

## HORTON HIGH SCHOOL



### THE CODING SYSTEM

Each course description in this booklet is identified by: course title, grade level, credit type (academic, advanced, graduation or open) and credit value (one credit or ½ credit).

The description for each credit type is as follows:

Academic – These courses are designed for students who expect to enter college, university or other post-secondary institutions.

Advanced – These courses are designed to meet the needs of students who have demonstrated an exceptional degree of academic ability or achievement.

Graduation – These courses are designed for students who wish to obtain a graduation diploma with a view to proceeding to employment or some selected area of post-secondary study.

Open – Although none of these courses is designed to meet the specific entrance requirements of any post-secondary institution, individual courses may meet entrance requirements and they can be useful for all students in providing for a well-rounded education.

### CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAM

Students going into grade ten at Horton will find a wide variety of courses offered at different levels of ability and interest. All of these courses will lead to a **Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma**. If you plan to attend university, you should concentrate on courses identified as **Academic** or **Advanced**, although some **Open** credits are permissible. If you recognize that you are not going to attend university, you should still take a majority of **Academic** courses if you can cope with the expectations at that level. The majority of community colleges accept all credit types (Academic, Advanced, Graduation and Open) but many require academic credits for specific programs. It is anticipated that some students will graduate having completed a program of mostly university preparatory courses. Some will graduate with a combination: Academic, Advanced, Graduation and Open category courses. You should talk with your parents, teachers and guidance counselors when making decisions about courses and how they affect your future.

Post-secondary institution requirements are constantly changing; therefore, students need to regularly check the entrance and the program requirements. These are easily accessed through the institutions' web sites and calendars.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Please see the chart on the inside back cover for details. Please note that students cannot receive credit for two courses in the same subject at the same grade level. For example, a student cannot receive credit for both Math 10 and Math at Work 10 (MTW 10), BIOLOGY 11 (BIO 11) and Human Biology (HUM BIO 11), nor for both ENGLISH 12 and English/Communications (ENG/COM 12). One exception includes math. Students should consult with their guidance counselor for details. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that he or she chooses and has the right credits necessary for graduation.

### SELECTING THE COURSES

Horton High School operates on a semester system. Students in grades 9 and 10 will register for 8 credits per year. Students in grade 11 will register for a minimum of 7 credits. Except for special circumstances, students in grade 12 will register for a minimum of 6 credits. Returning graduates will meet with administration to determine the courses for which they will register. Students are encouraged to meet with their guidance counselor if they have questions about course selections and post-secondary admission requirements.

## ***NSSAF ELIGIBILITY***

In order to be eligible to participate in a Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation-sponsored activity, a student must be taking at least three (3) courses during the semester that the activity is taking place.

**It may not be possible to schedule all the courses requested by all students. There may be courses with insufficient enrollment; some courses will be in conflict with each other within an individual student's timetable; courses may have enrollments that exceed the maximum capacity of the course.**

Grade 10 students should develop a three-year plan in which they are careful to select courses to satisfy graduation requirements and to establish a basis for the remaining two years in high school.

**Please Note:** No more than 7 grade ten level credits can be used for graduation requirements.

Students and parents are encouraged to look ahead to possible post-secondary programs and to consult calendars from these institutions for particulars. **NOTE:** Not all academic courses are accepted by all universities. Completing ENG 12 and four other academic courses does not guarantee admission to all universities. The counselors will be able to assist in course selection and in providing information on post-secondary entrance requirements; however, the ultimate responsibility for course selection rests with the student and the parents.

All students should be in direct touch with **Student Services** regarding the appropriate selection of courses to gain entrance to various programs after high school graduation, as well as for scholarship requirements.

## ***CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT AND INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDITS***

An opportunity is now available for students to achieve high school credit for courses through Challenge for Credit and Independent Study.

Challenge for Credit involves a process for senior high school students to demonstrate that they have achieved learning outcomes as defined in the Department of Education and Culture's Public School Program and the curriculum guide for a specific course. Students are limited to no more than two credits at each grade level for a maximum of six credits toward graduation. Challenge can be made in Fine Arts (Music, Art and Drama), Languages (French, German and Spanish), Mathematics and Physical Education. The deadline for The Notice of Intent to Challenge is October 7<sup>th</sup>. Application forms are available at Student Services.

Independent Study Credits provide students an opportunity to initiate and develop courses tailored to their needs, abilities and interests under the guidance and supervision of the course-related mentoring teacher. This option is open to students of grades 11 and 12 who may earn a maximum of two independent study credits toward graduation. Interested students must check with their teachers and guidance personnel for further details. Application forms are available at Student Services. The first steps to the application procedure are made in the spring. Approvals, arrangements with an advisor, and all other details must be completed by September 26<sup>th</sup>. Students cannot acquire a course listed in the Nova Scotia PSP but must create their own course based on strengths and interest.

## ***HOMEROOM GRADE PROMOTION POLICY***

Students are placed in homerooms prior to the beginning of school in September. Students must have at least five credits to be eligible for placement in a grade 11 homeroom and ten credits to be eligible for placement in a grade 12 homeroom. Only students scheduled with sufficient courses to graduate in June are eligible to be placed in a grade 12 homeroom.

## ***AVERAGING/HONOURS***

Students in grade 9, 10, or 11 must achieve a minimum average of 80% from 6 credit courses to receive Honours. Students in grade 12 must achieve a minimum average of 80% in five credit courses. Students with an average of 90% or higher will receive "Honours with Distinction." Students attending for 1 semester only require 3 courses to be eligible for "Honours" and "Honours with Distinction".

**Please Note:** Students cannot receive Honours or Honours with Distinction if they fail any courses.

## ***GUIDELINES FOR UNDERSTANDING SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND AWARDS***

Scholarships, bursaries and awards are contributions from individuals, community organizations, service clubs, government and professional associations. The competition for these awards can be at a national, provincial or local level. Each application states the level, sponsor, criteria, instructions, and description of the award and deadline.

**Scholarships** are amounts of money, based upon academic achievements and usually require evidence of school and community involvement or leadership.

**Bursaries** are based upon the financial need of the individual within a family/dependent situation. Sometimes the student is asked to give supporting documents of the picture. The definition of “financial need” varies with each sponsor.

**Awards** are forms of recognition that can be in the form of a financial amount or a certificate for special contribution or achievement. The criteria in each application are usually specific. Students who have worked hard and have supporting character references should be encouraged to apply. There are only a few awards that are applied for in the fall and these require a grade 11 record of marks. Applications for President/ Chancellor National scholarships are due for Ontario universities from December to March. The majority of universities base their entrance scholarships on a student's February marks, but it is essential that students know the system for each post- secondary institution that interests the student. Students and parents/guardians can reach the school database on local bursaries and scholarships by going to our website. When new information arrives in the school, this information is included in the daily announcements. Students and parents/guardians can check the daily announcements by going to the Horton Website at [www.hortonhighschool.ca](http://www.hortonhighschool.ca). Awards and opportunities are on-going from September to June on the web page link called “Scholarships”. Students, parents/guardians can also access information in the Student Services' files.

## ***STUDENT SERVICES***

The Student Services Department at Horton is designed to assist students—individually and in small groups—as well as teachers. At the present it is comprised of two guidance counselors, four resource teachers and a Career Access Program. This department is also responsible for facilitating Individual Program Plans (IPP) and Individual Transitional Plans (ITP). Identified students receive assistance in a small group setting with individualized test and exam schedules being arranged as appropriate. Additional assistance for students can be obtained from Public Health, Board Program Advisors, Speech and Hearing Consultants, a Work Experience Coordinator, an Addictions Counselor and a RCMP Liaison Officer.

### ***The Counseling Centre***

The counseling centre is part of student services. The counseling program relates to the personal, social, academic, and career development of students. Please contact Jacqueline Langille to book a guidance/counseling appointment.

## ***CAREER ACCESS PROGRAM***

Career Access provides students with an opportunity to develop employability skills while achieving their High School Graduation Diploma. Students may enter the Career Access program at any grade level. The Career Access Program is primarily designed for students who are going to enter the work force after graduation. The students wishing to pursue their high school education through Career Access will:

- make application to enter the program, participate with their parents/guardians in an interview process;
- be at least sixteen years of age;
- attend school two days each week and spend the three remaining days in a work setting;
- while in the work place, assume the same responsibilities as their co-workers;
- attend work experience on the days specified during school hours;
- be monitored closely by the work experience coordinating teacher;
- attend all scheduled classes while in school;
- complete all assigned school work;
- display a positive attitude in school and at the workplace.

While on work experience, students are covered by a blanket insurance policy through the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education.

## ***OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES***

### ***(O2)***

The AVRCE is offering opportunities for schools to provide programs that will engage students in skills based learning opportunities through an Academy approach. Academies are clusters of courses that focus on developing skills in particular lifework/career pathways. The AVRCE has developed a list of criteria that would qualify students to receive a certificate celebrating a student's successful completion of a cluster of related courses.

The certificate is presented to qualifying students at Graduation in addition to the NS High School Leaving Certificate.

Through this initiative, Horton High School is offering an opportunity for students considering the Options & Opportunities program to complete an application form. All applicants must undergo an interview process before being scheduled into the Academy.

**Applications may be picked up from Student Services or from the Horton High School Lead teacher.**

In order to receive the Options & Opportunities Certificate, students must complete high school graduation requirements. In addition to these requirements, students must successfully complete mandatory O2 credits:

- Career Development 10
- Community Based Learning 10
- Career Development 11
- Workplace Health & Safety 11
- Cooperative Education (4 credits of 100 hour placements)

Students may choose to focus on an academic stream for course selection or those more suitable to their post- secondary needs.

## ***AVRCE FINE ARTS CERTIFICATE: IN BRIEF***

Do you feel at home in the arts? If you are taking courses in any combination of music, drama, visual art, or dance, at school or in the greater community, then you may be a candidate for an AVRCE Fine Arts Certificate. Upon graduation, this certificate would indicate to post-secondary institutions that you are committed to the arts and have had an art education that promotes excellence, rigor, and life-long learning in and through the arts.

The AVRCE Fine Arts Certificate is designed for students who wish to develop their potential in Visual Arts, Music, Dance and/or Drama. An arts education offers you unique ways of knowing and experiencing your world and who you are. Moreover, an arts education can help prepare you for a successful career in Canada's largest growth sectors, particularly culture and information technologies.

Students are eligible to receive an AVRCE Fine Arts Certificate for producing a portfolio of 12 art works and by earning 5 arts credits (among music, art, drama and dance) taken throughout grades 10, 11, and 12. While Design 11, Film and Video Productions 12 and Textile Technology 12 are not courses that can be used to satisfy the graduation component of earning a fine arts credit; these courses may be used towards earning an AVRCE Fine Arts Certificate.

For more information, please inquire through your arts teacher or guidance counselor.

## IB DIPLOMA PROGRAM



Horton is officially authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the IB Diploma Program, becoming part of the IB global family of 3000+ schools throughout 140 countries. This comprehensive approach to learning emphasizes academic excellence and fosters personal development by encouraging community service and involvement in creative and physically active pursuits. This free, open access, alternate pathway through grades 11 and 12 is truly a gift, as the inherent value of the program provides unique perspectives and experiences that are specific to IB. Contact Mr. Fuller (IB Coordinator) via email ([jasfuller@gnspe.ca](mailto:jasfuller@gnspe.ca)) or in person, for a separate course registration booklet pertaining to both pre-IB and IB. More details about the program and specific course descriptions can be found on the Horton website using the “Students” link then clicking on “IB Diploma Program”.

Did you know that the IB Diploma Program:

- **Holistic Program: The IB is a course of study made up of six areas which are studied concurrently. Students also take a class called Theory of Knowledge, write a senior research project (Extended Essay), and complete 150 Creativity, Action and Service hours**
- **Asks “why” more than “what”**
- **Significant accountability for teacher and student**
- **Graded world-wide**
- **Multiple Assessments: Essays, orals, and projects, performances in addition to the written exam, determine the final score (1-7)**
- **Emphasizes process and integration of content across content areas—process, application, integration**
- **IB students may also sit for AP exams if they choose**

## ***AVRCE VIRTUAL ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES***

AVRCE Virtual Advanced Placement (AP) Program – The Virtual Advanced Placement (AP) Program is designed to provide an enriched curriculum to students of AVRCE. AP courses are considered to be first-year university level and can lead to a university credit if the student is successful on the College Board exam written in May. Currently, AVRCE offers AP Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, Computer Science, English Literature and Composition, and Human Geography to Grade 11 and 12 students virtually outside of normal school hours. For more detailed information on the Virtual AP courses, please visit the AVRCE website at [www.avrce.ca](http://www.avrce.ca) and search for Advanced Placement. The AVRCE AP Lead Teacher will be visiting our school in late February/early March for an AP Information Session to answer questions about the program. Registration takes place in March of each school year. Please see Student Services for further info.

### **Advanced Placement Biology 12 (BIO AP 12)**

#### **Advanced, 1 credit**

AP Biology is designed to offer students a solid foundation in introductory-level biology. In this course, you will be held to high expectations and mature responsibilities just like a university freshman taking Intro Biology. What we know today about biology is a result of inquiry. Science is a way of knowing. Therefore, the process of inquiry in science and developing critical thinking skills is the most important part of this course. This course will emphasize how scientists use their observations and readings to ask questions that can lead to new experiments. These experiments build on the work of others and eventually lead to additional evidence on different topics. This investigative process will be used throughout this AP Biology course. It is important for students to become excited with discovery as they ask and answer their own questions about natural/biological phenomena that they see, read about, or experience in the laboratory and field. Students meet virtually with the instructor twice per week beginning in September, ending upon completion of the AP Biology exam in May. Also, students will be required to travel to the lab site for two full day labs along with four-five after-school (2:00-5:00) labs.

### **Advanced Placement Calculus 12 (AP CAL 12)**

#### **Advanced, 1 credit**

AP Calculus 12 (Calculus AB) presents the rigor and depth comparative to introductory university calculus. The focus of this course includes both a study of differential calculus and integral calculus. As well, the AP Calculus course contains topics to develop rich problem-solving skills. Students meet virtually with their teacher twice per week beginning in September, ending upon completion of the AP Calculus exam in May. AP Calculus is designed to have a prerequisite of Math 11 and Pre-Calculus 11 and a co-requisite of Pre-Calculus 12.

### **Advanced Placement Chemistry 12 (CHEM AP 12)**

#### **Advanced, 1 credit**

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first university year. For some students, AP Chemistry enables them to undertake, in their first year, second-year work in the chemistry sequence at their institution or to register in courses in other fields where general chemistry is a prerequisite. For other students, the AP Chemistry course fulfills the laboratory science requirement and frees time for other courses. Students who take AP Chemistry will develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, such as designing a plan for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, and connecting concepts in and across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent university courses. Students meet with their instructor twice a week from the beginning of September to May in a synchronous online environment to examine the main concepts from each unit of study. Many resources (notes, videos, worksheet answer keys, etc.) are provided weekly to help students be successful! The AP Chemistry course requires the completion of laboratories. Students will travel to the lab site for two full day and three half-day laboratory sessions that will include engagement in a variety of hands-on inquiry-based experiments and chemistry demonstrations.

### **Advanced Placement Computer Science A (AP CMP SCI 12)**

#### **Advanced, 1 credit**

APCSA is a Computer Science course that focuses on introducing students to computer programming using the Java programming language. The course will consist of labs, tests, and assignments. This course will help prepare you for entry into a university or college program in Computer Science or a similar field. No prior programming knowledge is required to take this course, however, the learning curve is steep, so be prepared to step up to the challenge from day one. Students meet virtually with their teacher twice per week beginning in September, ending upon completion of the AP Calculus exam in May.

With each year, more and more universities are requiring students to have computer science experience. Why not put your skills to the test without worrying about tuition fees? Software developers are in demand all over the world, so take the first step towards a career in the world of tomorrow.

### **Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition 12 (ENG LIT AP 12)**

#### **Advanced, 1 credit**

This AP English Literature and Composition 12 course provides students with an enriched program of study on literature and writing, using a variety of texts as the means to achieving this goal. The course explores literary elements such as a work's structure, style and themes, as well as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. It seeks to develop your writing skills as you express your ideas and analysis in expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Course work is accelerated. Students meet virtually with the AP English teacher twice per week beginning in September, ending upon completion of the AP English exam in May. The AP English credit does satisfy the requirements as a third NS English credit. The AP English course is designed to have a pre-requisite of Advanced English 11 or English 11.

### **Advanced Placement Human Geography (HUM GEO AP 12)**

#### **Advanced, 1 credit**

The Human Geography course is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory human geography course usually taken by geography majors during their first year of university. This course is an in-depth, content-intensive study of geographic concepts/topics and models dealing with all aspects of human geography. Students meet virtually with the AP Human Geography teacher twice per week beginning in September, ending upon completion of the AP Human Geography exam in May. The AP Human Geography credit does satisfy the global studies requirements for Nova Scotia graduation. Having some Geography background will be an asset but not required. Having a strong academic background, being self-motivated, outgoing and comfortable with completing work independently are ingredients for successful learning in the course.