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ACADEMY

**High School
Course Catalog
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Mathematics

General Math

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-10**

Prerequisite(s): none

General Math provides the necessary foundation to be successful in pre-algebra and above. Students increase their facility with the four basic arithmetic operations applied to fractions, decimals, and positive and negative numbers. They learn and use common measuring units to determine length and area and know and use formulas to determine the volume of simple geometric figures. Students learn the concept of angle measurement and use a protractor and compass to solve problems. They use grids, tables, graphs, and charts to record and analyze data. Topics include number sense; algebra and functions; measurement and geometry; statistics, data analysis, and probability; and mathematical reasoning.

Pre-Algebra

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 7-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

The goal of Pre-Algebra is to develop fluency with rational numbers and proportional relationships. Students will extend their elementary skills and begin to learn algebra concepts that serve as a transition into formal Algebra and Geometry. Students will learn to think flexibly about relationships among fractions, decimals, and percents. Students will learn to recognize and generate equivalent expressions and solve single-variable equations and inequalities. Students will investigate and explore mathematical ideas using technology and models to develop multiple strategies for analyzing complex situations. Students will analyze situations verbally, numerically, graphically, and symbolically. Students will apply mathematical skills and make meaningful connections to life's experiences.

Algebra I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Pre-Algebra

This course is the foundation for high school mathematics courses. It is the bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. Topics include simplifying expressions, evaluating and solving equations and inequalities, and graphing linear and quadratic functions and relations. Real world applications are presented within the course content and a function's approach is emphasized. Symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols are central in algebra. Through the study of algebra, a student develops an understanding of the symbolic language of mathematics and the sciences. In addition, algebraic skills and concepts are developed and used in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Geometry

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I

In this course, students will develop a logical system of thought. Geometry focuses on plane geometry with integration of some space and coordinate geometry. This course develops geometric concepts using formal proofs and algebraic applications. Algebra is used extensively for areas, volumes, lengths, angle measures, and graphing.

Algebra II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I; Geometry

This discipline complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of Algebra I and Geometry. Students who master Algebra II will gain experience with algebraic solutions of problems in various content areas, including the solution of systems of quadratic equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, the binomial theorem, and the complex number system.

Pre-Calculus

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I and II, plus Geometry

This course introduces basic properties and operations of functions. Emphasis is placed on polynomial and rational functions and the relationship between exponential and logarithmic functions. Students will explore polar coordinates, complex numbers, and the geometry of the complex plane. They will study sequences and series, and learn to recognize when series are convergent or divergent. In addition, students will learn to use mathematical induction. They will be introduced to the concepts of limits, derivatives, and antiderivates of the polynomial functions. The use of a graphing calculator is considered an integral part of the course and students will use a graphing calculator throughout this course.

Calculus

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students gain comprehensive understanding and ability to apply calculus concepts. Students understand and work with limits and continuity, demonstrate understanding of differentiation, and learn applications of differentiation. They apply integration techniques, learn first-order and second-order differential equations, apply vector-valued functions, demonstrate understanding of parametric equations and polar coordinates, and more in this advance study of mathematics. Students are encourage to apply calculus to a variety of settings, with special emphasis on their personal interests and career goals.

Language Arts

Students have a choice in how they meet their language arts requirements. One option is to take the English I, II, III, and IV sequence. However, another option is to take a more a la carte approach, piecing together a language arts program that still covers all of the recommended competencies in a comprehensive language arts program.

Language Arts Competency Areas	Classes Covering Each Competency Area
Expository Writing	Elements of Grammar Expository Composition Art of Argument
Workplace Writing	Technical Writing Journalism Presenting with Technology
Literary Elements	Responding to Literature Cinema as Literature Creative Writing Advanced Creative Writing
Literature	World Literature American Literature British Literature Cinema as Literature Shakespeare Survey of Poetry
Speaking & Listening	Speech & Debate Effective Communication

Possible Sequence

- Expository Composition
- Responding to Literature
- World Literature
- Art of Argument
- American Literature
- Speech and Debate
- British Literature
- Technical Writing

Mirrors the concepts typically covered in the English I, II, III, IV sequence.



Most colleges are looking for evidence that you have read a variety of literature. It is best to include American Literature and two other areas of literature with at least one being from outside the U.S. such as World Literature, British Literature, and Shakespeare. Review your intended college's entrance requirements.

American Literature

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of American literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They conduct in-depth analyses of recurrent patterns and themes, structural features, and narrative literary elements and devices. Students produce writing and projects in response to literature, including biographical/autobiographical, creative, persuasive, literary analysis, technical, and research.

Art of Argument

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn the art of persuasive writing, backed by careful research, and presented in an effective manner that is free of logical fallacies. They distinguish persuasive writing from other types of compositions, and learn how to apply persuasive writing and common textual features. They apply understanding of the effects of audience and purpose on persuasive writing. Students also evaluate persuasive writing and speaking for reputability, logic, and presentation.

British Literature

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of British literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They conduct in-depth analyses of recurrent patterns and themes, structural features, and narrative literary elements and devices. Students produce writing and projects in response to literature, including biographical/autobiographical, creative, persuasive, literary analysis, technical, and research.

Cinema as Literature

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn literary elements and visual and performing arts concepts through viewing, analyzing, and responding to various works in film. Selections range from classic to contemporary movies. Students also become very savvy to media techniques utilized in advertising and broadcasting. Characterization; setting; costuming; imagery; use of color; camera angles, movements, and framing; sound, including music; transitions; characters; acting styles; stage versus screen; dialogue; ideology and social-cultural considerations; and additional artistic and literary devices are covered. Students learn how to identify elements, analyze their effect, and provide written responses that incorporate the various elements. Students write several shorter responses throughout the course and complete a longer synthesis paper at the end that provides an analysis of a single film for all the elements covered throughout the lessons.

Creative Writing: Introduction to Fiction

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

In this class students apply the writing process to creative fiction writing. Prepare to investigate, evaluate and demonstrate your understanding of key elements of fiction including plot, theme, character development, dialogue, setting, tone, sensory language, and author's purpose. Introduction to Fiction culminates with the development of a story outline that can later be transformed into a full-length story or novel. Note: credit not granted for both *Introduction to Fiction* and *Writing Across Genres*.

Creative Writing: Writing Across Genres

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Prepare to explore, evaluate, and create original works of fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry. Students in this class explore key elements of creative writing and investigate the reasons why writers choose to write. The course is based upon each student's completion of assigned readings and related discussion questions and creative assignments. The culminating project asks that students post their choice of a complete fictional story, personal narrative, or three original poems in a class blog. Note: credit not granted for both *Introduction to Fiction* and *Writing Across Genres*.

Creative Writing: Writing for Publication

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none; Introduction to Fiction or Writing Across Genres recommended

Students in this course use feedback from their peers and teacher to create a short story, series of poems, or novel outline and sample chapter suitable for widespread publication. Students investigate the stages of the writing process as well as the process for submitting writing for publication. They learn pitfalls to avoid and professional standards to uphold while researching the current market and finding potential homes for their work.

Creative Writing: Advanced Publishing Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none; Writing for Publication recommended.

Students in this course apply the skills acquired during Writing for Publication and actually prepare and submit their complete, peer-reviewed work for publication. Students must select an appropriate publisher, prepare a cover letter, and format their document according to submission guidelines. Students will also compose a short selection to submit for publication in a literary journal. (Note: Students' work need not be accepted for publication in order to receive credit for the course. Likewise, students are not required to send their work to a specific journal although one or more will be recommended.)

Effective Communication

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students study methods of communicating for understanding and conflict prevention and resolution. They come to understand how demographics play a role in communication (culture, gender, education background, age, etc.) as well as how different personality types serve as filters for how we perceive and interact with our world. They explore how most conflicts can be broken down to feelings and needs, and they learn how to deal with those of others while still seeing that one's own needs are also met.

Elements of Grammar

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn and practice the basic foundations of grammar, including covering the most commonly made mistakes made by student writers. A specific sequence is used to provide students with the foundations necessary to learn the next set of skills. Lesson topics include verbs, subjects, clauses, phrases, subordinators, fragments, run-ons, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference and agreement, capitalization, and punctuation including commas, semicolons, apostrophes, and quotation marks. Students also learn how to identify different sentence types, facilitating their ability to analyze their own writing for sentence variety.

English I

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

English I is an introductory course covering a variety of literature genres, spanning classic and modern works. Students develop composition skills using a variety of patterns of development. Vocabulary development, literary response and analysis, grammar, and listening and speaking skills are also learned and practiced. English I provides a foundation of knowledge and skills for future English courses, for reading and writing across the curriculum, in the workplace, and in daily life.

English II

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): English I; or Grammar and Composition combined with Responding to Literature or Creative Writing; Introduction to Fiction; or equivalent skills.

English II has an emphasis in World literature spanning ancient to modern times, and includes the regions of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Students continue to practice composition, including literary analysis and persuasive writing, as well as engaging in creative writing activities. Vocabulary development, literary response and analysis, grammar, and listening and speaking skills are also learned and practiced.

English III

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): English II; or Grammar and Composition combined with Responding to Literature or Creative Writing: Introduction to Fiction; or equivalent skills.

Students focus on American literature, spanning ancient Americas to modern times. Students build composition skills, including literary analysis, persuasive writing, creative writing, and technical writing. Vocabulary development, literary response and analysis, grammar, and listening and speaking skills are also learned and practiced.

English IV

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): English III; or Grammar and Composition combined with Responding to Literature or Creative Writing: Introduction to Fiction; or equivalent skills.

English IV continues to build writing skills, with a greater emphasis in technical writing. British Literature is emphasized, and students read a variety of forms in both fiction and nonfiction. Vocabulary development, literary response and analysis, grammar, and listening and speaking skills are also learned and practiced.

Expository Composition

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

This course provides the essential skills needed for future English courses as well as for writing across the curriculum and in the workplace. Students write at least five essays over the course of the semester. Essay types and patterns of development include division/classification, compare/contrast, and persuasive, along with a selection of other types such as cause & effect, definition, and exemplification. Students learn the basics of expository composition, with a strong emphasis on using the writing process to create well-structured essays. Students write outlines and matching essays with clear thesis statements and topic sentence agreement, and they develop their ideas through relevant details. They also learn basic research and documentation skills, and the persuasive essay includes a bibliography and inline citations. Students also build vocabulary, including through word roots, and learn how word selection can impact writing (i.e. connotation, denotation, and figurative language). Grammar is integrated into the instruction and is based on individual needs as is evidenced in the student's writing.

Introduction to Speech

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students are introduced to public speaking, build confidence, and utilize modern technology to create and present a variety of presentations for different purposes and audiences; these can include informative presentations, persuasive presentations, special occasion speeches, and others. Students view, analyze, and evaluate several examples of public speaking for technique and effectiveness, including nonverbal communication (body language) and the sound and flow of speaking. They also learn how to create, organize, and deliver presentations for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students also engage in critical thinking, practice identifying instances of faulty logic, and learn how to present arguments backed by careful research and logical thinking.

Introduction to Journalism

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Journalism is storytelling with a purpose. In this course, students will explore key moments in the history of American journalism (including yellow journalism and muckraking) and will examine the following questions: What is the news? What role does the news play in contemporary society? Additional lessons focus on interviewing skills, ethics, and writing style. Students should expect to demonstrate what they know by writing one feature-length article suitable for publication.

Advanced Journalism

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): Introduction to Journalism

Students in this course apply the skills acquired during Introduction to Journalism and actually prepare and submit their complete, peer-reviewed work for publication. Students must select an appropriate publisher, prepare a cover letter, properly document sources and format their document according to submission guidelines. Students will also compose a short piece for a class blog. (Note: Students' work need not be accepted for publication in order to receive credit for this course.)

Responding to Literature

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn key literary terms and concepts, and they then learn how to compose essays and articles in response to pieces of literature. Students learn about certain character archetypes found in mythology that permeate modern stories of today, characterization, and types of characters (flat, round, static, dynamic). Students learn to identify and evaluate writing for imagery (sensory language), figurative language, metaphors, similes, and personification. Lesson topics also include theme, conflict, plot, setting, point of view, irony, foreshadowing, flashback, and symbolism. Students practice identifying, analyzing, and evaluating use of literary elements in a variety of literature, and they create projects in response to literature, using their knowledge of literary elements. Projects can include, but are not limited to, essays, articles, artistic expressions, presentations, and more.

Shakespeare: The Comedies

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students investigate Shakespeare's history as a man, actor, poet and playwright. Then, they identify, analyze and discuss common elements of his comedies, including iambic pentameter, five act structure, supernatural occurrences, stock characters, and harmonious union. Additionally, students identify, analyze, and discuss common themes, such as the importance of love, the power of language, the difference between appearance and reality, and the power of dreams and illusions. Students review and discuss excerpts from Shakespeare's comedies and review summaries of these works. Upon completion of the course, students will submit an analysis of a film adaptation of professional performance of a Shakespearian comedy.

Shakespeare: The Tragedies

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): Shakespeare: The Comedies, or instructor permission

Students review Shakespeare's history as a man, actor, poet and playwright. They identify, analyze and discuss the tragic hero archetype as addressed in Shakespeare's plays. Students compare and contrast the structural elements and themes present in the comedies and the tragedies and interact with Shakespeare's tragic texts by reading and discussing excerpts and summaries. Upon completion of the course, students will submit an analysis of a film adaptation or professional performance of a Shakespearian tragedy.

Technical Writing

Semesters: 2

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Technical writing students will master the composition of resumes, business letters, application forms, manuals, and business proposals. Students will learn what distinguishes technical writing from other types of writing, including writing features and unique textual features. They will begin the class by creating an imaginary business. The writing assignments will relate to each student's company.

World Literature

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): basic grammar and composition skills; Responding to Literature recommended

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of British literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They conduct in-depth analyses of recurrent patterns and themes, structural features, and narrative literary elements and devices. Students produce writing and projects in response to literature, including expository, biographical/autobiographical, creative, persuasive, and literary analysis.

Survey of Poetry

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn about different types of poems, ranging from haiku to ballad, and the key concepts and devices of poetry, such as meter and rhyme scheme. They are exposed to a variety of poems, and learn about several poets – both classic and contemporary. Students read and evaluate poems for the various concepts specific to poetry as well as more global literary elements (i.e. theme, imagery, irony). They also have the opportunity to create original works of poetry.

Social Studies

Current World Issues

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Junior or Senior standing; Senior standing recommended; U.S. history and World history recommended.

With a strong emphasis in critical thinking skills, students learn about current events concerning the world today. Topics include human rights, civic action and responsibility, environmental issues, globalization and the economy, politics and government, social problems both local and global, and other timely topics. Students learn about logic, and faulty logic, and how to analyze various media for engaging in propaganda and faulty logic. Newspapers, magazines, television, the Internet, and other media will be utilized. Due to the nature of this course, students are encouraged to complete it with a learning group, making use of discussion forums and live online class sessions.

Current World Issues A requires students to engage in readings and discussions in each area, building a solid foundation in current issues in each area as well as logic and critical thinking skills. Current World Issues B allows students to specialize in one or more areas; they continue to apply logic and critical thinking as they engage in readings and discussions, and they create a project focused on proactively making a positive difference in their topic area of choice (in their community or beyond).

Introduction to Classical Philosophy

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students will explore the definition of philosophy and will receive an overview of Classical approaches to the topic. They will read works by Plato and Aristotle and learn to create a philosophical argument free of logical fallacies. Students conclude the course by creating a statement of personal philosophy.

Principles Of American Democracy

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn the history and current structure of the American government, and how to be active participants in the U.S. political system. They gain understanding of the underlying philosophies that formed the current system, explore the concept of democracy and individual rights, review landmark court decisions, evaluate and take positions on key issues, and learn to think critically – with emphasis on conducting independent research and being savvy to current media influences.

Principals Of Economics

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none; Algebra I recommended

Students will master fundamental economic concepts, including micro- and macroeconomics, international economics, comparative economic systems, measurement, and methods. Emphasis is placed in recognizing cause-and-effect relationships, encouraging the development of critical thinking skills applied within the realm of economics.

Introduction to Psychology

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Introduction to psychology provides a foundation of knowledge in psychology and psychological methods. They discuss learning and cognition and gain understanding in phases of development from a psychological perspective. They learn about and discuss personality, including influences, theories, and measurements. They explore psychological health issues. Students also gain understanding that psychology does not happen in isolation, but that both biological and sociological interactions impact psychology.

Introduction to Sociology

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Introduction to sociology provides a foundation of sociological concepts and thinking. Students explore culture and social structure, and analyze the individual in society. They explore the concept of social inequality, considering how gender, age, education level, race, and other factors define a person's role in a society. They define and analyze social institutions, including education, religion, the media, and government. Concepts of deviance, social control, and social change are also explored and discussed.

U.S. History

Semesters: 2

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): World History recommended

Students study the major turning points in American history in the 20th century. Following a review of the nation's beginnings and the impact of the Enlightenment on U.S. democratic ideals, students build upon the previous study of global industrialization (World History) to understand the emergence and impact of new technology and a corporate economy, including the social and cultural effects. They trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movement toward equal rights for racial minorities and women; and the role of the United States as a major world power. An emphasis is placed on the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts as well as the continuing tension between the individual and the state. Students consider the major social problems of our time and trace their causes in historical events. They learn that the United States has served as a model for other nations and that the rights and freedoms U.S. citizens enjoy are not accidents, but the results of a defined set of political principles that are not always basic to citizens of other countries. Students understand that rights under the U.S. Constitution comprise a precious inheritance that depends on an educated citizenry for their preservation and protection.

World Geography

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students gain understanding of physical geography, exploring causal relationships among the different geographic forms (i.e. earth-sun relationships). They learn about and discuss human geography and human systems in general terms. They then apply this knowledge as they explore, discuss, and demonstrate understanding of the geography of different regions of the world, including the following for each: cities and settlements, natural environments and resources, physical features, climates and biomes, and history and culture.

World History

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students study major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the late eighteenth century through the present, including the cause and course of the two world wars. They trace the rise of democratic ideas and develop an understanding of the historical roots of current world issues, especially as they pertain to international relations. They extrapolate from the American experience that democratic ideals are often achieved at a high price, remain vulnerable, and are not practiced everywhere in the world. Students develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to their historical, geographic, political, economic, and cultural contexts. Students consider multiple accounts of events in order to understand international relations from a variety of perspectives.

Science

Astronomy

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 10-12**

Prerequisite(s): Physical or Earth Science; Algebra I recommended

Astronomy is a fusion of concepts and applications from physics, chemistry, geology, biology and mathematics. As such, students experience science in a broad integrated manner. Throughout the course, mathematics is incorporated as a tool for understanding. Major themes include: methods and technology of astronomy investigation, Earth's place in the solar system and universe, stellar and planetary system formation and cycles, organization and processes of the universe, and cosmology. Students explore the ever-advancing astronomy topics through multiple print and digital sources, including online and print material research. A variety of hands-on and virtual investigations support the understanding of astronomy concepts. The implications of the technologies and theories of astronomy upon Earth's societies are examined and discussed. Larger scale projects give students the opportunity to incorporate astronomy concepts in creative endeavors.

Biology

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn about the life processes of plants and animals from the cellular level to the consideration of complex ecosystems. Topics include cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, and physiology. Students are encouraged to engage in critical thinking and to use the scientific process to conduct investigative learning activities.

Chemistry

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I

Students will explore inorganic chemistry through an inquiry based study. Students will investigate the world of chemistry using the scientific method, lab experiments, and activities. Topics covered in this course include matter, atoms, the periodic table, solutions, nuclear chemistry, reactions, equations, and acid/bases.

Earth Science

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

As a lab-based science course, Earth science explores the methods and concepts of geology, meteorology, oceanography and astronomy. As appropriate, concepts from mathematics, chemistry and physics are included. The core standards for science are addressed as students study the broad fields that make up the earth sciences. In each topic, virtual and traditional lab activities are incorporated. Throughout the course students will examine and reflect upon real-world applications and issues involving earth science. This course serves as a foundation for more advanced courses and college-level study, especially for students planning college majors in the earth and space sciences. Students have several options for completing the lab-oriented activities. There are generally virtual experiences available for most concepts; however, it is desired that students are able to pursue some of the more traditional lab and project experiences whenever feasible. For these, there are some common items that may be needed.

Environmental Science

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 11-12**

Prerequisite(s): Physical or Earth Science; Biology or Life Science; Algebra I

As an advanced project-based science course, Environmental Science explores the methods and concepts of involved with the major realms of Earth – the biosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere. As appropriate, concepts from mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics and social studies are included. The core standards for science are addressed as students study the broad fields that make up the earth sciences. In each topic, virtual and traditional lab activities are incorporated. Throughout the course students will examine and reflect upon real-world applications and issues involving earth science. This course serves as a foundation for more advanced courses and college-level study, especially for students planning college majors in the earth and space sciences. Students have several options for completing the lab-oriented activities. There are generally virtual experiences available for most concepts; however, it is desired that students are able to pursue some of the more traditional lab and project experiences whenever feasible. For these, there are some common items that may be needed.

Forensic Science

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

This course will introduce students to various methodologies and applications used in the forensic science. Students will learn how to process a crime scene and analysis the evidence. Topics discussed include crime-scene investigation and evidence collection, study of fibers and textiles, DNA analysis, fingerprinting, blood analysis, handwriting analysis, ballistics, and drug analysis.

Physical Science

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none; Algebra I recommended.

As a lab-based science course, Physical Science explores the methods and concepts of introductory physics and chemistry. Quantitative in nature, most topics of physical science incorporate the application of a broad range of mathematics concepts and skills. The core standards for science are addressed as students study the broad fields that make up the physical sciences. More specifically, topics include energy and motion, electricity and energy resources, waves, the nature of matter, and introductory chemistry. In each topic, virtual and traditional lab activities are incorporated. Throughout the course students will examine and reflect upon real-world applications and issues involving physical science. This course serves as a foundation for more advanced courses and college-level study, especially for students planning college majors in physics, chemistry, or engineering. Students have several options for completing the lab-oriented activities. There are generally virtual experiences available for most concepts; however, it is desired that students are able to pursue some of the more traditional lab and project experiences whenever feasible. For these, there are some common items that may be needed.

Physics

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I

Students will explore the physical world through an inquiry based study. Students will use science as a process of obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence. Students will design and perform experiments using the scientific method to help understand the topics covered. Major topics covered in this course are motion of objects, forces acting on objects, and energy.

Health & Physical Education

Health

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn about, evaluate, and apply health skills to one's life, both emotional and physical, and understand that one is responsible for one's own health. Students explore physical, mental, and emotional health, and they learn how to develop and age healthfully. Nutrition, exercise, and healthy choices regarding drug and alcohol products are explored, including a focus on the impacts of addiction. Students learn how to be savvy consumers, and how to develop a healthy lifestyle. They also explore their interactions with others, from the care of children and the elderly to family relationships and friendships, with an emphasis on developing healthy relationships and how to avoid or solve issues of abuse or codependency.

Holistic Health

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Holistic healthcare combines modern science with natural diet and herbal remedies, nutritional supplements, exercise, relaxation, psycho-spiritual counseling, meditation, breathing exercises, and other self-regulatory practices. It asserts that individuals can and should become proactive about adopting a healthy lifestyle and developing a unique, personalized approach to the treatment and prevention of disease. In this course, students will study key elements of holistic health and will develop a personalized holistic wellness plan.

Nutrition & Wellness

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Through this class, students gain an understanding that wellness is a personal responsibility, and that wellness is an important aspect of one's life. They explore a variety of foods and analyze the significance of food as presented in different cultures and in the marketplace, as well as in the media. Students learn about food and kitchen safety procedures, summarize and apply information about different groups of foods, and demonstrate the ability to plan meals and be a smart consumer when shopping for food. They analyze their own nutritional needs, considering personal health, fitness, lifestyle, and other considerations.

Physical Education

Semesters: 4 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Physical Education I and II emphasize personal fitness development. Students create personal fitness plans, setting goals, and evaluating and refining those goals periodically over the course of the semester. Students develop strength, endurance, flexibility, and coordination through a variety of regular physical activities. Students also demonstrate awareness of health and wellness information, including nutrition, safety, making healthy choices, first aid and emergency response skills, and developing a positive self-image.

PE: Adventure & Outdoor Activities

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in two or more adventure/outdoor activities. They apply previously learned movement concepts and principles to learning and developing of motor skills required for successful participation in adventure/outdoor activities. They should be able to identify and apply the principles of biomechanics necessary for the safe and successful performance of these activities, and they should be able to list the safety equipment required for participation. Students participate in these activities that improve health-related physical fitness, analyze the effects of the activities on oneself and adjusting as needed while working towards personal fitness goals. Students also consider personal responsibility, social interaction, and group dynamics while participating in these activities.

PE: Aerobic Activities

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in two or more aerobic activities, selecting one or more from following: 1) aerobic dance, running, skating, swimming, cross-country skiing, cycling, rowing, triathlon, and walking. Students demonstrate knowledge and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform in these activities. They strive to achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Students also demonstrate knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity.

PE: Aquatic Activities

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in two or more aquatic activities, selecting one or more from the following categories: 1) diving, kayaking/canoeing/rowing, snorkeling, swimming, life guarding, scuba diving, synchronized swimming, and water polo. Students demonstrate knowledge and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform in these activities. They strive to achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Students also demonstrate knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity.

PE: Individual and Dual Activities

Semesters: 2

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in two or more individual and dual activities, selecting one or more of the following: 1) Individual: archery, cycling, golf, gymnastics/tumbling, skating, skiing, surfing, and yoga; and 2) Dual: badminton, handball, racquetball, squash, tennis, and two-player volleyball. Students demonstrate knowledge and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform in these activities. They strive to achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Students also demonstrate knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity.

PE through Dance

Semesters: 2

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in two or more dance activities, selecting one or more from the following: 1) ballet, folk, and jazz, modern, social, and square. Students demonstrate knowledge and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform in these activities. They strive to achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Students also demonstrate knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity.

Weight Training & Fitness

Semesters: 2

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students demonstrate knowledge and competency in motor skills, movement patterns, and strategies needed to perform in these activities. This includes learning the biomechanics, techniques, and safety issues related to proper lifting techniques. They strive to achieve a level of physical fitness for health and performance while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Students also demonstrate knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activity. This includes displaying safe and responsible behavior while training and setting personal goals for fitness throughout one's lifetime.

World Languages

American Sign Language I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most widely used language in the United States. Based on the French language and refined over time, and supported by brain research as being a true language, ASL can be taken to meet world language requirements for most college program entrance requirements. This class is for students interested in learning about the deaf culture as well as a unique new language. Students study the structure of the language, build vocabulary and fluency, and learning about the Deaf history and culture. They focus on vocabulary development, facial expressions, and the importance of non-verbal communication, as well as cultural mores within the deaf community. They research how deaf people live, communicate, and blend into the greater community. They build an awareness and understanding of those living with a handicap, and learn how this handicap can be overcome. The students will be engaged in conversations with the instructor as well as other students to practice their new skills.

American Sign Language II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): American Sign Language I

Students build vocabulary and fluency and expand knowledge of Deaf history, culture, and issues. Students also explore options for continuing studies and careers. They also begin to involve themselves with deaf people and people that work within the deaf community.

Chinese I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn beginning Chinese; no prior exposure to the Chinese language is required. Students will primarily learn to speak and understand spoken Chinese, and they will also learn how to read and write basic Chinese. They will gain knowledge of the Chinese culture and become aware of both Chinese history and current events.

Chinese II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn how to navigate their surroundings and build on the vocabulary and essential language structure in Level 1. They are able to talk about giving and getting directions, using transportation, telling time, dining out, enjoying basic social interactions, and much more. They will continue to explore Chinese culture and become aware of both Chinese history and current events.

French I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn beginning French; no prior exposure to the French language is required. Students will primarily learn to speak and understand spoken French, and they will also learn how to read and write basic French. They will gain knowledge of the French culture and become aware of both French history and current events.

French II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn how to navigate their surroundings and build on the vocabulary and essential language structure in Level 1. They are able to talk about giving and getting directions, using transportation, telling time, dining out, enjoying basic social interactions, and much more. They will continue to explore French culture and become aware of both French history and current events.

French III

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students connect with the world around them by building on the language fundamentals and conversational skills developed in Levels 1 and 2. They share ideas and opinions, expressing feelings, and talking about everyday life, interests, work, current events and much more. They will continue to explore French culture and become aware of both French history and current events.

German I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn beginning German; no prior exposure to the German language is required. Students will primarily learn to speak and understand spoken German, and they will also learn how to read and write basic German. They will gain knowledge of the German culture and become aware of both German history and current events.

German II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn how to navigate their surroundings and build on the vocabulary and essential language structure in Level 1. They are able to talk about giving and getting directions, using transportation, telling time, dining out, enjoying basic social interactions, and much more. They will continue to explore German culture and become aware of both German history and current events.

Japanese I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn beginning Japanese; no prior exposure to the Japanese language is required. Students will primarily learn to speak and understand spoken Japanese, and they will also learn how to read and write basic Japanese. They will gain knowledge of the Japanese culture and become aware of both Japanese history and current events.

Japanese II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn how to navigate their surroundings and build on the vocabulary and essential language structure in Level 1. They are able to talk about giving and getting directions, using transportation, telling time, dining out, enjoying basic social interactions, and much more. They will continue to explore Japanese culture and become aware of both Japanese history and current events.

Latin I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students who take Latin gain a strong linguistic foundation for learning several other languages as well as for building modern vocabulary – especially in the fields of science and medicine. Students interested in language and linguistics, sciences, and medicine are encouraged to take this course. In this course, students learn beginning Latin; no prior exposure to the Latin language is required. Students will primarily learn to speak and understand spoken Latin, and they will also learn how to read and write basic Latin. They will gain knowledge of the ancient Latin culture and become aware of both Latin history and how Latin currently influences culture and language throughout the modern world.

Latin II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn how to navigate their surroundings and build on the vocabulary and essential language structure in Level 1. They are able to talk about giving and getting directions, using transportation, telling time, dining out, enjoying basic social interactions, and much more. They will continue to explore ancient Latin culture and become aware of both Latin history and its current influence in the world.

Spanish I

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn beginning Spanish; no prior exposure to the Spanish language is required. Students will primarily learn to speak and understand spoken Spanish, and they will also learn how to read and write basic Spanish. They will gain knowledge of the Spanish culture and become aware of both Spanish history and current events.

Spanish II

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students learn how to navigate their surroundings and build on the vocabulary and essential language structure in Level 1. They are able to talk about giving and getting directions, using transportation, telling time, dining out, enjoying basic social interactions, and much more. They will continue to explore Spanish culture and become aware of both Spanish history and current events.

Spanish III

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this course, students connect with the world around them by building on the language fundamentals and conversational skills developed in Levels 1 and 2. They share ideas and opinions, expressing feelings, and talking about everyday life, interests, work, current events and much more. They will continue to explore Spanish culture and become aware of both Spanish history and current events.

Spanish IV

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): Spanish III

Spanish IV builds upon competencies mastered in Spanish I-III, reaching a level of fluency to communicate clearly in the workplace and other settings. Students are able to understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics, and they also use Spanish to present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics. Continuing their cultural studies, they acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the target language and its culture.

Visual & Performing Arts

Art Appreciation

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

The world of the visual arts is surveyed from multiple perspectives in this course. Students develop and apply the elements and principles of art, as well as social and historical context, as they gain skills in the critical analysis and interpretation of art. In addition to developing art perception skills, creative expression and art history are surveyed from around the world. Students have choices in how they demonstrate understanding. Students have the option of applying their knowledge of the arts to the production of art projects.

Cinema as Literature

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn literary elements and visual and performing arts concepts through viewing, analyzing, and responding to various works in film. Selections range from classic to contemporary movies. Students also become very savvy to media techniques utilized in advertising and broadcasting. Characterization; setting; costuming; imagery; use of color; camera angles, movements, and framing; sound, including music; transitions; characters; acting styles; stage versus screen; dialogue; ideology and social-cultural considerations; and additional artistic and literary devices are covered. Students learn how to identify elements, analyze their effect, and provide written responses that incorporate the various elements. Students write several shorter responses throughout the course and complete a longer synthesis paper at the end that provides an analysis of a single film for all the elements covered throughout the lessons.

Dance

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students perceive and respond, using the elements of dance. They demonstrate movement skills, process sensory information, and describe movement, using the vocabulary of dance. They apply choreographic principles, processes, and skills to create and communicate meaning through the improvisation, composition, and performance of dance. Students analyze the function and development of dance in past and present cultures throughout the world, noting human diversity as it relates to dance and dancers. Students critically assess and derive meaning from works of dance, performance of dancers, and original works according to the elements of dance and aesthetic qualities. Students apply what they learn in dance to learning across subject areas, and explore career possibilities in dance.

Design A – Beginning Design

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

The world of the visual arts is surveyed from multiple perspectives in this course. Students develop and apply the elements and principles of art, as well as social and historical context, as they gain skills in the critical analysis and interpretation of art. In addition to developing art perception skills, creative expression and art history are surveyed from around the world. Students have choices in how they demonstrate understanding. Students have the option of applying their knowledge of the arts to the production of art projects.

Design B: Intermediate Design

Semesters: 2 Grade(s): 10-12

Prerequisite(s): Design A or Equivalent; Beginning Drawing or Equivalent; Familiarity with vector-based illustration software such as GIMP, Inkspot or Adobe Illustrator. 3D software such as Rhinoceros or Sketch-Up is useful.

This course builds upon the skills developed in Design A or similar. The main goal of this design course is to continue developing proficiency with the conceptualization, development, and production of projects involving a range of design problems. Students will focus on a specific design application. Choices include, but are not limited to: graphic design, fashion or textile design, 2D or 3D fine art, landscape design, and interior or architectural design. The variety of means of producing designs will continue to be explored and refined. More emphasis is placed on digital media as feasible. Students will examine and evaluate historical and current design trends as they develop designs meeting specific design goals. Self-reflection and critical response to the design works of others is an integral aspect.

A portfolio of projects will be developed and presented to others through online seminars. Participation with the Digital Arts Club is highly encouraged.

Beginning Digital Photography

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

The course begins with a survey of the science and technology of digital photography as students become familiar with their particular camera(s). As students gain proficiency in camera handling skills in a variety of common situations, understanding of essential design principles is developed. Composition and lighting are key areas of emphasis. A series of projects will be completed, involving a range of common photographic situations and subjects. A main goal for the course is for students to be able to work with a fairly wide range of subjects in different lighting situations and distances. The elements and principles of design are related to photographic media. Critical analysis of photographs is introduced.

Digital photograph organization, editing and storage are introduced. The basic skills of working with digital editing software are introduced. Grading will be based primarily on the production and presentation of projects. Participation with the Digital Arts Club is recommended.

Intermediate Digital Photography

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

The development of proficiency with photography techniques continues with this course. More advanced composition and lighting situations are explored. Students gain more advanced working understanding of digital photography technology and how this relates to the art of digital photography. Photography as a fine art is emphasized throughout the course. Contemporary and historic photographs are critically examined and understandings applied to students' work. The use of image editing software is expanded while students work with more demanding subjects and more sophisticated techniques. Students are able to focus on particular subjects of interest for projects.

The production and presentation of a portfolio of projects is required. Participation with the Digital Arts Club is highly recommended.

Beginning Drawing

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Beginning Drawing is for those students with little or no prior drawing experience. Basic skills in dry and wet drawing media will be introduced and practiced. Students will survey current and past drawing works of artists from around the world to develop an appreciation of the diverse ways drawing is approached and applied. A working vocabulary will be developed as the elements and principles of art are applied to the art of drawing. Emphasis is placed on grey-scale drawing, although students may elect to include color in their pieces. The basic principles of perspective are introduced. Drawing styles ranging from abstract, through semi-abstract, to representational will be explored. This course serves as a foundation course for continuing study in fine arts. Along with specific, skill-focused assignments, students will complete a portfolio of pieces demonstrating the range of skills and concepts developed during the course.

Intermediate Drawing

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): Beginning Drawing or equivalent (Digital photography is required to submit art).

Work with the principles and elements of art continue in this course, with greater emphasis being placed on critical analysis of drawn art. Composition is a major theme throughout this course, with a survey of historical and contemporary art serving as a reference point for students' concepts. More advanced techniques of perspective are explored. The art production process is introduced, taking art from developing concepts through final, display-ready rendering. The use of color has a more prominent place as students continue to work in a wide range of styles. Media include traditional dry and wet materials, in addition to digital as individual students have interest. Students will complete a portfolio of pieces demonstrating the range of skills and concepts developed during the course. Students will participate in an online forum to display their work and critique other's work.

Musical Performance

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students engage in learning and practice of music theory and techniques as applied to musical performance. This course is meant for students receiving musical lessons through community course instructors, involved as a musician in musical productions, and/or for students involved in the production of their work. An individual plan is created with a teacher, focusing on personal development and learning goals in addition to logging the necessary number of hours for credit. Students apply what they learn across subject areas. They develop competencies and creative skills in problem solving, communication, and time management that contribute to lifelong learning and career skills. They also learn about careers in and related to music.

Studio Arts

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Studio Arts is for students who are engages in hands-on activities to learn, produce, refine, present, and evaluate arts. Examples of art forms include painting, sculpture in various media including ceramics and porcelain, and mixed-media productions. An individual plan is created with a teacher, focusing on personal development and learning goals in addition to logging the necessary number of hours for credit.

Career & Technical Education

Accounting

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): general math or skills placement

Students interested in a career in accounting or business, or who want to have strong financial literacy skills, will benefit from this course. Students learn accounting terminology and how to apply accounting concepts throughout their study. They learn the basic accounting equation elements, how to apply debit and credit, and how to journalize transactions. Students will demonstrate cash management skills, and will develop automaticity in calculating using accounting tools such as a calculator and computer program.

Career Planning

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students evaluate their interests, skills, and preferences; this can include personality type, innate talents, training, values, hobbies, and topics of interest. They research and compare a variety of career options, and analyze for each the job description, salary expectations, job outlook, and the training and skills required. They build a career portfolio of a resume, references, sample letters that can be adjusted for future use, and other items that one might want to showcase. They evaluate personal and career goals, and create a career plan that incorporates personal preferences and goals. Students also learn about workplace safety, procedures, and expectations, with an emphasis on personal responsibility.

Childhood Development

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Childhood development is aimed at promoting knowledge and skills important for parenting and for working with children of many ages. Students learn about different phases of childhood development, from prenatal to adolescence, and explore the physical, emotional, and intellectual changes and needs of each age group. Students gain an appreciation for children and their needs, understand the responsibilities of parenting and the value of strong families, and learn about children's health and safety needs. Students also explore careers involving working with children.

Computer Fundamentals

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn key skills and programs commonly used in the world of work and in colleges. Students are introduced to correct keyboarding technique and how to apply ergonomics for efficiency and health. They develop knowledge of computer basics and use an operating system. They apply document processing skills in the production of various business communications. They also learn spreadsheet basics, including using data to create charts, and learn how to create and present electronic presentations. Students gain a foundation in using the Internet, including online navigation and search skills and how to use email. Ethics and legal considerations are also covered.

Culinary Arts

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students explore the food service industry, including career options and how to become a culinary professional. They learn culinary safety and sanitation requirements, and discuss key elements of a professional kitchen. They learn about nutrition, using recipes, and menu creation. Students also learn about and practice various cooking and baking techniques.

Digital Video Production

Semesters: 1

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Students use industry-standard techniques and tools to plan, produce, evaluate, edit, and share original works of video. Students learn how to capture and import video clips and still shots, cutting them into useable segments, and organizing them on a timeline. Students learn how to use single and dual audio tracks for voice-overs and music, and how to adjust volume levels of audio tracks as a whole as well as in segments for purposes of transitions. Students use additional transition techniques including title screens and transition slides such as fading. The use of call-outs, text boxes, and other presentation features are also covered. Students produce videos in different formats for different purposes and file sizes. Videos can be shared in a variety of ways, including Internet-based productions, synchronous presentations in a live online meeting room, or DVD production. Nonfiction presentations, mini-documentaries, and electronic story-telling are a few ways that students can choose to focus the class towards their personal preferences and goals.

Fashion Design

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students begin with Fashion Design A by gaining an overview of fashion design and the fashion design industry, including career paths within the field. They analyze the purposes of clothing, and the many influences on clothing choices. They learn about fashion history and current trends, including famous fashion designers. Students analyze the importance of color in fashion design and the selection of clothing for each individual. They also analyze and describe textile fibers and fabrics, and how they are created, and evaluate fabric for use with different designs and purposes. They evaluate clothing selections for oneself and others based on purpose, fit, quality, price, and other factors. Students continuing on to Fashion Design B demonstrate the ability to design and use sewing patterns, including the machines and equipment, sewing techniques, and basic construction of clothing.

Introduction to Game Design

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

In this class, students gain a foundation in game design. They survey the current game design industry, and they evaluate games and determine what makes a “good game.” They also learn and use basic terminology used in game design and creation. Students then design, create, and edit a variety of basic video games. This course requires that students download one or more software programs.

Interior Design

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn and apply principles of design as applied to interior design in general and applied to specific types of rooms and buildings. Students also explore current trends in interior design. Research and compare career options in the field of interior design. They practice applying interior design concepts to multiple projects using industry-standard tools and techniques.

Keyboarding

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students learn touch-typing skills with proper finger placement, building both accuracy and speed. Students should be able to type all letters and numbers with 80% or better accuracy at 24 wpm by the end of Keyboarding A. Students should achieve 35 wpm at 90% or better accuracy by the end of Keyboarding B, and this includes typing with punctuation marks and capital letters.

Life Skills

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

Students gain a solid foundation in basic life skills necessary for independent living. Students learn to value themselves as individuals and are encouraged to engage in grooming, personal care, and decision-making to best serve their needs. They explore goals, both personal and career, and understand the value of making decisions that align with one's goals. Students learn about the role of responsible parenting and the needs of children at different phases of development. Living space, money and resource management, and sewing and cooking skills are also explored, with a focus on healthful living and being a wise consumer.

Marketing

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

This course is an introduction to marketing. Students will learn concepts of entry-level business and marketing functions. Topics covered will include business fundamentals, selling, financing, product/service planning, purchasing, distribution, pricing, economics, marketing math, and marketing operations.

Personal Finance

Semesters: 1 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none

This course will provide a foundation for making informed personal financial decisions leading to financial independence. Real world topics will be covered such as income, money management, spending and credit. Students will design personal budgets utilizing checking and savings accounts, gain knowledge in finance, debt and credit management and investments.

Presenting with Technology

Semesters: 2 **Grade(s): 9-12**

Prerequisite(s): none; strong computer literacy skills recommended

Public speaking – 21st Century style! Students design and deliver presentations using current presentation technology. They present during live webinar sessions and incorporate various tools including PowerPoint presentations, Web tours, video, pictures and other graphics, music, and more.

Web Design

Semesters: 1 Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisite(s): none

Essential web design skills are learned, giving students a voice on the Internet. Students complete several guided projects and then develop their own web site. Web design essentials are covered throughout in examples and activities. Beginning with planning a website and moving on to storyboarding, page design, layout and template issues are also covered. From there, students learn to create backgrounds, headers, and buttons. Students learn to use templates, create rollovers and pop-ups, develop image maps, and add animations.

Honors Courses

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."

~Calvin Coolidge

Description of Honors Program

Honors courses require students to engage in activities that develop personal character while also serving their community or beyond. These activities are at a higher level of learning per Bloom's taxonomy: analyze, evaluate, and/or create¹. Activities should be completed conscientiously as a demonstration of the student's best work. See list below of courses currently eligible for honors designation; a student can submit a request to have a course not currently on this list to be reviewed for eligibility.

A student can complete a single project or a series of projects, worth a total of 15-20 hours of work. Honors projects should directly relate to the course material in some way, but be an opportunity to learn at a greater depth or to expand upon a course concept. Honors project plans are developed by the student, with the guidance of his or her Educational Facilitator and course instructor; the plan must be approved by both the EF and the course instructor.

The Student Learning Plan will indicate that the course is an honors course by prefixing the course title with the word "Honors." Upon enrollment, a student should preview the course to begin developing ideas for his or her project(s), and the sooner a student develops a project plan, the more likely some course assignments done along the way can be integrated into that plan. The EF and instructor have the final say regarding the plan proposal due date, but it is encouraged that students aim to have an approved honors project plan by the mid-way point in their course.

Examples of Honors Projects

Interview senior citizens to create an oral histories collection, and videotape these histories, editing them into a format for sharing. These can be stand-alone mini-documentaries or part of one larger documentary, depending on the focus of this project. Additional historical information, such as providing a voice-over with a photo or map, can be added to provide additional context. In addition to the item being turned in for course credit, it is also copied and distributed to places such as a historical society, local library, or even the Library of Congress.

Create a short class to offer to a group of homeschool students in the community, coordinating with the local library or homeschool cooperative.

Volunteer time engaged in activities related to course concepts can include organizations such as the Forest Service, museums, historical society, humane society, or other service-orientated groups. One can also volunteer time helping local community members.

These are just a few examples to help generate some ideas. Students can engage in one of the above activities, modified as needed to fit their specific course requirements. They can also view the resources below for additional examples and ideas. Students are also encouraged to create their own unique proposals for their honors projects.

¹ http://www.apa.org/ed/new_blooms.html

Resources

Book: The Kid's Guide to Service Projects

Describes the steps to launching a community service project and provides a collection project ideas for each of the following topics; animals, community beautification, crime fighting, the environment, friendship, health, holidays, homeless people, hunger, literacy, people with special needs, politics and government, safety, senior citizens, and transportation.

CNN Programs

- Heroes: www.cnn.com/heroes
- Impact Your World: <http://www.cnn.com/impact/>
- Be the Change: www.cnn.com/bethechange

USA Freedom Corps: www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov

Kids Are Heroes: <http://www.kidsareheroes.com/>

PBS Media Smart Teen Heroes: <http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/whatyoucando/teenheroes.html>

Amazing Kids: <http://www.amazing-kids.org/kids.html>

Proposal Components

Basic Information: Student's first and last name, grade level, school, EF name, course instructor name

Course Title: name of the honors course for which the proposal is being made

Project Description: describe plan in detail, including timeline, and include the following:

- Bloom's Taxonomy: explain how the project meets higher level learning.
- Personal Development: explain how this will develop the student's personal character.
- Community Service: how will this serve the student's community or beyond?
- Documentation: How will the project be presented to the instructor, including documentation/evidence of project completion? ²

Courses Eligible for Honors Designation

- English I
- English II
- English III
- English IV
- American Literature
- British Literature
- World Literature
- Algebra I
- Geometry
- World History
- U.S. History
- Government
- Economics
- Civics
- Spanish III, IV
- French III, IV
- German III, IV
- Biology
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Earth Science

² Parent confirmation alone does not suffice for purposes of honors project documentation. Students are encouraged to provide a presentation, report, or final product that thoroughly demonstrates completion of the project.

Advanced Placement

Students who opt for Advanced Placement courses are responsible for making the necessary arrangements for the AP exams, including signing up and paying for the exam and the transportation to the exam site.

Due to the precise nature of AP courses being geared towards preparation towards the AP test, the course is required to be completed as designed and using the materials required for the course. Also, AP courses often require the purchasing of additional materials, usually offline textbooks; purchasing these required materials is the responsibility of the student, and a list of such materials is provided in the course syllabus.

AP versus Dual Credit: Students in AP courses need to pass the AP exam to receive college credit. Students who instead choose to take a course directly from a college are granted both college *and* high school credit upon successful completion of the college course. For example, a quarter of college English that counts as 5 quarter college credits not only goes on the student's college transcript but also counts as a *full year* of high school English credit. Students need to select the option that would best serve their unique learning needs. Honors courses are also available.

AP course availability varies from one academic year to the next, and additional courses can become available mid-year. AP courses scheduled to be available during this academic school year are listed below:

- AP Language and Composition A/B
- AP Literature and Composition A/B
- AP Biology A/B
- AP Chemistry A/B
- AP European History A/B
- AP Government
- AP United States History A/B

Test Preparation

Test preparation courses are available for the following:

- SAT
- ACT

Students are responsible for making arrangements to take the SAT and/or ACT.

Credit Recovery

Students who have failed a class have the option to take a credit recovery (CR) course. When completing a CR course, students take a test at the beginning of each unit to see if the information was previously mastered; if it was, the student moves on to the next unit without wasting any extra time on that topic. If not, the student is given a lesson and practice opportunity, followed by a new assessment.

Credit recovery courses are available for the following classes:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- English I
- English II
- English III
- English IV
- US History
- Government
- Economics