**Course Descriptions:**

**Banking**

This course will introduce the student to basic banking and budgeting vocabulary, how to write checks, complete deposit slips, use ATM/Debit cards, and record transactions in a register.  Students will also be introduced to reconciling a bank statement.  Simple budgeting concepts will be introduced such as necessities vs. luxuries and fixed vs. variable expenses.  Students will be given scenarios in which they receive a paycheck and bills that must be paid.

**Clothing Care**

This course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and application of skills in regard to the essential daily living category of clothing care. This course provides instruction to enhance students’ skills in the maintenance of their clothing such as laundry product usage, clothing labels and sorting, using a washer and dryer, hanging and folding, and making clothing repairs.  This course also provides lessons to enhance students’ knowledge regarding clothing categories, appropriate clothing for various activities and weather, packing for a trip, personal clothing sizes, shopping, and buying clothes within a budget. Practical knowledge of clothing and independently maintaining clothing care needs results in positive life/resource management.

**Cooking**

Through hands-on activities and lessons, students will strengthen their cooking and kitchen safety skills. Students will create a weekly recipe that will give students the opportunity to prep a kitchen, follow a recipe, sample their creation, and properly clean the kitchen when finished. Students will also create items to sell to students and staff twice a week in our classroom café. Throughout the semester students will practice measuring, sanitation, proper and safe use of kitchen tools and appliances, and reading labels and expiration dates.

**Drivers Training**

This course is designed to acquaint students with traffic rules, road signs, driving safety, and increase awareness of surroundings when in the community.  The knowledge gained in this course can also improve a student’s safety in the community.  This class is not meant to be the sole method of preparation for obtaining a drivers license.

**Employment**

Students enrolled in an employment course will gain an array of knowledge that will allow them to be able to pursue a future job with confidence. They will receive constant practice filling out job applications, being able to recognize common interview questions and answer them appropriately, leadership training, communication, resume building, and understanding the importance of adhering to proper job expectations while employed.  Students will focus on becoming more independent upon entering the workforce. They will be encouraged to participate in group projects, role-play with their classmates, and take a hands-on approach with technology in order to search for jobs on the internet.

**Everyday Living**

Everyday Living class is designed to provide students awareness, preparation, and exploration regarding various life demands as one encounters living independently. Instruction is presented in six units. Each unit consists of one corresponding community based instruction (CBI) opportunity. In addition to the CBI, students gain hands-on experience in the classroom.

**Healthy Living**

The Healthy Living class allows student to go to the gym and or have physical exercise twice a week. This class has a gym membership at Fitness 19 where the students will learn how to use various exercise equipment and learn the importance of physical activity. This class also provides lessons about proper diet and nutrition, substance abuse, and proper hygiene.

**Leisure and Family**

A person’s life is comprised of family interactions and the activities chosen for leisure time. In Leisure and Family class, students are given the opportunity to explore family structures, family heritage, family communication, and several other family concepts. In addition, students explore various leisure activities and determine individual likes & dislikes.

**Let’s Chat: Communication**

Communication is a fundamental key to student success at Macomb Academy. We house a community of learners who have their own individual communication needs that the world needs to understand. Let’s Chat gives our students the opportunity to review different forms of communication through facial expressions, hand gestures and kinesthetic movements, eye contact, and in the form of verbal to non-verbal. Students are encouraged to involve themselves in ice breaker activities, small talk, and group topic conversations.  Students also focus on how they can use their voice or small gestures to encourage more good in the world.  Our class will be given weekly ideas and listen to real-life stories of individuals who incorporate random acts of kindness in their everyday lives to further encourage it within our own community. Students will focus on their ability to express themselves inside and outside of the classroom. This will help lead them into a future where they will have the skills and confidence to advocate for themselves, attain employment, and create friendships.

**On Your Own**

This course is a simulation of adult independent living.  It is designed to prepare students for living on their own.  It consists of 100 activities that students complete independently, at their own pace, or with limited assistance.  Students are exposed to a wide variety of vocabulary, real-world math, and decision-making scenarios.  Students will have a checking account and a savings account that they will reconcile. Students will use the Westwood Employment Agency Booklet to find employment.  There are 10 different job opportunities from which to choose.   Students will use the Westwood Apartment Guide in the same manner to select an apartment.  This program also uses books, such as Garcia’s Grocery Store, Great Deals Discount Store, and the Westwood Mall Booklet to complete shopping activities.

**Personal Awareness**

Personal Awareness class allows for students to gain the knowledge of many different types of relationships. This class allows for our students to better understand themselves as well as others. Personal Awareness class provides students with the skills they need to be able to understand what a healthy relationship is. This class also teaches students about their body, reproduction, and HIV/AIDS and STDs.

**Positive Living**

Positive Living class provides students with the opportunity to develop positive emotional well-being. The curriculum is designed to help students strengthen character, manage stress, resolve conflict, and improve social skills to enhance the development of positive relationships with others.

**Retail/School Store**

The Retail class is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need to operate and work in a store. All the students will work together to run and maintain Macomb Academy's school store. Each student is given a specific job role that they will be responsible for holding for the week and then they rotate jobs each week. During the semester, students will be able to strengthen their money skills by practicing counting money, learning how to collect money for purchases as well as being able to give the correct amount of change back from a purchase. Students will also learn how to operate a cash register to allow them real life skills of being a cashier. This class will allow our students to gain the confidence they need to obtain a job in retail.

**Show Me the Money**

*Show Me the Money* is a course that is designed to help our students better understand basic money concepts. At Macomb Academy, we strive to help them understand the value of money, coin identification, how to calculate change back from a purchase, how to dollar up, and most importantly, how to count money. These areas of need are focused in the classroom on a daily basis. In this class, students are encouraged to participate in games, lessons, activities, worksheet practice, and even leading the class in teaching a lesson after they have mastered it. Homework is not given but extra worksheets are always available to students for additional practice.

**Social Media**

Social Media is a course that was designed to engage students in the world around them through the use of technology. A semester in this course focuses on the history of social media, the popularity, various trends, safety, exploration of various social media sites, and the maintenance of Macomb Academy’s Facebook page. Students will follow classroom lessons, partake in activities, conduct interviews, complete worksheets that reflect the material, practice navigating through various forms of social media, and really focus on the importance and benefits of technology in today’s society. Students will focus on their communication skills through planned weekly interviews, with fellow staff and students, in order to help them keep our community up to date via Facebook. This will be a weekly assignment done with the assistance of the teacher and teacher assistant.

**Stress Management**

Students will participate in daily stress relieving activities such as yoga, adult coloring, journaling, meditation, and painting. Music and aromatherapy will also be incorporated to enhance a relaxing and stress free environment. Throughout the semester, students will also examine and identify things that cause them stress and explore options of techniques they can use to reduce stress.

**Work Skills**

This class focuses on developing social skills needed to keep a job as well as developing on-task behaviors, asking for assistance when needed, teamwork, and working at a productive pace.  Students will use a time clock and time card to punch in to simulate employment.  Students typically work on social skills curriculum on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and complete task boxes to target other skills on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Skills may vary based on individual class needs.