, however, that such services shall be provided to the extent consistent with the student's individualized education program. Time and re-teaching beyond the regularly scheduled class time may be needed for some students to maintain academic success.

Academic Lab and Academic Support

When feasible in the master schedule academic lab times will be provided for students to receive support in specific curriculum. For students who are in jeopardy of failing two or more courses, support beyond the school day will be offered.

Ineligibility Policy

1. If a student in grades 7-12 is on the weekly ineligibility list as *having one U (unsatisfactory progress) in any course*, the student is required to *remain in assigned study hall(s)* and may not participate in other activities during that period, except for *scheduled instrument practice, scheduled activities for credit bearing classes to receive help in the subject in which they are making unsatisfactory progress or school wide special activities*.
2. If a student appears on the ineligibility list as having two or more U reports for any two weeks in the marking period-not necessarily consecutive weeks, the student is considered ineligible for the week and may not participate in non-credit bearing extra curricular activities (drama, dances, clubs, etc.). The student may continue to participate in sports team or drama practices, but may not participate in games or performances. They are required to attend academic support after school.
3. The accounting system of weekly student failures begins anew each marking period.
4. An eligibility period is from Tuesday to Tuesday of the following week. All work is due and must be completed by 3:00 PM Friday to be considered in the averages the following Tuesday morning.

5. Eligibility will be regained if, by the beginning of the period (Tuesday to Tuesday) the number of failures is reduced by one or none.
6. Parents of students who appear on the ineligibility list will be notified in writing by the Superintendent. *Refer to this complete policy in Appendix E of the Student Handbook.*

College Credit

There are several ways to earn college credit during high school. These include:

College Advancement Program

CAP credits are earned by meeting minimum grade requirements in the course and by paying a reduced tuition cost to the college. Students receive an official transcript from the college, and do not need to attend the school to get the credit. However, students should always check with their prospective colleges to be sure that credits will transfer.

Our CAP courses are offered through North Country Community College and the cost is \$50 per three credit. Keene currently offers the following courses through NCCC:

Statistics	3 credits
Pre-Calculus	3 credits
Government	3 credits
Economics	3 credits
Intermediate Spanish I	3 credits
Intermediate Spanish II	3 credits

Advanced Placement

Advanced placement credits are earned by successful completion of an Advanced Placement examination which, depending upon the score, will allow the student advanced placement and/or credit at most colleges and universities. Exams are taken in May of the year the students take the course. They are graded on a scale of 1-5 and most colleges require a minimum of a 3 on the exam to award credit. The exams cost approximately \$85 each. AP Exams are offered in connection with the following courses at Keene Central School:

AP US History	up to 6 credits
AP English	up to 6 credits
AP Biology	up to 8 credits
AP Environmental Science	up to 8 credits

In addition, students are encouraged to challenge AP exams if appropriately prepared in a particular academic area.

Distance Learning

You will see several courses in this publication noted with a tag of distance learning (DL). The distance learning classroom creates “virtual classrooms” by linking students in schools throughout New York State. Surrounded by two-way televisions cameras and monitors through real time video, students are able to see and interact with teachers and classmates from other schools. This facility allows students access to courses we would otherwise not be able to offer.

The courses offered through distance learning vary from year to year. Keene Central School has been able to offer courses such as:

Pre-Calculus (Also for CAP credit)	Civil War
Music History	Introduction to Technology in our Society
Music Theory	Astronomy
Music Appreciation	
Broadway Performances	
Introduction to Psychology	
Business Law	
Business Ethics	

Course Selection

Course selection is usually done during the second and third quarters of the academic year. This is done individually with the school counselor as part of the “annual review” process. When students meet with their counselor depends on their current grade level. Courses are selected based upon academic requirements and interests. First choice is reserved for graduating seniors.

Credits Required for Advancement

7th & 8th Grades

The passing grade is 65%. A student failing any two of the following subjects: Math, English, Social Studies or Science, will be required to repeat the grade.

Grades 9-12

The passing grade is 65%. A student failing any of the following subjects: Math, English, Social Studies or Science will be required to repeat the subject.

Grade 9:	All students promoted from 8 th grade
Grade 10:	Successful completion of 5.5 units total, English 9 & Global Studies 9
Grade 11:	Successful completion of 10 units total, English 9, Global Studies 9, English 10, Global Studies 10, one Science and one Math
Grade 12:	Successful completion of 17 units total, English 9, Global Studies 9, English 10, Global Studies 10, two courses in Science and two courses in Math

Course Load Requirement

Students are encouraged to carry a full course load (up to 9 courses). All students must carry a minimum of 5 units of study at any one time.

Course Levels

At Keene Central School students are offered two levels of study in the core curriculum. The level at which a student studies is determined by previous academic achievement, teacher recommendation and student interest. To ensure student success and satisfy required coursework, students may be recommended to take a slower paced English and Global Studies in tenth grade (English 10A and Global 10A). Additionally students may be recommended to take a slower paced Algebra sequence (Algebra 1E and Algebra 2E).

Dropping a Course

It is important that students choose courses carefully since dropping courses after school has begun can be difficult. It is the student's responsibility to get an add/drop from form the counselor then procure signatures from the teachers, parent, and school counselor.

Early Graduation/GAP Year

Students wishing to complete their graduation requirements either one year or one semester early need to see their counselor. They will also need to receive the permission of the superintendent. Students who intend to take a GAP year following high school graduation before attending college, are encouraged to work with their school counselor as they make plans for an eventful year. Resident students may return to KCS in the year after they have graduated to take additional course they may need for college.

Honor Rolls

Honor rolls are calculated at the end of each marking period. To be eligible for the honor roll, all students in grades 7-12 will be required to carry a minimum of five subjects and receive grades in those subjects ("incompletes" cannot be used when determining honor roll eligibility). An overall average of 85% will be necessary to be placed on the honor roll. An overall average of 90% will be necessary to be placed on the high honor roll. Students must be passing ALL courses to be eligible. The grading system in grades 7-12 will be on a percentage basis.

Honor Societies

Keene Central School sponsors the National Honor Society. Eligibility is based on grade level and very specific academic and extra curricular criteria. Students will be notified upon their eligibility. See details in the Student Handbook.

Diploma & Examination Requirements

Graduation Requirements

Requirements for graduation can be divided into two categories, credits and exams. Students are required to earn 22.5 credits, including a mandatory core curriculum of 18.5 credits, in order to graduate. Students are also required to pass a minimum of five New York State Regents Exams. There are additional course and exam requirements for an Advanced Regents Diploma.

Courses and Credits Required

Subject	Local/Regents	Advanced Regents
English	4	4
Social Studies	4	4
Math	3	3
Science	3	3
Health	.5	.5
Art/Music	1	1
Foreign Lang.	1	3*
PE	2	2
Electives	varies	varies
Total (minimum)	22.5	22.5

*To earn an Advanced Regents Diploma students must complete *one* of the following:

- 3 Units of credit in Foreign Language

OR

- 5 Unit sequence in Art, Music, Business, Technology, Family & Consumer Science or CVTEC

Testing Requirements for Diploma Options

<i>Students Graduating in 2008</i>	<i>Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation Requirements</i>	<i>Regents Diploma Requirements</i>	<i>Local Diploma Requirements</i>
Class of 2008	Score 65 or above on 8 regents exams	Score 65 or above on 5 regents exams	Score 55 – 64 on all 5 regents exams
Class of 2009	Score 65 or above on 8 regents exams	Score 65 or above on 5 regents exams	Score 65-above on 2 RE or 55-64 on 3 RE
Class of 2010	Score 65 or above on 8 regents exams	Score 65 or above on 5 regents exams	Score 65-above on 3 RE or 55-64 on 2 RE
Class of 2011	Score 65 or above on 8 regents exams	Score 65 or above on 5 regents exams	Score 65-above on 4 RE or 55-64 on 1 RE
Class of 2012	Score 65 or above on 8 regents exams	Score 65 or above on 5 regents exams	Phase out of Local Diploma

List of Regents Exams Required for Graduation

<i>Advanced Regents Diploma (score 65 or above on the following 8 Regents Exams)</i>	<i>Regents Diploma (Score 65 or above on 5 Regents Exams)</i>	<i>Local Diploma (option for entering class freshman class of 2008 or earlier) See Chart above</i>
___ English ___ Global History ___ US History ___ Math A ___ Math B ___ Earth Science OR Living Environment ___ Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, or Living Environment ___ Spanish	___ English ___ Global History ___ US History ___ Math A ___ Earth Science OR Living Environment	___ English ___ Global History ___ US History ___ Math A ___ Earth Science OR Living Environment

Curriculum Offerings & Descriptions

English

The English program at Keene Central School District is designed to help students reach a level of competency in the New York State Learning Standards for English/Language Arts. These include students being able to read, write, listen and speak for: information and understanding; literacy response and expression; critical analysis and evaluation; and social interaction. Development of the use of the writing process and a variety of both classic and contemporary literature will be the primary vehicles for meeting and exceeding these standards.

Graduation Requirements:

All students are required to pass four years of English to graduate. This can be accomplished through the following sequence:

- Grade 9: English 9A or English 9
- Grade 10: English 10A or English 10
- Grade 11: English 11A* or English 11*
- Grade 12: English 12 or English 12AP

* All students will take the English Regents Exam in January of their eleventh grade year.

English 9 & English 9A *Credit: 1*

The emphasis in this course is to create a more sophisticated view of Literature and improve writing skills. The literary framework begins with a study of the Greek Pantheon and moves through reading and study of the Trojan War and the Odyssey. Time is spent on discussing the major themes of these stories and connecting them to other areas of our culture. Poetry is also read, analyzed, and written during the year. In addition, there is great emphasis on improving writing and presentation skills. Oral and written literature logs are completed regularly. Students are expected to choose several books during the year from a list prepared by the Global Studies teachers.

Prerequisite: None

English 10 & English 10A (Humanities) *Credit: 1*

The Humanities course is an integrated interdisciplinary History and English course for sophomores. The history of Western civilization from the Greek era to the twenty-first century is covered through a global studies text book and literature that accompanies each era. Analytical and creative writing are also integrated into each era studied. To make connections with the past and present, each student weekly presents a current event on an assigned country. Students read books by international authors that also focus on the eras studied, and they write an analytical literature essay once a week throughout the year. The Global Studies Regents exam, which covers two years of world history, is given at the end of this course. A final exam in English is given that covers the literature, vocabulary, and language arts skills covered throughout the course.

Prerequisite: English 9 or English 9A

English 11 *Credit: 1*

In the English 11 course the students prepare for several state and national exams. It is the only year that the New York State Regents are given in English. This is a comprehensive exam that focuses on four essay styles. It is also the year that students take the PSAT (Preliminary SAT), the SAT and ACT. These national college entrance exams now have an essay included. Essay writing is a focus throughout the year.

Vocabulary, spelling and grammar rules are frequently reviewed to enhance their writing skills. The course literature parallels the US history curriculum. Plays, short stories, poems, novels, biographies and autobiographies trace American literature from the Colonial era to the present. Students read books by American authors, and they write an analytical literature essay once a week throughout the year.

Prerequisite: *English 10 or English 10A*
**Students will take Regents Exam in January*

English 12 *Credit: 1*

The primary goals of the English 12 curriculum are to: Sharpen analytic reading, writing and thinking skills necessary for entering college and/or the workforce; present a variety of literature that includes short stories, full-length novels, a play, nonfiction, and poetry; encourage oral expression using debates, individual speeches, and group presentations; enhance vocabulary and listening skills; and sharpen research and problem solving skills. Written literature logs are completed on a regular basis.

Prerequisite: *English 11*

English 12AP *Credit: 1 HS & up to 6 college*

Advanced Placement Literature and Composition is a course designed to help students prepare for both the AP English Literature and Composition Exam and the AP English Language and Composition Exam in one year. Most students take both exams in May, but they may choose to take only one. The reading and writing in this course builds upon the reading and writing done in previous English courses. Students read works from several genres and periods and reflect on the social and historical values through writing and discussion. The kinds of writing in this course are varied, but include writing to understand, writing to explain and writing to evaluate. Every Thursday until the end of the school year students turn in an essay on the book they are currently reading, whether it is the required reading for the marking period or a choice from a list that is kept in their literature binder.

Prerequisites: *English teacher recommendation.*

Journalism *Credit: ½ or 1*

This English elective can be taken as either a half year course everyday for a half credit or every other day for a full credit. Students will be responsible for gathering information and reporting on issues and events taking place in and around our school community. They will sharpen their skills as journalists and will also play key roles in the publication process. The majority of the class's efforts will be involved in producing a high quality publication for public consumption. Assignments and publication needs will definitely not be limited to the scheduled class time and journalism students must be prepared to pick up assignments beyond regular school hours i.e. extracurricular sporting events, school board meetings, plays, interviewing elected officials, etc. Coursework will focus on journalistic integrity, style, and skills associated with both written and photographic journalism. Students should have a cursory knowledge and familiarity with computers as everyone will be involved in the publication process through a series of rotating roles within departments (editorial page, sports, local news, politics, and so on).

Prerequisites: *English 9*

Forensics *Credit: ½ or 1*

From September to March the forensics course focuses on public speaking and dramatic events that can be performed at competitive tournaments throughout New York State. The students are not required to attend the (approximately) 5 tournaments that Keene attends in the Potsdam and Albany districts, but most who elect this course are interested in challenging their forensics skills competitively. Students prepare for the following public speaking and dramatic categories: Dramatic/Humorous Interpretation, Oral Interpretation, Duo Dramatics, Extemporaneous Speaking, Impromptu, Original Oratory and Public Forum Debate. From March to June the students work on non-competitive public speaking and dramatic skills. Students learn the art of panel discussion, parliamentary procedure, policy debate, persuasive speeches, the interview, play directing, acting, readers theatre, theatre of the absurd and improvisational theatre. This English elective can be taken as either a half year course, everyday for a half credit or every other day for a full credit.

Prerequisites:

Senior Seminar

Credit: 1

The High School English teacher and the School Counselor work cooperatively to offer seniors the structure and support needed to successfully prepare for the transition from high school to post-secondary education and/or career choices. A year-long Senior Seminar addresses the following components:

- High School transcript requirements
- Resume writing
- Personal essay writing
- Preparation for letters of recommendation
- SAT and ACT preparation and registration
- Career job shadowing experiences
- College application preparation and submission
- Financial aid application process
- Scholarship application process and submission
- College interview preparation

Both the English teacher and school counselor work with students during the Senior Seminar classes. The school counselor is available at any time to work with students and parents who need additional assistance.

Social Studies

The Social Studies program at Keene Central School District is intended to prepare students to be productive citizens in the American society of the 21st century. Students will be able to understand the interconnected world in which they live and be able to apply knowledge and skills learned to new and divergent problems and possibilities.

Graduation Requirements:

All students are required to pass four years of Social Studies to graduate. This can be accomplished through the following sequence:

- Grade 9: Global 9A or Global 9
- Grade 10: Global 10A* or Global 10*
- Grade 11: US History & Government* or US History AP*
- Grade 12: Government & Economics or NCCC Government & Economics

* All students must take the Regents Exam in Global History (June of grade 10) and US History & Government (June of grade 11).

Global History 9 or 9A *Credit: 1*

The New York Board of Regents has mandated a two-year Global History and Geography course. This course is a study of the world showing the political, economic, and social development of people and nations around the globe, from the beginnings of humans to the present. This course provides an in-depth study of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Prerequisite: None

Global History 10 or 10A *Credit: 1*

Global History and Geography 10 is the second year of the mandated Global course. The course is team-taught under the title of Humanities with the English 10 teacher. The course is a study of the political, economic, and social developments in European history from the Greek and Roman era to the present. In order to graduate from high school, students must take and pass the Regents exam at the end of the two-year course. The exam consists of multiple choice, document bases, and thematic essays.

Prerequisite: Global History 9 or 9A

US History & Government *Credit: 1*

This mandated course begins with a study of the United States constitution. Students learn its basic principles, the arguments over its ratifications and about the structure and function of the government that it outlines. The remainder of the course is a survey of American History from the Civil War to the present. Along the way, students discover how that history was affected by the government and how the government was affected by the history. The seven units covered in this course are Geography, U.S. Constitutional Foundations (1789-1860), Industrialization of the United States (1865-1900), the Progressive Movement (1900-1920), Prosperity, Depression and WWII (1920-1945), United States in an Age of Global Crisis (Cold War – 1945-1965), a World in Uncertain Times (1965-1995), Civil Rights – Vietnam – Recent History. The 11th grade program also serves as a foundation for the 12th grade course of Participation in Government. In order to graduate from high school, students must take and pass the Regents Exam upon completion of the U.S. History and Government course.

Prerequisite: Global History 10 or 10A

US History AP***Credit: 1 HS & up to 6 college***

This course will be offered to high school juniors. The students will study the history of the United States starting with the Discovery of the New World through the Presidency of Ronald Reagan. Major topics include Revolutionary America, Jacksonian Democracy, the Civil War-Reconstruction Period, the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, WWI & II, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Movement. Students will have to know not simply what happened, but why, how, and why it was significant. Students will learn to assess historical materials (documents, maps, graphs, cartoons, and pictures), their relevance to a given historical issue and their historical importance. At the end of the course, juniors will take the AP Exam in May and the Regents exam in June.

Prerequisite: *Global History 10, Juniors will be selected on the bases of teacher recommendations and grades of at least 85 in their previous History & English courses (Grades 9 & 10) and an 85 on the 10th grade History Regents.*

Government***Credit: ½***

This course is designed to promote skills such as civic intelligence, civic mindedness, civic literacy and civic enterprise. Government is taken in the broadest sense to include all citizen groups interested in the issues of society and politics. The course utilizes community resources, both in the classroom and in the community, in such a way as to link the classroom experience to the wider society.

Prerequisite: *US History & Government or US History AP*

Economics***Credit: ½***

Economics focuses on how society chooses to use scarce resources to satisfy unlimited wants and needs. Introduction to Economics is a required survey course about the American and Global economies. Topics of instruction and analysis include: understanding economic systems, identifying and making economic choices, the concepts of supply and demand, the price system, world trade, taxation, stocks and bonds, and the implications of the information age on education and career choices. Through the examination of these microeconomics and macroeconomic concepts, students will better understand why they make the economic decisions they do, what the implications of those decisions they do, what the implications of those decisions are, and how these decisions affect their daily lives.

Prerequisite: *US History & Government or US History AP*

NCCC Government***Credit: ½ HS & 3 college***

Government is an exploration of contemporary political issues through the analysis of moral issues. The course begins with a study of ethical theorists from ancient and contemporary times and Western and Eastern backgrounds. The course then progresses to investigating contemporary moral issues, such as war, abortion, and genetic engineering. Students taking the course must be able and willing to complete significant reading outside of class on a daily basis. The course is taught in a seminar format and class participation is mandatory. Required readings include Judith Boss's Analyzing Moral Issues.

Prerequisite: *US History & Government or US History AP*

NCCC Economics***Credit: ½ HS & 3 college***

Economics is an introduction to macroeconomics. The course begins with a brief analysis of economic systems. However, the focus of the course is exploring how the principles of economics, such as supply and demand and opportunity cost, affect our choices. The class investigates the psychology and philosophy behind modern advertising and requires students to draw conclusions about the effect consumption has on the environment. The course concludes with several projects related to personal finances, such investing in the stock market, creating personal budgets, and saving for retirement.

Prerequisite: *US History & Government or US History AP*

Civil War**Credit:** ½

Civil War is a study of American society from the 1850's to 1865. The course looks at long and short term causes of the Civil War, as well the conflict itself. In addition to studying battles and military strategy, the course also looks at the impact the Civil War had on American social, political, and economic life. Students must complete daily readings and complete one major research paper, in addition to taking four teacher made tests and a final. Required readings include James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, Michael Shaara's *Killer Angles*, and Tony Horwitz's *Confederates in the Attic*.

Prerequisite: *Global 10*

Psychology (DL) (Fall)**Credit:** ½

This is an introductory course which emphasizes the basic concepts which characterize human behavior. Scientific research methods are used to study topics such as personality, intelligence, learning, motivation, sensory perception, and developmental behavior.

Prerequisite: *This half-year course is available to Juniors and Seniors only.*

Applied Math**Credit: 1**

This course is for the student who has successfully completed Math AR and Math A/B, Math AE1 and Math AE2, or Algebra and Geometry. Topics include personal finance, budgeting, payroll, taxes, investments, housing costs, transportation, checking and savings accounts, and mortgages.

Prerequisite: Algebra and Geometry

NCCC Pre-Calculus (DL) (MAT 132)**Credit: 1 HS & 3 college**

This course is for the student who has successfully completed Math B or Trigonometry, as well as teacher recommendation. There is a nonrefundable fee of \$50 payable to NCCC and a minimum average of 80 in order to receive three college credits. For most colleges, this course will be an elective. This course is open to juniors and seniors. It is a rigorous course in order to prepare students for calculus or for further courses in mathematics beyond high school. In the past, this course has been taught on the DL.

Prerequisite: Math B or Trigonometry

NCCC Statistics (MAT 121)**Credit: 1 HS & 3 college**

This course is open only to seniors. It is for the student who has successfully completed Math B or Trigonometry. There is a nonrefundable fee of \$50 payable to NCCC and a minimum average of 80 in order to receive three college credits. For most colleges, this course will satisfy the statistics course requirement for most majors. This is a solid course in statistics with a paper due each quarter and a possible project due at the end of the year.

Prerequisites: Math B or Trigonometry. Seniors only.

Science

The science department at Keene Central school puts science in historical perspective and relates science to problems in society and technology. Science is concerned with the facts, concepts and processes at work in the physical and biological worlds. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving skills and scientific attitudes.

Graduation Requirements:

All students are required to pass three years of science in order to graduate. One of these courses must be in a life science (Living Environment or Adirondack Ecology), and at least one course must be in a physical setting (Earth Science, Chemistry or Physics). To achieve a Regents Diploma, all students also need to take and pass at least one Regents Exam in Science. Two Regents Exams are required for an Advanced Regents Diploma.

Laboratory Requirements

Completion of minimum of 1200 minutes of required laboratory experiments and activities, including submission of acceptable written reports of all experiments and activities, is mandated for admission to New York State Regents Examinations. Completion of laboratory experiments and activities is also required for district local final examinations, as per department policy. Labs meet an additional 40 minutes two days during the six day cycle.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites as listed for science courses are to be interpreted as the minimum background for success in a given course. Any deviation must be within the recommendation of the student's counselor, the Science instructor, and the Principal. Math courses are part of the prerequisite because of the necessary problem-solving skills that they teach.

Physical Setting/Earth Science

Credit: 1

Grades: 9

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the Earth on which we live through an in-depth study of geology, astronomy, meteorology. The laboratory component of this course challenges students by relying heavily on the student's ability to draw conclusions from lab experiences rather than long lectures and textbook exercises. Students are expected to complete a lab portfolio providing evidence of the minimum 1200 minute lab requirement which must be met in order to qualify the student to take the Regents Exam at the end of the school year. This course may be used to satisfy the requirement of one unit of science credit towards graduation and if the student passes the Regents Earth Science Assessment then they also achieve the graduation requirement of passing one assessment in science.

Prerequisite: None

Living Environment

Credit: 1

Grades: 10

The content of this course closely follows New York State guidelines (Living Environment Core Curriculum). The content includes an introduction to biology with emphasis on the scientific method, cell biology, biochemistry, genetics, evolution, plants, vertebrates, the human body, and ecology. Students must complete individual class assignments and required laboratory investigations to be admitted entrance to the Regents examination. Successful completion of the exam provides the student another exam opportunity for fulfilling the science exam graduation requirement. Additionally, successful completion of the course also affords the student a one-unit credit in science.

Prerequisite: None

Chemistry**Credit: 1****Grades: 10, 11, &12**

Chemistry is the study of the composition of matter and how this composition can be changed. Areas of study emphasized in the course are atomic and molecular structure, the behavior of gases, chemical bonding, reduction/oxidation, equilibrium, acid-base theory, and the forces driving chemical reactions and organic chemistry. This course consists of five classes and two or three lab periods each week. Students must complete the required laboratory investigations (1200 minutes) to be admitted to the Regents Examination. A passing exam score affords the student a Regents credit. Successful completion of the course (exam grade is a component) affords the student an opportunity to earn another science credit.

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Physical Setting Regents Earth Science and Living Environment Regents Biology. Successful completion of Math Course A, also is recommended.*

Physics**Credit: 1****Grades: 11 &12**

This course is a study of the physical world from the subatomic to the cosmic level. It is designed for students with a strong science and math background, especially those planning to study science or engineering. Students will study the nature of matter and energy and how they are related. Topics include mechanics, states of matter, waves and light, electricity and magnetism, and atomic and modern physics.

Prerequisite: *2 years of science and enrollment in, or completion of, Intermediate Algebra A/B,*

Science and Technology**Credit: 1**

This course focuses on recurring themes in the high school sciences and technologies. Students will explore these themes through the design, construction and use of models. The basic goals of the course are to have students design and construct working models of scientific principles and critically evaluate scientific principles in order to properly reduce a mechanism, process, or event. Students will use the models to explore science principles in further depth by designing and implementing their own investigations using the scientific method. Additionally, students will prepare investigation results in both written and presentation form.

Prerequisite: *For 11th or 12th grade students.*

Adirondack Ecology**Credit: 1****Grades: 11 & 12**

This non-regents science course is devoted to the study of the ecology of the Adirondacks and the relationships of people to this particular mountain environment. The content includes a study of regional geology, forest ecosystems, wetlands, birdlife, wildlife, and aquatic systems. Human influences on the landscape from historic logging to current day issues of climate change and acid rain will also be covered. The course meets for a double period every other day, and is a combination of in class lecture/discussion and outdoor hands-on activities that explore the forests and streams adjacent to Keene Central School.

Prerequisite: *Earth Science and Living Environment*

Advanced Placement Biology**Credit: 1 HS & up to 8 college****Grades: 12**

AP Biology is a course designed as an equivalent of an introductory college-level course for science majors. The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and an appreciation of science as a process. The topics to be covered include: molecular and cell biology, heredity and genetics, evolutionary biology, diversity of organisms, structure and function of plants and animals, and ecology. There are 12 required AP labs on these topics. This is a college-level course and students may achieve college credit by taking the national AP exam in Biology given in May of each school year.

Prerequisite: *Living Environment and Chemistry*

AP Environmental Science*Credit: 1 HS & up to 4 college**Grades: 11 & 12*

The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course. The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preserving them. The topics to be covered include: earth systems and resources, ecosystems, population biology, land and water use, energy resources, pollution, and global change. The AP Environmental Science course includes a strong laboratory and field investigation component. This is a college-level course and students may achieve college credit by taking the national AP exam in Environmental Science in May of each school year.

Prerequisite: *Earth Science and Living Environment*

NCCC Spanish 201***Credit: 1 HS & 3 college***

This course will be conducted primarily in Spanish. The students will expand and refine their communicative skills in the four major areas of language study: speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Expansion of vocabulary, grammatical structures and conversational skills will be stressed. Short literary excerpts, newspaper and magazine articles, as well as videos will be studied. Students will earn college credit through North Country Community College for their language experience in high school.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III and a strong recommendation from the previous teacher.

NCCC Spanish 202***Credit: 1 HS & 3 college***

This is the second semester of intermediate college level Spanish and is a continuation of progress of the goals in Spanish 201.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of NCCC Spanish 201 and a strong recommendation from the previous teacher.

Health and Physical Education

The goal of the Health and Physical Education courses is to encourage students to be physically active and expand their understanding of personal habits and their importance in promoting short and long term physical health. In addition to class instruction, an extensive interscholastic athletic program is offered to students.

Graduation Requirements

All students are required to earn 2 units in Physical Education over the course of four years. This entails students taking PE every other day throughout high school. Students enrolled in an advanced athletic curriculum under the supervision of a certified physical educator and practicing a minimum of five days per week will be considered. All students are also required to complete a Health course. Keene Central School has added the state mandated Parenting requirement into the Health curriculum.

Health

Credit: ½

This course is designed to help the student:

- Understand the holistic point of view of health.
- Examine lifestyle choices (smoking, alcohol, drug use, exercise, eating habits) and how it will affect his/her future.
- Analyze his/her role and potential impact in controlling communicable diseases.
- Examine self-image.
- Effectively use cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in an emergency.
- Understand the problems related to sexuality and maturing young persons.

Physical Education

Credit: ½ each year 9-12 grade

Physical Education is an integrated part of an individual total education. The physical education curriculum will result in the individual's improved physical fitness and motor skills and develop the tools necessary to continue physical activity throughout their lifetime. Involvement in physical education will also help develop social skills and instill an appreciation for the value of activity. Lastly, supervised physical education activities will help develop an understanding of physical activity and how it relates to each student's physical-social-emotional well being. Fitness testing will be conducted in the fall and spring, also written unit exams may be given. All students must attend and participate in physical education and credit is ½ credit per completed year.

The following categories are an example of some of the activities students may participate in during physical education:

Indoor Team Sports

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Team Handball
- Indoor Soccer
- Gymnastics Floor Exercises

Personal Fitness

- Aerobic Conditioning
- Jogging/X-skiing /Snow shoeing
- Strength & Conditioning
- Wellness

Outdoor Team Sports

- Soccer
- Football
- Softball
- Speedball
- Lacrosse
- Track and Field

Lifetime Recreation

- Badminton
- Indoor/Racquet Sports
- Archery
- Golf
- Orienteering
- Adventure Games
- Trust Activities
- Hiking
- Camping

Art

The visual art program at Keene Central School has many strengths. We work to help students develop confidence in self-expression through skills acquisition, theory and art history. Our program is designed to be activity-oriented and provides a wide variety of hands-on experiences. Additionally, the visual art curriculum is strongly coordinated with core courses, creating an integrated program that reinforces learning in the academic areas.

Graduation Requirement:

In order to satisfy New York State's requirements for graduation, each student must take at least one full unit in the Arts during his or her high school career. At Keene Central this may be fulfilled with one full unit in music or art, or made up of two half units.

Studio Art

Credit: .5 for half year or 1 credit for full year

Based on the New York State Standards for the Arts, this art foundation course gives students experience with two and three-dimensional mediums. Drawing, painting, digital design, printmaking, ceramics, collage, craft and sculptural projects go into a well-rounded first year experience. Emphasis on the elements and principles of art helps prepare students for further exploration should they choose to continue.

Prerequisite: None

Advanced Studio Art

Credit: .5 for half year or 1 credit for full year

Deeper exploration into the mediums covered in Studio Art, as well as an introduction to new mediums and techniques, build on previous learning and increase the students' repertoire. Students at this level are encouraged to begin building portfolios in earnest.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Studio Art

Advanced Studio Art II

Credit: .5 for half year or 1 credit for full year

Advanced Studio Art II continues in the vein of Advanced Studio Art, but offers projects of greater depth and duration and encourages student input in the formulation of project plans. Portfolio building is an integral and on-going part of the curriculum at this level, and class time is devoted to this task.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced Studio Art

Independent Study

Credit: .5 for half year or 1 credit for full year

Students who have an interest in specific mediums, such as drawing and painting, ceramic, sculpture or ceramics, may choose to concentrate their efforts through independent study. This is usually a supervised activity, with students attending class in the same time slot as studio or advanced classes.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Advanced Studio Art

Yearbook

Credit: 1 credit, full year only

This course provides a yearlong experience in desktop publishing. Included is experience with digital design, photography, and production of a publication. Students use on-line programs, scanners, digital and 35mm cameras, Adobe PhotoShop and EXCEL software to participate in the excitement of producing the school yearbook.

Prerequisite: None

Family and Consumer Science

The Family and Consumer Science program helps students become competent and self-reliant in managing their personal, family and work lives. It is designed to meet the needs of students interested in careers in human services, education, family services, social work and food and nutrition.

Graduation Requirements:

Foods & Nutrition

Credit: .5

This course is designed to help students understand nutrition, as well as learn basic culinary skills. Students will research the USDA food guide, comparison shop, and plan and prepare nutritious meals. Students will do a research paper, projects and food preparation labs. It relates to careers in culinary arts, dietician and nutritional education.

Prerequisite: None

Clothing & Textiles

Credit: .5

This course will aid students in understanding the principles of clothing and textile construction. It will provide knowledge of impressions made by personal appearance, history of fashion, care selection and maintenance of clothing. This course relates to careers in fashion, textiles and art.

Prerequisite: None

Technology

Technology courses will encourage the study of materials, processes, tools, occupations, products, manufacturing, organization and research. The study of technology will provide a variety of experiences for students with varied interests and aptitudes. These courses may be taken to satisfy elective credits as required for graduation.

Wood Production

Credit: ½

This course is an introductory course into basic wood processes. Students will gain an understanding of the principles and use of basic tools, machines, assembly and finishing techniques common to the woodworking industry. In addition, it offers an introduction to plastics, bending and laminating of wood and an investigation into the recent innovations of the forest products industry.

Prerequisite: None

Metal Production

Credit: ½

This course investigates the industry of metals through the use of materials, processes, tools, and equipment. There is fundamental manipulative work in selection, planning, cutting, forming, assembling and finishing a variety of metal products. In particular, students will complete sheet metal work, bench metal and wrought iron work, soft metal casting, art metal and jewelry work, forging and heat treating, machine chop work, gas, arc and resistance welding.

Prerequisite: None

Small Gas Engines

Credit: ½

Through this course, students will obtain the knowledge to maintain and repair a variety of small engines. Students will also acquire the skills needed from basic tune-ups to rebuilding engines.

Prerequisite: None

Photography

Credit: ½

This course is a study of the history, science and techniques of photography. Students will learn to purchase photographic equipment and supplies. Students will also go through the development and printing of black and white pictures.

Prerequisite: None

Computer Aided Design

Credit: ½

This is a course in Computer Aided Design. Students will become familiar with computer hardware, software, CAD management, and CAD language used in industry. Mechanical 2-D, 3-D, multiple part assemblies, and full sets of working drawings enhance students' previous drafting skills. All students will benefit from this course regardless of their respective learning styles, learning rates, or gender.

Prerequisite: None

Music

The goal of the music department is to give students the opportunity to find a richer life by guiding them to a better understanding of music. There are valuable courses offered in several areas of music. All students, regardless of skill level, are encouraged to participate.

Graduation Requirements:

In order to satisfy the one unit of art/music required for graduation, students may a full year or two half years of any of our music courses.

H.S. Chorus

Credit: ½ for half year or 1 for full year

Open to students in grades 7-12. Chorus meets twice a week and performs at least twice a year. Students in grades 7-12 who are joining must audition in order to be accepted. Auditions will be held in June previous to their joining. Students must bring a song of their choice to perform, sing some scales and be able to match pitches.

Prerequisite: None

H.S. Band

Credit: ½ for half year or 1 for full year

For students in grades 7-12 who have already had instrument lessons at KCS or have transferred in from another school where they have had lessons. Band meets three times a week. The Band performs at least twice a year. Student receive group experience every week and individual lessons once every six days.

Prerequisite: Previous instrument lessons

Music Theory (DL) (Fall)

Credit: ½

Students will learn the basics in notation, analysis, and composition of music. While the emphasis will be on Western Classical style, other genres will be explored. Each student will also learn basic piano skills and chord construction. Evaluation will be based on both written exams and performance (voice, instrument). Sight reading training and interval recognition will be available.

Prerequisites: None

Music History (DL) (Spring)

Credit: ½

Music History will complement Music Theory I. The course will provide students with a broad history of music from its beginnings through the major eras (Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, etc.) to the modern era. Students will be expected to learn facts about composers and their music, and be able to identify music according to period and composer. These requirements are necessary to distinguish the course from a Music in Our Lives or General Music course at the high school level.

Prerequisites: Helpful if students are either vocalists or instrumentalists, but not required.

Music Appreciation (DL) (Fall)

Credit: ½

A music class that covers the background and music of the 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's. Fashion trends, political protests and conflicts, family life and social awareness are amongst the subjects discussed. Students will view movies, conduct interviews, complete reports & class projects as part of the course.

Prerequisites: Appropriate for the music and non-music student.

Broadway Performances (DL) (Spring) Credit: ½

This course will review the history of Broadway through video and scores. Movie journals and quizzes are the main form of testing for knowledge. For projects, students in this class will be required to perform scenes from a Broadway show and write reports on composers and performers.

Prerequisites: None

Business

The Business program at Keene Central School is evolving. We are excited about the opportunities we anticipate to have for our students. The goals are: to provide students with the knowledge and the skills necessary for college; to prepare students to directly enter the world of work; to give students information helpful in carrying on personal business affairs; and to prepare students to make informed economic decisions in life.

Introduction to Business

Credit: ½

Grades: 9 & 10

This topics covered in this course will be: Microsoft Word, Business Communications, Keyboarding, and Netiquette. This course is for the student who has a general interest in improving computer skills and learning about the foundations of the business world.

Prerequisite:

Business Law & Ethics

Credit: 1

Grades: 11 & 12

This is a full year course which combines the study of business law and business ethics. This course includes the study of law, which affects the individual in their daily lives and in the business world. It is designed to inform about rights and duties of each citizen under the law. Business ethics, moral obligations, and personal responsibility are considered throughout the course. Also included is the coverage of the PowerPoint presentation application.

Prerequisite:

Accounting I

Credit: 1

Grades: 11 & 12

We plan to offer this full year course in the near future. This course is a great preparation for any student intending to study a business related field in college. Accounting knowledge is also beneficial for students entering the workforce or starting their own business. Basic accounting theory, the use of journals and ledgers; preparation of financial statements are included. Computerized accounting is introduced through hands-on activities in Microsoft Excel.

Prerequisite:

Entrepreneurial Studies

Credit: 1

Grades: 12

We plan to offer this full year course in the near future. Entrepreneurial studies will be the culminating course in the business sequence and is designed for seniors.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Business, Business Law & Ethics, Accounting I

Vocational Technology (CVTEC)

CVTEC courses take place at the Mineville BOCES campus and occasionally at the Plattsburgh campus. The courses are geared for juniors and seniors who have a strong interest in a specific career area. Students have an opportunity to earn certification, licensure and/or college credits in some programs. Students must be on track for graduation to be eligible to attend. The available programs are listed below by cluster. You can get more detailed information about CVTEC and individual programs from your school counselor.

- Allied Health
- Automotive Technology
- Building Trades
- Cosmetology
- Drafting/Manufacturing Technologies
- Natural Resources Management