



1. KNOW
Who am I? Get to know your interests, skills, and strengths.

2. EXPLORE
Where do I want to go? Explore career pathways and education opportunities.

3. PLAN
How do I get there? Set goals, choose courses, join clubs and activities, obtain financing, fill out applications, and write resumes.

4. GO!
Recalculate as needed.

ACP

Academic & Career Planning

This newsletter focuses solely on Academic Career Planning initiatives and how they prepare students for their future careers.

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) is a process where students come up with their own informed decisions for post-secondary success with the guidance of school staff and parents. Instead of school counselors tackling the topic of college readiness with students, all teachers and staff beginning in sixth grade will be required by the state to get students thinking about how and where they might want to enter the workforce after education. We even start earlier than that.

Every district's plan will look a little different, due to state requirements to implement ACP initiatives based on the most up-to-date county, state, and national employment predictions. Preparing students for jobs in Pierce County, for example, will look different than that of Milwaukee County.

By implementing Academic and Career Planning, an individualized learning plan is developed for students, hopefully increasing motivation, engagement, school connection, and awareness of their own individual strengths and weaknesses. Students using ACP also improve their understanding of postsecondary options, better connect their goals to educational coursework and career goal activities, and engage in long-term planning for life after high school graduation.

As per new state requirements, parents of middle and high school students can find out our district's many employment and career opportunities through the school district's ACP website (<http://www.ellsworth.k12.wi.us/district/acp.cfm>). This website provides access to career awareness, exploration opportunities, and planning at the middle school and high school. Elementary programming is also in the works. Area labor, employment and educational data is available and updated annually on the website.

continued on page 2...

MISSION OF ACP:
Empowering ALL students to travel the road TO adulthood THROUGH education and training to careers.

Buzz Words

Here are words you will see as you read through this newsletter, along with their definitions.

Academic Career Planning (ACP)

A process where students come up with their own informed decisions for post-secondary success with the guidance of school staff and parents.

Advanced Placement

The placement of a student in a high school course that potentially offers college credit if a successful test score is obtained.

Advanced Standing

Allows students to request credit for courses if attending a specific technical college.

Articulation Agreement

A formal agreement between the high school and college/university where students can take high school classes and earn transferable credit for a specific college.

Career Counseling

A process that will help students to know and understand themselves and the world of work in order to make career, educational, and life decisions.

Career Cruising

An internet-based career exploration and planning tool used by our students to explore career and college options and develop a career plan.

Character Education

The proactive effort by schools to instill in students important core, ethical and performance values such as courage, cooperation, honesty, compassion, responsibility, and respect for self and others.

Dual Credit

Courses in which high school students have the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits simultaneously.

Fab Lab

A high-technology fabrication laboratory equipped with manufacturing components, such as 3D printers, laser engravers, routers and plasma cutters. This lab is engaged with the business community, is accessible to other school departments, provides community access, and is integrated with the network of WI based fab labs.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA)

A form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

continued on page 2...

ACP in Action

Katie Deiss was recently hired as a special education teacher at Hillcrest Elementary. When asked the question, "What would you have done otherwise?" there really was no other option for her. How did she know? Katie said it's because of the experiences she was given in her high school career at EHS.

Katie referred to the special education teachers she worked with as the "dynamic duo," and by her mid-sophomore year knew she wanted a career in which she could work with students with special needs.

Katie volunteered her time each quarter at EHS helping special education students with their school jobs, including cleaning classrooms, dog walking, and cooking experiences. Deiss volunteered beyond the school day as an assistant floor hockey coach, and cooking pre-game meals for the players.

Katie noted, "The connection between the high school and elementary, mentorships, kids being able to go back and forth, the involvement in the community - there are endless opportunities, literally walking across the parking lot into a job field they want to do."

Katie was a first generation college student "because of what I had in high school." Not only did her experiences in high school help prepare her for her college career, but she also had the resources back in Ellsworth to help her along the way at Winona State University. She completed a five week practicum back in the same high school classroom and used her resources from EHS to help complete college projects. "I always had a reference or something to relate to," Deiss said.

Katie applies her experience daily in her own classroom, teaching her students about money, responsibility, safety, and the weather. She has learned that if her students "basic needs are not met first, they cannot learn more."



Buzz Words

(continued from front page...)

Junior Achievement

A program that provides the training, materials, and support necessary to enhance the chances for student success. Students who participate in this program demonstrate a significant understanding of economics and business concepts.

Multiple Intelligence

A theory developed by Dr. Howard Gardner over 40 years ago, suggesting that IQ is not one-dimensional and can't be described by a single number. He proposed that there are at least eight different types of intelligence, including visual-spatial, musical-rhythmic, interpersonal, and more.

Post-Secondary

Any education beyond high school.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

An American organization that develops STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum for use by US schools.

Promo Fair

Event which offers students the opportunity to discuss course planning with teachers individually while bringing all interested parties to the table, including parents.

Reality Check

A life-like simulation for juniors to get them prepared for life after high school.

Service Learning

A teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Soft Skills

Also known as "people skills" that relate to the way you relate to and interact with other people. Some examples include communication, flexibility, leadership, motivation, and patience.

STEM

A curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific areas — science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Transcripted Credit

Credits students can earn free of charge at the high school that may transfer to other technical colleges or four-year colleges.

Welding Academy

A post-secondary option for students to attend a local technical college to earn welding certification.

Youth Options

An opportunity for 11 and 12 grade students currently enrolled in public high school to attend a post-secondary institution for the purpose of taking courses for high school and college credit.

Youth Apprenticeship

A program designed for high school students who want hands-on learning in an occupational area at a worksite along with classroom instruction.

65%
of jobs haven't
been created yet
for the class of 2031

ACP TIMELINE

K-5

GRADE K-5

- Career Counseling Lessons & Activities
- Grade 4 Career Fair
- Grade 5 Multiple Intelligences
- STEM Lab

6

GRADE 6

- Junior Achievement (Biz Town)

7

GRADE 7

- Intro to Career Cruising
- Guest Speakers
- Field Trips

8

Academic and Career Planning, continued from front page...

Developing an ACP program and using a tool like Career Cruising (see article to the right) across grades and content areas serves a great purpose for our students and community. "It is all about getting to know our students, finding out what they want to be and what kind of education or training they need to get there. ACP and Career Cruising help us match those things up. Conversations between students and teachers (and hopefully parents) are expected to start by the sixth grade. We hope in the coming years we even start the exploration earlier than that," said Jessica Wiskow, EHS Counselor and district ACP committee leader.

Shifting the focus from school counselors to all staff should not cause much change in instruction. "It is really the work that teachers should be, and have been doing all along. We are just now bringing it more into focus," said high school principal Mark Stoesz. "Counselors certainly

have a front row seat as students navigate their future, but it really is not solely their responsibility to assure our kids have exposure to all opportunities. Teachers are outstanding resources."

Proponents of the state's legislation say it better prepares the next generation of workers for the jobs the economy needs. This, they say, will help eliminate what's called the "skills gap"—the idea that unemployment and slow growth at the state level are because workers aren't given the proper skill sets for the jobs that can stimulate the economy. The state mandated ACP initiative has already led to benefits for local students, some of which are featured in this newsletter. The continued effort to reach out and connect with the local community is a key to the success of ACP and the state of Wisconsin. Ellsworth schools are committed to continuing that outreach.

Junior Achievement & Biz Town

New to 6th grade this year, we will be implementing ACP through a program called Junior Achievement, which strives to educate students on work-readiness, entrepreneurial skills, and financial literacy skills by using experiential learning to "inspire students to dream big and reach their potential" (JA, BizTown).

One branch of the Junior Achievement program is BizTown. "BizTown is a 10,000 square foot kid-sized city within Junior Achievement headquarters in Maplewood, MN. Several weeks of classroom learning culminates in a day-long visit to this fully-interactive simulated free market lab where students become adults for a day." The BizTown program consists of 12 data-driven lessons on financial literacy, community and economy, work readiness, business management, visiting the facility, and debriefing.



"By working in one of 15 BizTown shops, students learn what it takes to run a successful business, manage a checking account and work as a team. Through daily lessons, hands-on activities, and active participation in this simulated

community, students develop a strong understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in a global economy." By working in these businesses, students are transformed into the real world of being a consumer, worker, and citizen. They have the opportunity to participate in these activities: manage a business, take out a loan, use a debit card, earn a paycheck, open a savings account, pay taxes, buy goods, services and health insurance, vote, recycle, donate to a nonprofit, utilize technology and STEM skills, conduct science experiments, work as a team, set goals, and solve problems.

Youth Apprenticeship

The Ellsworth Community School District has joined the CESA #11 Youth Apprenticeship Consortium beginning this school year. This school year, four juniors/seniors will participate in a YA program that integrates school-based and work-based learning. These students will continue taking high school and/or technical college courses while at the same time working as an apprentice at a participating local business. The student, school and business work closely together to assure the worker is learning the skills necessary to succeed in the chosen career path.

Benefits to students:

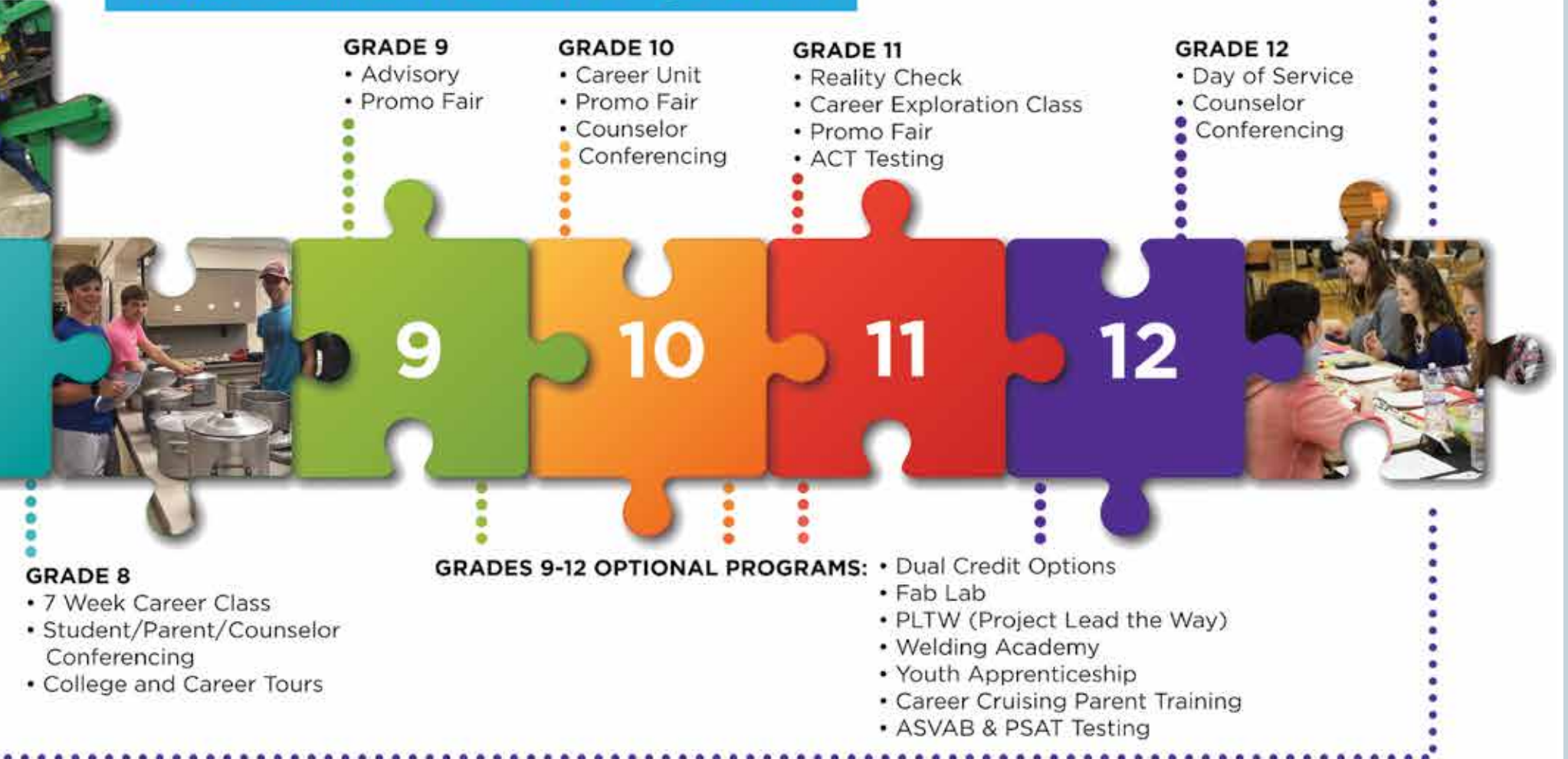
- Build a resume for their career portfolio
- Receive employer paid on-the-job training while earning high school credit

- Develop strong academic, technical, and employability skills in a chosen career field
- Earn a recognized certificate of occupational proficiency from the State of Wisconsin

Benefits to employers:

- Train employees in career-specific skills with school assistance
- Develop a long-term relationship with the school system to support a strong workforce
- Help business and industry form a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive in the world economy

The school district hopes to expand Youth Apprenticeship to more students in the coming years as local businesses become more aware of the benefits to all involved.



Career Cruising (also known as Xello)

Career Cruising is an internet-based career exploration and planning tool used by our students to explore career and college options and develop a career plan. Career Cruising can be accessed from school, from home, or wherever a student has access to the internet.

Features of the program include:

- **Interest Surveys:** World-renowned assessment tools to help students identify their career interests, skills, abilities, and learning styles.
- **Career Profile:** Thorough and up-to-date information about hundreds of different occupations, including direct links between careers and related college programs.
- **Multimedia Interviews:** Interviews with real people in each occupation, which add depth and realism to career profiles.
- **College and Financial Aid Information:** Comprehensive college and financial aid information, with a number of useful search tools to help students find the right college and the right scholarships.
- **Employment Guide:** Advice for all stages of the job search process, including developing a job search plan, networking, writing resumes and cover letters, preparing for interviews, and adjusting to a new job.
- **My Plan:** An online portfolio where students can develop and reflect on his or her academic, personal, and career exploration activities, and make plans for the future.

In what ways have you utilized Career Cruising and how has it been helpful? "There's this simple tool where you plug in your criteria for college and I used that to decide where I wanted to go, my top five, and have started the application process. It has also helped open my eyes to the cost of college but also that there are options for paying for it."

How helpful would you say it was? "If I didn't use it, I would still not be sure where I would apply to or what I should major in."

Would you recommend it to other students? "Yes, definitely! It has too many useful tools not to use and it's easy!"



Chase Gilbertson
EHS Senior

- **Resume Builder:** Integrated with the My Plan tool to help students create, format, and print professional-looking resumes quickly and easily.
- **Parent Portal:** Allows parents to view the information their child has stored in his or her Plan, learn more about the careers and schools that their child is interested in, and communicate.



Reality Check

Reality Check is a hands-on financial literacy learning experience, offered to all 11th grade students at the Ellsworth High School. This one-day simulation, which represents one month of "real life" for a person in their mid-20s, is intended to positively impact financial decisions that students make by offering real-life scenarios involving personal finances.

At the event, students are given a simulated paycheck with a monthly wage. This is based on self-reported plans for education and employment. They are then randomly assigned marital status, parenthood, credit card debt, and a credit score. After going to "Uncle Sam," who deducts taxes from their gross income, students must complete a number of financial transactions to make it through a typical month. They must make a student loan payment, based on their education choice, if applicable. They then purchase housing, utilities, insurance, groceries, cars, childcare, gasoline, and more from booths staffed by volunteers. The simulation allows students to test their budgeting skills in a supportive and safe, yet challenging, atmosphere.

It takes a dedicated planning committee and over 100 enthusiastic community and local business volunteers to create this learning opportunity. Reality Check is jointly organized by the Ellsworth School District and UW-Extension, Pierce County. It is a powerful event that has a lasting impact on students.

"Reality Check was a real eye opener. Students, community businesses, state extension and school administration were blown away as to the power of what we can accomplish when we work together to educate our youth! Professionals enjoyed an opportunity to give students insight into products/services as well as purchasing guidance. Students armed with "real world" knowledge were then able to apply the information in a "hands on" setting. It was amazing to witness how quickly students comprehended how personal life choices impacted the costs and needs of their products and services. Any activity that can foster and develop practical lifelong knowledge is truly a win-win for all involved. I look forward to building on last year's fantastic success."

Denton Achenbach, State Farm Insurance in Ellsworth

The Reality Check simulation helps students to build partnerships with the community, offer meaningful decision-making skills, and increase workforce readiness, as well as increasing financial understanding.

Interested in volunteering for the 2018 Reality Check? Please contact Katie Feuerhelm at the UW-Extension Office, 715-273-6781.

ACP in Action

By using the tools of ACP, Keslyn McKahan, a 2017 EHS graduate, was able to take advantage of the opportunities that were available at Ellsworth High School before she graduated.



While at EHS she took Advanced Placement courses in History, Composition, Psychology, and Literature. She also completed the CNA course through Youth Options and the EMT Academy. She also took several transcribed courses at EHS. By taking all of these courses she could potentially earn up to 15 credits towards her current education at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in New Richmond.

Keslyn also compiled 170 service learning hours and completed two capstone projects (Red Nose Day and Sockvember) which assisted her in earning multiple local scholarships. Other activities she was involved with include FFA, drama, student council, Just Do Something, D.A.R.E. role model, mentoring and 4-H.

Her career goal is to work as a pediatric nurse at Gillette Children's Hospital and she is off to a great start! When asked what advice she would give to current high school students, she replied, "Study hard in school and don't take any time for granted. The time flies by and make every moment that you have now count."

Save the Date!
PROMO FAIR
January 3, 2018 at EHS
for 8th-11th grade students
and parents

10 Ways for Parents to Support Students with Academic Career Planning

- Help student identify their strengths and weaknesses
- Encourage leadership and service learning opportunities
- Network and talk with people in the community
- Explore job shadow options
- Review Career Cruising resources (see the ACP website for instructions)
- Attend 8th, 10th, and 12th grade counselor conferencing with your student
- Attend the January 3rd Promo Fair (EHS) to assist in class selection
- Encourage your child to try new things (step out of comfort zone)
- Reach out to teachers and/or advisors
- Research options for gaining college credit while in high school

Special thanks to the ACP Leadership Team for all of their hard work and knowledge!

Mark Stoesz, Jessica Wiskow, Kim Bruesewitz, Jennifer Carlson, Katie Christenson, Alyssa Matzek, Rob Heller, Jason Haugley, Anne Pechacek, Dawn Johnson, Ryan Christenson, Jon Dodge, Kelly Killo, Renee Helgeson, Margie Biel, Ashley Close and Mindy Anderson

What are Dual Credits?

Dual credits are courses in which high school students have the opportunity to earn both high school and college credits simultaneously. Dual credits may include a combination of transcribed credits, youth options, advanced standing, academies, and advanced placement course sections.

Dual Credit Options: Academies

High school academies are a series of courses that lead into a degree program. Academies are designed to meet high school needs with broad goals of offerings and program exploration. Students may also earn a recognized industry credential or embedded technical diploma, or up to a full semester of an associate degree program. High school academies can be offered on campus or at a high school location.

Ellsworth High School offers 14 classes where students can earn transferable college credits.

Transcribed Credit (TC)

Transcribed credit courses are college level courses taught by certified high school teachers using the technical college competencies and grading scale.

Students who choose to enroll in a transcribed credit course can simultaneously earn both high school and college credits. Students must receive a "C" or better in order to receive the transcribed credit.

The students receive a transcript from both CVTC and EHS. CVTC has agreements with UWRF, UWEC, and UW Stout for these credits to transfer (other colleges may accept them as well).

Transcribed Credit Classes:

- Computer 1 & Multimedia
- Child Care Assistant
- Plant Science
- Horse, Dairy & Livestock
- Personal Finance
- Accounting I & II
- Web Page Design
- Medical Terminology
- Entrepreneurship
- Parenting
- Sales & Marketing
- Advertising & Promotion

Advanced Standing (AS)

Advanced standing allows students to request credit for certain courses that have an articulation agreement established. High school courses must have an 80% competency match, students must receive a "B" or better, and attend CVTC in order to receive college credit.

Advanced Standing Class: Math for the Trades (will be Transcribed Credit 2018-2019)

Youth Options

This program allows juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements to take postsecondary courses at a Wisconsin Technical college, a UW System college or university, a Wisconsin tribally controlled college, or a Wisconsin private, nonprofit college or university.

The program provides opportunities for high school students to get a head start on a technical certificate or an associate or bachelor's degree.

Additional Information:

- The district will pay for any course that is taken for dual credit and that is not comparable to a course offered at the high school

Dual Credit Cost Savings for Students CVTC cost per credit = \$130

A 3 credit course successfully completed at Ellsworth High School could save students \$390. If credits transfer to a 4-year college, the savings is higher.

For example, upon completion of the welding academy, a student will earn 7 college credits and 1.75 elective credits at EHS. Students who qualify and complete the program successfully may do so at no cost to families (aside from transportation).

- The student will be responsible for tuition and fees if they drop or fail the course
- One semester credit offered for a postsecondary course is equivalent to ¼ high school credit
- Parents or students are responsible for transportation between the high school and the postsecondary institution

Advanced Placement Courses

One opportunity EHS offers for students to get college credit are Advanced Placement Courses. These courses are guided by the College Board, which administers a national test each May. Students who



take the test earn a score from one (no recommendation) to five (extremely well-qualified). A score of three is considered qualified and is accepted for credit at a large number of universities and colleges.

EHS offers eight AP courses (some on alternate years), ranging from Studio Art to Calculus. Over the past five years, 281 EHS tests have been completed with a score of three or higher. Students may take multiple tests over their high school career, starting with AP U.S. History, which is offered to sophomores. This opportunity allows students to do rigorous, college level work in high school, and achieve college credit from participating colleges. Students who have an interest in pursuing this type of course should see their counselor.

Advanced Placement Classes

- AP Calculus
- AP Biology
- AP Psychology
- AP Statistics
- AP US History
- AP Art
- AP Composition/AP Literature (alternate years)



Ellsworth High School was awarded the 2016-17 Dual Credit Partnership Award by Chippewa Valley Technical College. This award recognizes high school partners who show the strongest efforts toward growing and maintaining a variety of dual credit opportunities for their students including transcribed credit, youth options, and high school academies.

Fab Lab Features

- Community based space within our school that will provide resources to educate, innovate, and invent almost anything to any community member.
- Multiple cross curricular opportunities for our staff and students K-12.
- Opportunities across several disciplines ranging from digital photography, graphic communications, to manufacturing and construction.

ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL FAB LAB

Opening
Fall of
2018

- Ellsworth Fab Lab has been made possible because of the support of our great community and local businesses who have donated time, money, and effort to making this dream a reality.

Thank you to all individuals and area businesses who have helped in any way with Academic Career Planning! We continue to need your help and support! If you have any comments, suggestions, or would like to help, please contact:

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Please visit our official Academic and Career Planning web page to learn more!
www.ellsworth.k12.wi.us/district/acp.cfm