



# CHELMSFORD HIGH SCHOOL

## CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT SYLLABUS

2025-2026

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

**This course is offered as a Dual-Enrollment class through Middlesex Community College. Upon completion of this course, 3 college credits will be earned. If you choose to take this class as part of the Dual-Enrollment program, please let your guidance counselor know as soon as possible!**

This course provides a chronological overview of the theory and principles of child growth and development from birth through age twelve, exploring the interrelationships between theory, research, and practice. Students will also learn about understanding children with special needs and keeping children safe and healthy. The focus of this course is to prepare the student with knowledge of growth and development to enhance their ability to provide educational experiences. This course is especially designed for students interested in pursuing course work or careers in education, health, or human services fields. Throughout the course, students will work, on a rotating basis, in the in-house preschool, Lion's Pride North. Students who are 17 & 18-years-old will be asked to fill out a C.O.R.I. form before they begin working with the young children. This course is considered a Practical Art.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Decker, Dr. Celia Anita; *Child Development – Early Stages Through Age 12*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Goodheart-Willcox, © 2016.

Herr, Dr. Judy; *Working with Young Children*, 7th Edition, Goodheart-Willcox, © 2012.

### COURSE GOALS and STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand the growth and development of children from birth through age 12. They will be able to understand the abilities of children (birth to age 12), with special needs. They will be able to understand how and why it is so important to keep children (birth to age 12) safe and healthy.

### COURSE STANDARDS:

#### **National Standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education**

#### **Area of Study 4.0: Education and Early Childhood**

**Comprehensive Standard:** Integrate knowledge, skills, and practices required for careers in early childhood, education, and services.

**Content Standard: 4.1:** Analyze career paths within early childhood, education & related services.

### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Chelmsford High School is committed to supporting the success and well-being of all students, regardless of varying abilities and levels of adaptive skills. The Special Education office provides

services and resources to empower each student to attain their highest level of academic success and learning independence.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

At Chelmsford High School, students are expected to maintain high moral and ethical standards, as exemplified by the final sentence of our mission statement: *“A spirit of respect is fostered, as members take responsibility for their actions and acknowledge the rights and differences of others.”* (CHS Mission Statement)

Students should respect themselves, other students, staff members and the school. The acts of cheating and plagiarism violate expectations that students will exhibit respectful, ethical behavior.

[The Academic Honor Code](#) exists to address the issues of cheating and plagiarism.

### **GRADING POLICIES**

Please connect with individual teachers for specific information regarding grading. Students will be able to monitor academic progress biweekly through X2/ASPEN.

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the academic support programs and services (such as PRIDE Block, after-school help, etc.) available to them to help ensure and support success. Information about these services can be provided by your teacher, guidance counselor, or administration.

### **COURSE SKILLS**

The following skills are addressed in this course:

1. Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to be more comfortable and confident working with preschool students.
2. Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to have a better understanding of the growth and development of children ages birth to age 12.
3. Upon completion of this course, the students will have a better understanding of what it's like to live with a disability, a chronic disease, and/or chronic disorder.
4. Upon completion of this course, the students will have a better understanding of why it is so important to keep young children healthy and safe.

### **Course Outline:**

1. Understanding Children from Birth to Age 2
2. Understanding Two and Three-Year-olds
3. Understanding Four and Five-Year-olds
4. Understanding Middle Childhood (ages 6-12)
5. Understanding Children with Special Needs
  - a. Research Project on a disability/disease/disorder
6. Guiding Children's Health
7. Promoting Children's Safety

*This syllabus and course outline are subject to change as Chelmsford High School seeks to continually improve the learning experiences for all students.*

***“We foster PRIDE\* in our pursuit of excellence.”***

**PRIDE refers to our five core values – Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Empathy. These five pillars represent our points of emphasis in supporting the development of quality students and quality citizens.**