



Upper School Curriculum Guide

2023-24



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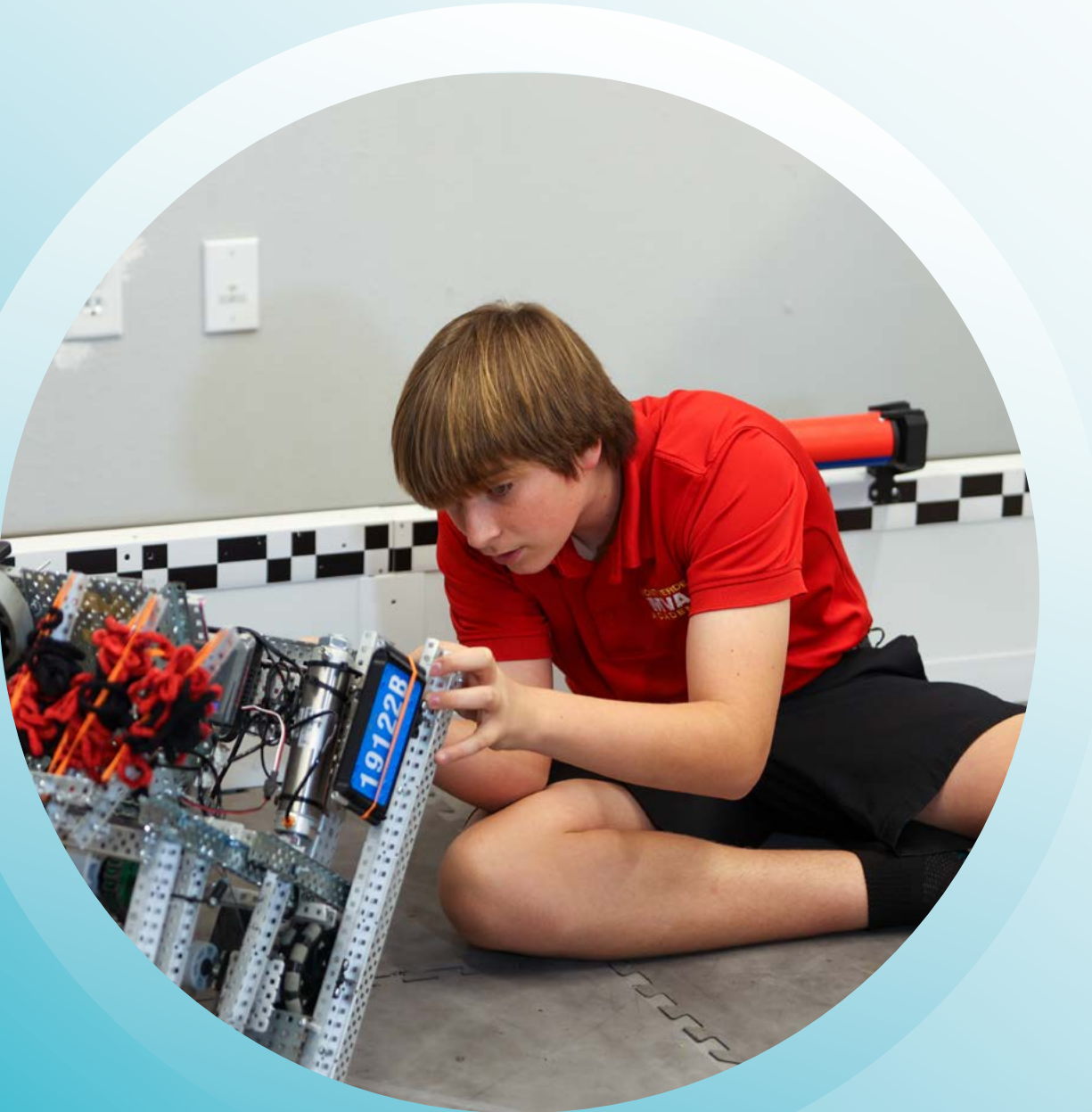
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Mission Statement

Montverde Academy inspires students to become leaders with a passion for knowledge, global vision and innovation while developing character in a nurturing and diverse community.

Upper School Overview

Academically, a school thrives when all members of a school community – administrators, teachers and parents, are willing to become lifelong learners who inspire the community and focus on the development of the whole child. Supporting this notion are four clear and simple principles which resonate throughout the Montverde Academy Upper School:

1. A clear academic structure is essential. The educational blueprint provided inside and outside of the classroom needs to be supported by a common vision, strategic plan and an application and/or assessment process to measure the growth of the school.
2. Schools must accommodate the needs of the well-rounded student. This structure must include the formation of a student's character, the promotion of justice, the development of tomorrow's leaders, and a curriculum centered on challenging students to achieve their full potential. Students will be motivated to achieve greatness by connecting to the community through service leadership.
3. Education is 100 percent relational. School communities are more successful when a plan is in place to build relationships. Student development is nurtured in the classroom, on the playing fields and stage, through the community service activities, and by student leadership opportunities through leadership, service and advisement programs. Our educators and staff are dedicated and share their genuine love of learning with their students as they get to know them throughout the school year.
4. The school is only as good as its team of educators. Our instructors believe in the mission of the school, are lifelong learners and teachers of the whole child.

The academic culture at Montverde Academy is centered on the formation of relationships, which creates a culture where young people can confidently pursue their passions with a goal of excellence, whether it is in academics, athletics or the arts. Students engage in a rigorous but flexible curriculum designed to meet the needs of our diverse and driven student body.

Our curriculum includes more than 30 Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Each year, MVA students are recognized each year by the College Board for their high performance on the associated AP exams, which consistently exceeds the state and global average.

This document is intended to serve as a guide for students and families. As you consider the variety of courses available at Montverde Academy, we encourage you to discuss opportunities with teachers, guidance counselors, administrators, and alumni. As you plan your academic journey, take advantage of the opportunity to discover and learn as much as you can. The goal is to design a course of study that is personally challenging and interesting to you – a program in which you can be successful and maintain a healthy balance with the other passions and responsibilities in your life.

A look at the academic life in the Upper School will reveal students and staff who are driven by a commitment to an excellent academic structure and the development of the well-rounded student.

Graduation Requirements Grades 9-12 2023-24 School Year

The recommended course load at Montverde Academy is designed to provide students with a strong academic foundation across a broad range of subjects. Students are encouraged to meet regularly with their guidance counselors to ensure they are meeting the requirements of MVA and of their prospective colleges or universities.

	Minimum Required Credits	Recommended Credits
English ¹	4	4
Mathematics ²	3 (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)	4
Science	3 (Biology - 1 credit)	4
Social Studies	3 (U.S. History - 1 credit)	4
World Language ³	2	3
Physical Education ⁴	1	1
Fine//Performing/Media Arts ⁵	1	1
Electives ⁶	7	7
Community Service	25 hours per year at MVA; 100 hours prior to graduation	

¹Students whose first language is not English must earn a minimum of 3 credits in English, including at least one full credit in English I or higher.] NOTE: All Upper School students are required to be enrolled in at least one English course throughout each academic year.

²All students are required to take at least three years of mathematics in grades 9-12.

³Students whose first language is English are required to take at least two consecutive years of the same world language in grades 9-12.

⁴Physical Education credits are earned by participating in a team sport, after school activities, or approved outside activities.

⁵The Fine Arts credit is a requirement beginning with the Class of 2024.

⁶Montverde Academy students must earn a minimum of 24 credits and satisfy the subject area requirements as specified above. Elective credit is awarded for any course that exceeds the minimum graduation requirements. For example, if a student takes a fourth math course, that class will be considered an elective credit. Once a student enrolls at Montverde Academy, all credits must be earned at the Academy or be approved by the Dean of the Upper School.

Sample Four-Year Plan – College Prep/Honors Track

Subject	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English (Refer to the English course continuum for more information)	English I or English I Honors	English II or English II Honors	English III or English III Honors	English IV or English IV Honors
Social Studies	World History or World History Honors	Social Studies electives	U.S. History or U.S. History Honors	Social Studies electives
Mathematics (Refer to math continuum for further information)	Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II (each offered at the College-Prep and Honors Level)	Geometry, Algebra II, or Pre-Calculus (each offered at the College-Prep and Honors Level)	Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry	Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry, Math for College Readiness, or Statistics and Probability
Science (Refer to science continuum for further information)	Biology, Biology Honors, or science electives	Chemistry, Chemistry Honors, or science electives	Science electives	Science electives
World Languages	French I or II Spanish I, II or Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers	French II or III Spanish II, III, or Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers	French III or IV Spanish III or IV	French IV Spanish IV

Academic Departments and Course Offerings

For detailed course descriptions, please visit

montverde-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Browse/View/MapCourseDescriptions

English Department

It is the English Department's goal to support the Montverde Academy mission statement and inspire students to become analytical readers, critical thinkers, effective writers, and lifelong learners. In our student-centered classrooms, we guide our students to view themselves as critical communicators and help them develop their voices so they can become active participants in global, economical, and social issues.

Throughout our English courses, students are exposed to variety of global literature, including a foundational literature and writing focus in English I, a focus on the narrative form in English II, a focus on American Literature in English III, and a focus on British Literature in English IV. Across all English courses, students participate in the research process, evaluating sources, and presenting their findings in multi-modal ways.

The Montverde Academy English Department also offers both AP English Language and AP English Literature to qualified 11th and 12th graders. In all levels of English, students are provided opportunities to engage in literary, expository, analytical, and argumentative reading and writing that will meet the demands of their future in higher education.

English Course Offerings:

ESL I, III, III

Creative Writing

Creative Nonfiction Honors

English I

English I Honors

English II

English II Honors

English III

English III Honors

English IV

English IV Honors

Poetry Honors

Journalism I, II, III

AP® English Language and Composition

AP English Literature and Composition

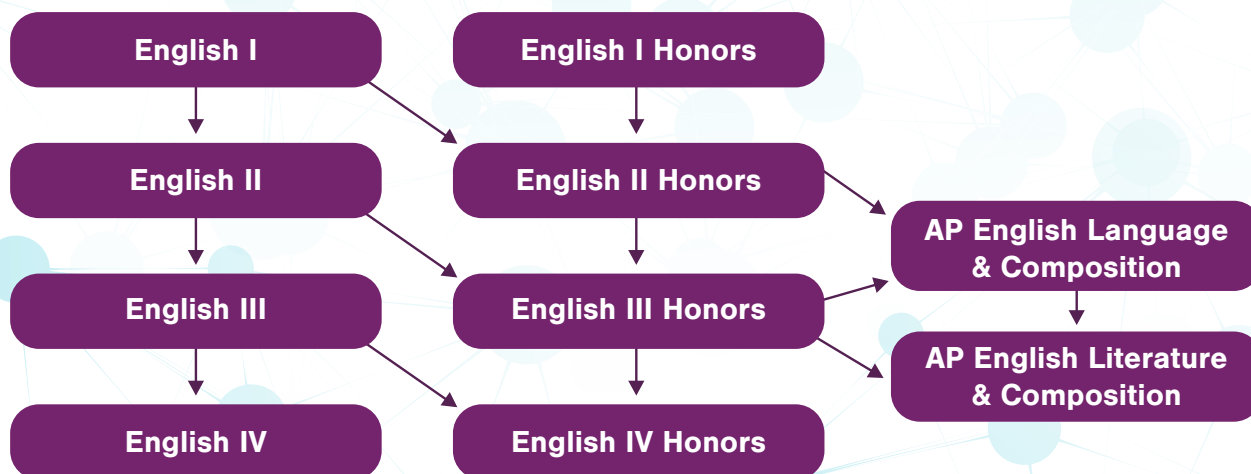


ESL Course Continuum



NOTE: When A student earns a SLATE score of 4, he/she is moved into mainstream English. The English course is determined by the student's grade level and proficiency level.

English Course Continuum



NOTE: Students who earn an A or B in college-prep English may request honors-level English the following year.

Variations in the sequence of courses are common. Students should consult their teachers, advisors, and counselors to determine the courses that best meet their academic needs and interests.

Academic Departments and Course Offerings continued...

For detailed course descriptions, please visit

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Mathematics Department

The primary objective of the mathematics program at MVA is to support students as they become mathematically-literate citizens who know the appropriate mathematical and technological tools to use and know when to use them in various problem-solving settings. Students work in independent, small-group, and whole-class settings to increase their mathematical confidence and their communication skills. The types of problems and the learning environment in the mathematics classrooms foster persistence, critical thinking, and reflection. All courses require students to communicate conceptual understanding (both verbally and in written form), justify and explain results, and apply mathematics to real-world situations.

Mathematics Course Offerings:

Algebra I

Algebra II

Algebra II Honors

Geometry

Geometry Honors

Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry

Pre-Calculus

Pre-Calculus Honors

Math for College Readiness Statistics and Probability

Calculus Honors

Multivariable Calculus

Statistics Honors

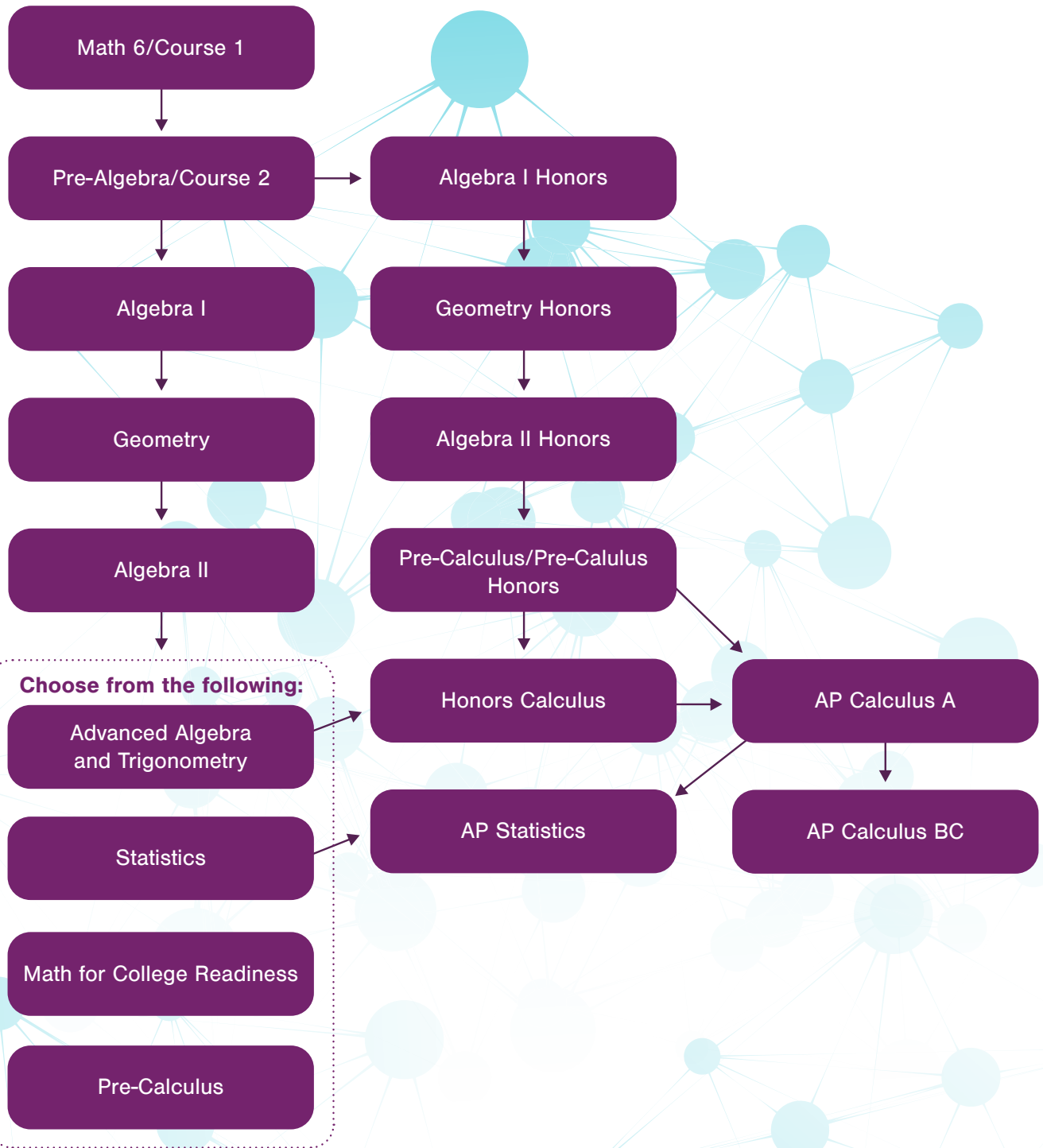
AP[®] Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Statistics



Mathematics Course Continuum



Variations in the sequence of courses are common. Students should consult their teachers, advisors, and counselors to determine the courses that best meet their academic needs and interests.



Academic Departments and Course Offerings continued...

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Science Department

The goal of science is to understand the universe and how it works. Science is a process and not a static collection of facts. The objective of the science program is to foster a love of science and help students to understand the process of science. The aim is for students to grow in science knowledge, learn to critically analyze and interpret data, and to be observers in the world.

In science classes, students will experience science firsthand through experimentation and inquiry, collaboration, and discussion. The goal is for students to leave their science classes with a greater understanding of science concepts, enhanced critical thinking skills, and preparation for college and career. Through many and varied course offerings, students can explore an interest in biology, engineering, chemistry, physics, or the environment.

Students interested in further growth and knowledge in the sciences have many opportunities within the STEM SAC program to connect with scientists, conduct independent research, and collaborate with other science students outside the classroom experience.

Science electives are subject to change based upon student interest and teaching availability. Contact the science department chair if you have questions.

Science Course Offerings:

Aerospace Engineering	Forensic Science 1 (.5 credit)
Anatomy and Physiology Honors	Forensic Science 2 (.5 credit)
Architectural Engineering	Introduction to Engineering
Biochemistry Honors (.5 credit)	Kinesiology
Biology	Marine Biology 1 (.5 credit)
Biology Honors	Marine Biology 2 (.5 credit)
Chemistry	Physics
Chemistry Honors	Physics Honors
Civil Engineering	Polymer Chemistry Honors (.5 credit)
Digital Electronics	Robotics
Engineering Essentials	AP [®] Biology
Environmental Geology	AP Chemistry
Environmental Science 1 (.5 credit)	AP Environmental Science
Environmental Science 2 (.5 credit)	AP Physics 1
Environmental Science Honors	AP Physics 2
Epidemiology	

Life Science Emphasis College-Prep Track

SCIENCE

MATH

GRADE 9

Choice of two semester long (0.5 credit) Science Courses **OR** Biology

Algebra I

GRADE 10

Biology (College Prep) **OR** Science Electives

Geometry

GRADE 11

Chemistry (College Prep) **OR** Science Electives

Algebra II

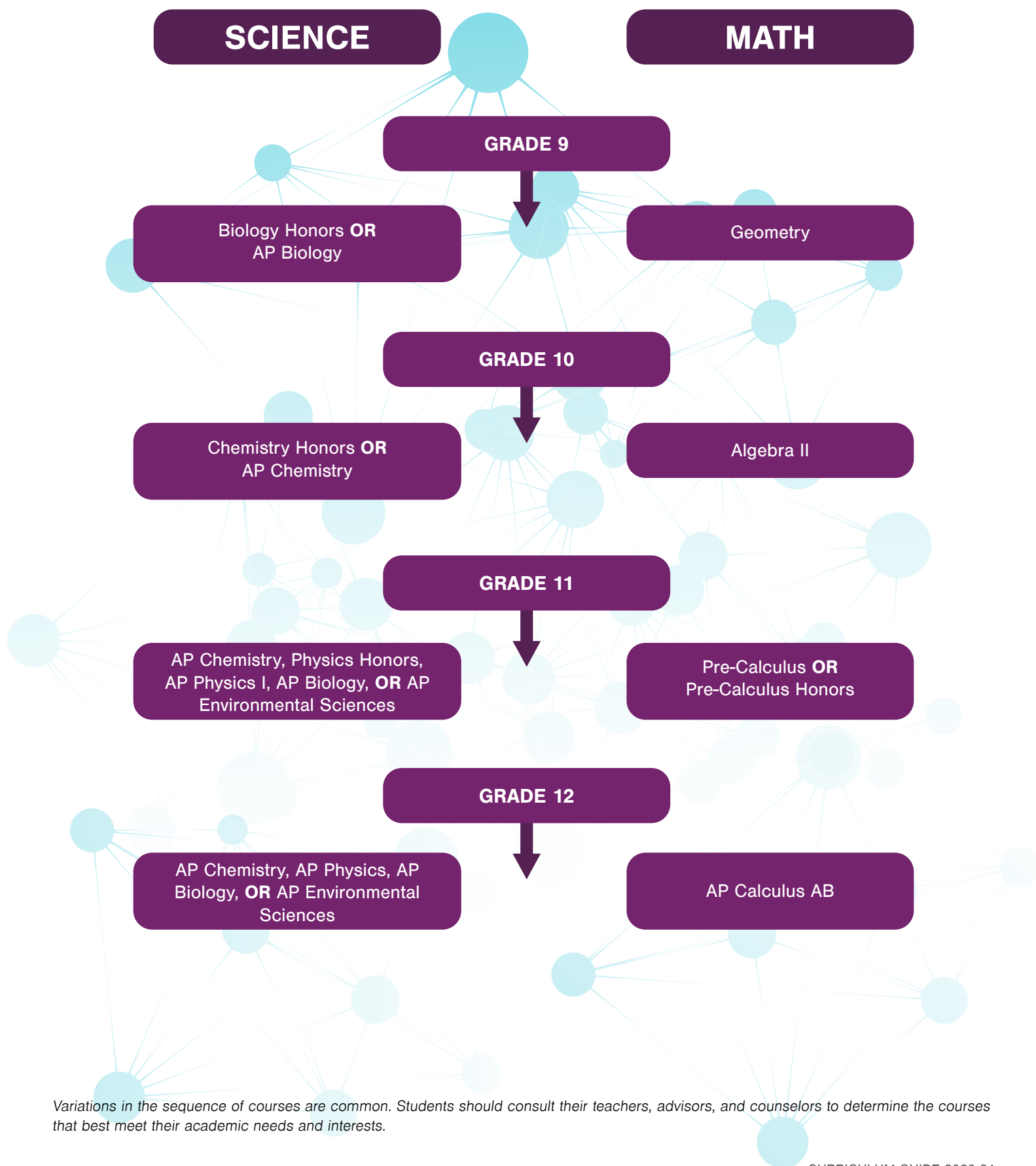
GRADE 12

Physics **OR** Science Electives

Pre-Calculus, Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math for College Readiness, **OR** Statistics

Variations in the sequence of courses are common. Students should consult their teachers, advisors, and counselors to determine the courses that best meet their academic needs and interests.

Life Science Emphasis Advanced Track



Variations in the sequence of courses are common. Students should consult their teachers, advisors, and counselors to determine the courses that best meet their academic needs and interests.

Physical Science Emphasis Regular/College-Prep Track

SCIENCE

MATH

GRADE 9

Choice of two semester-long (0.5 credit) science courses **OR** Biology

Algebra I

GRADE 10

Biology (Regular/College-Prep)

Geometry

GRADE 11

Chemistry **OR** Physics

Algebra II

GRADE 12

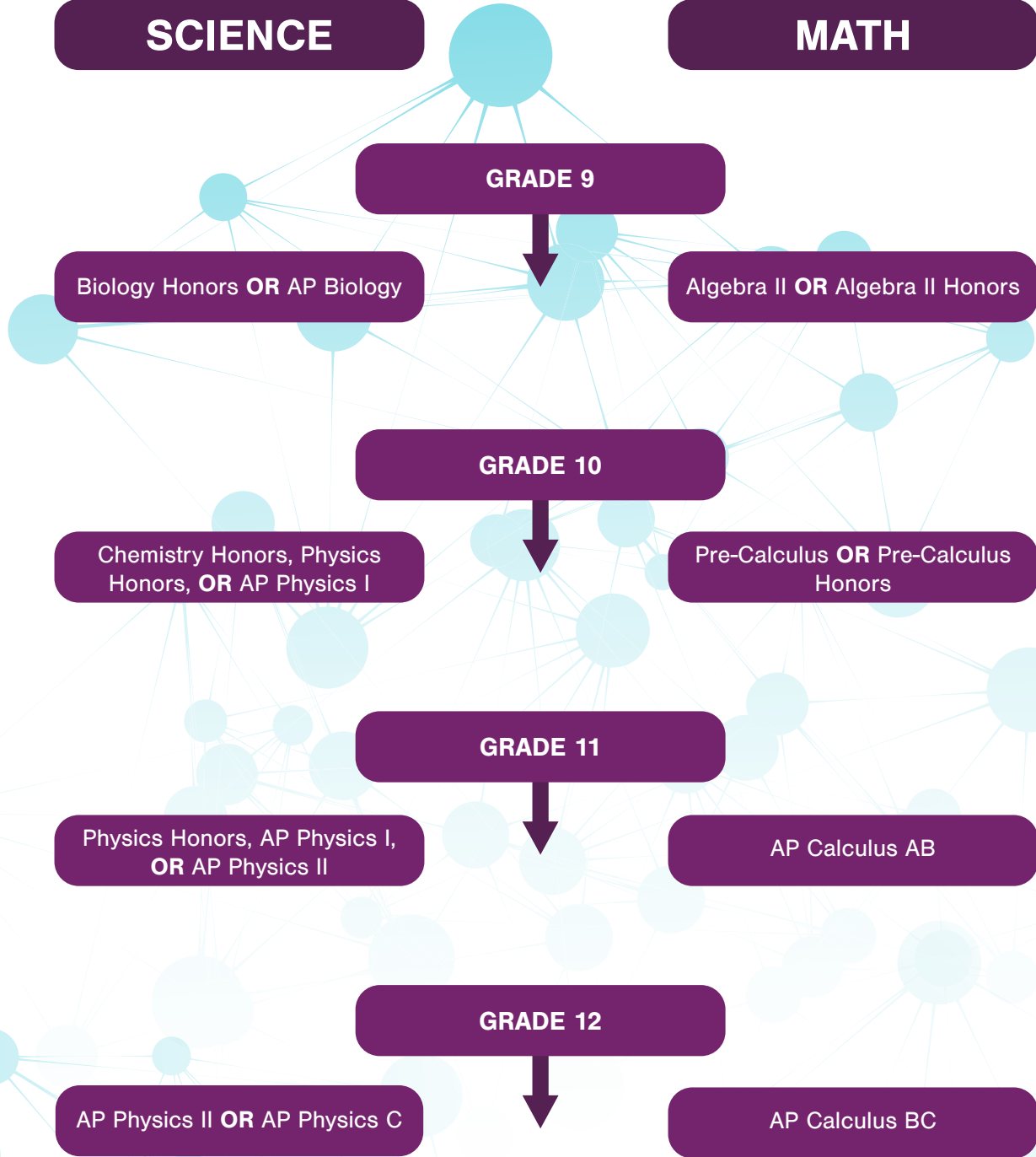
Chemistry **OR** Physics

Pre-Calculus, Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math for College Readiness, **OR** Statistics

Variations in the sequence of courses are common. Students should consult their teachers, advisors, and counselors to determine the courses that best meet their academic needs and interests.

Physical Science Emphasis Advanced Track

SCIENCE **MATH**



Variations in the sequence of courses are common. Students should consult their teachers, advisors, and counselors to determine the courses that best meet their academic needs and interests.

Academic Departments and Course Offerings continued...

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montverde-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Browse/View/MapCourseDescriptions

World Languages Department

Studying another language enhances the personal education of our students in many ways. Learning a foreign language provides opportunities to communicate with others from many different cultures and backgrounds. It opens doors to other perspectives, and helps a student acquire an objective view of their own native language. As students progress through the program, they will gain a deeper understanding, commitment, and respect for the path to fluency. Our offerings in French and Spanish provide a strong foundation for language acquisition, encourage culture exploration, and strive to build confidence and motivation for students to continue their world language and cultural studies throughout high school and beyond.

World Languages Course Offerings:

Spanish I	AP Spanish Literature and Culture
Spanish II	French I
Spanish III	French II
Spanish IV	French III
Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers 1	French IV
Spanish for Native and Heritage Speakers 2	AP French Language and Culture
AP Spanish Language and Culture	

Social Studies Department

The Montverde Academy Social Studies Department is composed of a variety of courses geared towards the intellectual and civic development of students. The history courses promote an understanding of our world and how our current institutions have come to be and how these institutions shape us. However, one of the most important functions of democratic education is to create active global citizens who understand their world and try to shape those institutions towards a better future. Additional courses in government, economics, religion, philosophy and psychology enhance student knowledge and provide them with the skills to excel in college and become conscientious global citizens.

Social Studies Course Offerings:

Abnormal Psychology (.5 credit)	Sports Management (.5 credit)
African-American Studies (.5 credit)	Sports Psychology (.5 credit)
American Civil War (.5 credit)	US History
Economics (.5 credit)	US History Honors
Economics for Financial Literacy	World History
Entrepreneurship 1 (.5 credit)	World History Honors
Entrepreneurship 2 (.5 credit)	World War II and Cold War
Gender Studies (.5 credit)	World Religions
Global Politics (.5 credit)	AP Comparative Government and Politics
Government Honors 1 (.5 credit)	AP European History
Government Honors 2 (.5 credit)	AP Human Geography
The Holocaust (.5 credit)	AP Macroeconomics (.5 credit)
Model UN I	AP Microeconomics (.5 credit)
Model UN II	AP Psychology
Multicultural Perspectives (.5 credit)	AP U.S. History
Philosophy	AP U.S. Government and Politics
Psychology (.5 credit)	AP Modern World History

Technology Department

Technology opens more doors for students than any other discipline in today's world. Learning even the basics will help students in virtually any career — from architecture to zoology. Just as we teach students the history of our country, how to dissect a frog, or how electricity works, it's important for every 21st century student to learn the history of computers, have chance to dissect an app, or learn how the Internet works.

The primary goal of the Computer Science/Technology program at Montverde Academy is to develop a base knowledge of how the technology that we use every day works; giving students the ability to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, and create and problem solve with information in their core subjects. This year the focus is for students to see how a deep understanding of digital technology will allow them to productively participate in society.

Technology Course Offerings:

(All courses are one semester/.5 credit unless otherwise noted.)

3-D Design and Printing

History of Gaming

Game Theory and Design

Game Builders I

Game Builders II

Game Builders III

AP Computer Science A (1.0 credit)

AP Computer Science Principles (1.0 credit)



Academic Departments and Course Offerings continued...

For detailed course descriptions, please visit

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Fine Arts Department

The vision of the Arts at Montverde Academy is: "Growing the Arts one student at a time." To that end all of our offerings and programs are designed around the individual student. This assures each student receives a flexible program uniquely tailored to his/her specific needs and interests; thereby allowing the maximum growth potential for the individual. This growth should be reflected in increasingly demanding curricula and performance expectations, leading to a mastery of the desired Art(s).

The mission of Montverde Academy Arts is to cultivate aspiring musicians/actors/artists in an atmosphere where they have the freedom and guidance to grow in their skills and discipline in a setting that fosters creativity, humanity, integrity, passion, and success.

Fine Arts/Media Arts Course Offerings:

(All courses are one semester/.5 credit unless otherwise noted.)

Advanced Ceramics

Ceramics

Children's Theatre

Crafts

Dance and Movement

Drawing I

Drawing II

Filmmaking I

Filmmaking II

Guitar

Introduction to Art

Music Conservatory

Music Production

Painting I

Painting II

Photography I

Photography II

Sports Media

Studio Art

Piano Studies I

Piano Studies II

Piano Studies III

Playwriting

Public Speaking

Theatre Conservatory

Theatre Theory

TV Production Yearbook

AP[®] Music Theory (1.0 credit)

AP Art History (1.0 credit)

AP 2-D Art and Design (1.0 credit)

AP 3-D Art and Design (1.0 credit)





Interdisciplinary Courses:

- AP Seminar (1.0 credit)
- AP Research (1.0 credit)

For detailed course descriptions, please visit

<https://montverde-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Browse/View/MapCourseDescriptions>

