

2010-2011

High School Catalog



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Advanced Placement**

AP Art History

This course is designed to foster an understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural contexts. In addition to visual analysis, this course emphasizes understanding works in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender and the functions and effects of works of art. Prior art training is not a prerequisite nor does the course cater exclusively to future Art History majors.

AP Biology

This course is a comprehensive analysis of general biology that includes biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, mechanisms of evolution, evolutionary history of biological diversity, plant and animal form and function, and ecology. The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by first year biology majors or pre-medical students. The textbook used, the range and depth of topics covered, discussions and kinds of labs held in this course are equivalent to those taking this course in college. College Board guidelines are followed in determining the course.

AP Calculus AB

This is a college level course that prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in May. This course introduces limits, differentiation, and integration of functions. Students will find and evaluate finite and infinite limits graphically, numerically, and analytically. They will find derivatives using a variety of methods including The Chain Rule and Implicit Differentiation. They will use the First Derivative Test and The Second Derivative Test to analyze and sketch functions. Each unit contains exam preparation content for the AP Calculus AB exam.

AP Chemistry

Advanced Placement Chemistry is equivalent to a full-year introductory college course in general Chemistry. Student will learn fundamental analytical skills to logically assess chemical problems proficiently. Through fascinating and elaborative lessons, students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions based on informed judgment and present evidence in clear and persuasive essays.

AP Computer Science A

Computer Science A emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem solving and algorithmic development and is the equivalent of a first-semester college-level course in Computer Science. It also includes the study of data structures, design, and abstraction, but these topics are not covered to the extent that they are in Computer Science AB.

AP English Language

The academic objectives of this course adhere to those outlined by the College Board in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition. AP Language and Composition explores the relationship between what authors say and how they are trying to say it. The literary component of the course provides a range of genres, including nonfiction, fiction, drama and poetry, and in the analysis of these works students are exposed to the analysis of both style-the more language-based approach to exploring meaning-and rhetoric-the analysis of author argument and structure.

AP English Literature

This is a college level class that ultimately prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in May. In addition, it provides students with other skills associated with the most advanced classes in high school English, including research skills. When the class is complete, students will have acquired the reading and critical thinking skills necessary for understanding challenging new material, analyzing that material to deduce meaning, and applying what is learned to the world.

Advanced Placement**

AP Environmental Science* - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

During 2010 this course will be rewritten with a focus on requiring students to think analytically about environmental issues and the focus of each unit is to provide authentic, constructivist activities to build these thinking skills. Environmental Science requires an interdisciplinarian approach to understanding the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems, and to evaluate and examine risks and solutions to these problems. The wide-variety of topics it encompasses makes it important that students learn the methods of science and employ these methods to understanding environmental problems and analyzing potential solutions. Through the use of case studies and integrated exploratory activities based on the community and world around them, students gain a thorough vocabulary and knowledge base to become active participants in local, regional, and global concerns about their environment.

AP European History

This course is the study of the social, economic, cultural, intellectual, political and diplomatic history of Modern Europe and its place in the history of the world from the fall of Constantinople to the fall of the Berlin wall and the Soviet Union. The course will be taught at a level and rigor equivalent to that required of students in a college freshman or sophomore Modern European History course.

AP French Language - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

During 2010 this course will be rewritten to prepare students to demonstrate their level of French proficiency across three communicative modes, and the five goal areas outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities). In addition this course will be written to meet the tentative requirements of the new 2012 College Board AP French exam. AP French Language should advance both fluency and accuracy in language use and not overemphasize grammatical accuracy. To achieve this goal, the course will be presented and taught in almost 100% French. The course will teach language structures in context and focus on the development of fluency to convey meaning. Culture is an important component of the course and students will explore culture in both contemporary and historical contexts to develop an awareness and appreciation of cultural products, practices, and perspectives.

AP Macroeconomics*

Macroeconomics is an emphasis on how the economic system works as a whole. Students study how the economy is measured by using concepts such as gross domestic product (GDP) and other indicators. They examine concepts such as inflation, unemployment, world trade patterns, and the role of the Federal Reserve Bank.

AP Microeconomics*

Microeconomics emphasizes how individuals make choices with limited resources. Students will examine concepts such as supply and demand, factors of production, roles of labor and management, the relationship between the environment and the economy, and the impact of the government on individual decision making processes. Students study the stock market as an investment option and trace various stocks through the semester using the Wall Street Journal and the Internet as resources.

AP Physics B

AP Physics is a yearlong introduction to the algebra-based major areas of physics – mechanics, fluids, waves, optics, electricity, magnetism and modern physics (atomic and nuclear). Students learn to think like scientists: making predictions based on observations, writing hypotheses, designing and completing experiments, and reaching conclusions based on the analysis of data derived from these experiments. Students apply the concepts of physics to their everyday experiences.

AP Psychology* - Updates Semester 2, Fall 2010

This course is a survey of psychology that introduces students to the major topics of the field, the terminology and methodology of psychology, and the historical and current understanding of human behavior and thought-processes. Students learn to analyze human experiences like psychologists do and to apply what they have learned to the world around them. The focus of the course is to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Psychology course administered by the College Board in the spring of each year.

Advanced Placement**

AP Spanish Language - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

During 2010 this course will be rewritten to help prepare students to demonstrate their level of Spanish proficiency across three communicative modes (Interpersonal [interactive communication], Interpretive [receptive communication], and Presentational [productive communication]), and the five goal areas outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities). These standards aim to develop students “who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad.” In other words, “Knowing how, when, and why to say what to whom.” In doing so, the AP Spanish course will have at its foundation instructional content and practices that will connect students with the world in an authentic context that develops and yields communicative competence.

AP Statistics

AP Statistics data analysis is dependent on the use of technology. Students should have access to computers that include software capable of doing data analysis and students will be required to interpret output generated by statistical software programs. Students are not expected to learn how to use various statistical programs.

AP US Government*

This course will survey the complex subjects of U.S. Government and politics. The processes and institutions through which the political system and policy decisions are made and this analysis will include the Constitutional structure of Government, participatory politics, the formal institutions of power, the extra constitutional influences on those institutions, and public polity and individual rights and liberties.

AP US History - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

During 2010 this course will be completely rewritten to follow a thematic approach as outlined in the new College Board curriculum guidelines. In this course students must think and act as historians using constructivist approaches to develop their own understanding of key events. The goal of this course will be to help students achieve deep conceptual understanding of the content and unifying concepts of US History. In addition the College Board will release a new exam, most likely in 2014, this course will cover both the current and the anticipated new topics on that exam.

AP World History

AP World History covers the history of the world from 600 C.E. to the present with an introduction unit on the period before (covering around 8000 B.C.E. to 600 C.E.). Students gain an understanding of the global experiences of humanity and be able to apply that knowledge to their growth and development as “world citizens”.

Grammar and Composition

This course is designed for the student who needs extra help in mastering communication skills and the fundamental principles of grammar and usage. The course focuses on teaching the composition concepts in the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing pioneered by the Northwest Regional Education Laboratories.

English I

This introductory English course combines the study of literary genre with a focus on composition skills. Students will learn effective communication skills by focusing on the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing developed by the Northwest Regional Education Laboratories. Oral communication and research skills are included.

English II

This intermediate English course incorporates the study of world literature along with a continued focus on composition skills. Students will read, reflect, synthesize, and respond to several different types of world literature. A research paper is required.

English III - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

This course explores American literature and the pursuit of the American Dream. Students will go on a pilgrimage of religion and faith, relive a revolution of rebellion and conformity, redefine truth and human potential, and develop a deeper sense of self. Through students’ explorations of classic American themes and ideals, they will deepen their awareness of political and social influences that have shaped American culture as it is known today.

English IV

This class prepares students for the skills needed to be successful in college and in life. When the class is complete, students will have acquired the reading and critical thinking skills necessary for understanding challenging new material, analyzing that material to deduce meaning, and applying what they have learned to the world.

Language Arts

Language Arts

Creative Writing

Creative Writing focuses on the four-step Process Writing model and the reading of professional writings to motivate students to create original essays, poems and short stories. The writing assignments include narration, definition, process analysis, cause and effect and comparison/contrast. Students learn self-editing skills by following the instructor's detailed suggestions for the revision and refinement of their work.

Journalism*

The basics of journalism, including laws and ethics, freedom of the press and the principles of journalistic writing, are powerful tools. In this course, learn how to generate story ideas, conduct an interview and then put it all together into both news and sports stories. An introduction to feature writing and editorials is included.

Math

Pre-Algebra

This course builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as they apply to algebra. Real numbers and linear equations, linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing and some elements of geometry are stressed.

Algebra I - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

During 2010 the Algebra 1 course will be updated to provide Algebra 1 instruction in a modularized, engaging, and interactive format. Students will begin the course with a series of prerequisite activities to test their algebra readiness. Once knowledge and skills are determined, students will access lessons by topic in the form of essential questions. This will allow teachers flexibility as they sequence material for students.

Geometry

The Geometry course is a comprehensive look at the study of geometric concepts including the basic elements of geometry, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, the coordinate plane, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, trigonometry, congruence and similarity, surface area, volume and transformations.

Algebra II

In this course students will use their prior knowledge from previous courses to learn and apply Algebra II skills. This course will include topics such as functions, radical functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, geometry, conic sections, systems of equations, probability, and statistics. Students will apply the skills that they learn in this course to real world situations.

Trigonometry*

Trigonometry and the related real world applications of trigonometric topics are examined. After students complete this course they will have an understanding of how trigonometry is used in day to day life and how it relates to other mathematical topics.

Pre-Calculus*

This course is designed to go through the major topics of Pre-Calculus and to prepare students to move on to Calculus. After completing this course students will understand polynomial functions, polar coordinates, complex numbers, conic sections, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, sequences and series.

Calculus

This course introduces limits, differentiation, and integration of functions. Students will find and evaluate finite and infinite limits graphically, numerically, and analytically. They will find derivatives using a variety of methods including The Chain Rule and Implicit Differentiation. They will use the First Derivative Test and The Second Derivative Test to analyze and sketch functions.

Consumer Math

This comprehensive review and study of arithmetic skills applies to both personal and vocational business opportunities. Topics include whole numbers, fractions, percentages, basic statistics, and graphs. Practical applications in finance, taxes, budgeting, banking and home ownership are provided.

Integrated Math

Students will build mathematical skills that will allow them to solve problems and reason logically. Students will be able to communicate their understanding by organizing, clarifying, and refining mathematical information for a given purpose. Students will use everyday mathematical language and notation in appropriate and efficient forms to clearly express or represent complex ideas and information.

Science

Physical Science

Physical science is the introductory course to high school science courses and beyond. Students will expand on their middle science experiences to prepare them for biology, chemistry, and physics. This course will emphasize scientific thinking as a way of understanding the natural phenomenon that surrounds us. In addition, there will be both simulated and real world laboratory experiences to further expand student's scientific horizons.

Earth Science - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

During 2010 the Earth Science course will be updated to focus on student development of increased scientific literacy and inquiry based instruction. Students are given guidance and direction and taught the skills necessary to participate in open-ended activities. Each lab, integrated into the content, provides relevance, requires problem solving, and provides opportunities for students to collaborate and generate solutions to questions. Because Earth Science is a visual course by nature, students are given opportunities throughout the course to visual processes by manipulating materials and pondering those results before content is explained.

Biology

This course is an introduction to general biology and to the processes of scientific inquiry and thinking. It includes the fundamental principles of living organisms such as the physical and chemical properties of life, and cellular organization and function. The transfer of energy through metabolic systems, cellular reproduction, the classification of living things, and the six kingdoms of life will be examined. The main emphasis is on biological information presented in an understandable and straightforward way.

Chemistry - Updates Semester 1, Summer 2010; Semester 2, Fall 2010

During 2010 the Chemistry course will be updated to provide increased inquiry based instruction. Throughout the course, students will be actively engaged in activities that will enhance their ability to describe, explain, and predict phenomena enhancing their scientific skills. In our science courses, we also implement constructive learning activities that move on a continuum from guided inquiry to open-ended inquiry. In addition, an optional hands on lab kit will be available for purchase with this course.

Physics

The goal of physics is to describe the physical world using a small number of basic assumptions, concepts, and equations. In this course, emphasis is placed on relating physics to the everyday world. Students explore the concepts involved with motion in one- and two-dimensions, forces, work and energy, momentum and collisions, circular motion and gravitation.

Environmental Science

Environmental Science is a multidisciplinary field that draws from all the sciences in addition to other fields. This course will help students better understand the relationship between humans and the world in which we live. Environmental science applies the principles of pure sciences such as biology, chemistry, ecology, geology, and others.

Geography

This Geography course examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all the major regions of the world. Each region is under review in a similar structure in order for students to more clearly see the similarities and differences between each. Specifically, the course will explore where each region is located, its physical characteristics, climate, and significant geographical features. The exploration will then continue by looking at each region from a cultural, economic, and political perspective, closely examining the human impact on each region.

World History

This course is a survey of world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students learn about the socio-economic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods as historical events and cultural achievements of world regions are studied. Using primary and secondary sources, students utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills and conduct inquiry-based research, participate in interactive discussions, and complete assignments establishing real-world connections.

American History

This course is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of American History. The content focuses on the origins of the nation's democratic principles and continues through present day domestic and foreign issues that affect American society. There will be a particular emphasis on the individuals and groups that have not only been impacted by the nation's development but those who have made contributions as well. Students utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Social Studies

Social Studies

American Government*

American Government is the study of the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the government of the United States. Principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded are discussed by structure, function, and power of government. These include the national, state, and local levels. The principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, republicanism, federalism, and individual rights are examined as are the roles of individuals and groups in the American political system. Students compare and assess the American system of government's strengths and challenges with other modern systems.

Civics*

Civics is the study of citizenship and government. This course provides the learner with a basic understanding of civic life, politics, and government. A short history of the foundation and development of the American government and the rights guaranteed its citizens are examined. This Civics course introduces the workings of our own and other political systems as well as the relationship of American politics and government to world affairs.

Economics*

Economics is the study of how societies use limited resources to satisfy their unlimited wants and needs. Students learn how fundamental decisions about the four factors of production are made: land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship are made. Key topics covered include law of supply and demand, saving, borrowing, and spending, the Federal Reserve System and the money supply, and the role of government in an open market economy.

World Language

French I & II

French has been carefully designed to meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

French III & IV

This course helps the student continue learning the French language by building on the beginning level French courses. Students listen, speak, read, and write through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of foreign language instruction. Students learn to express themselves using present, past, future, and conditional-tense verbs, articles, adjectives and increasingly complex grammatical structures. The course is aligned to the national Foreign Language standards.

German I, II & III

German meets the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) which calls for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

German IV

This fourth year of German builds upon the first three levels. Students will continue to sharpen their reading, writing, and listening skills as well as learn skills to think critically and express themselves on topics relevant to German culture. This fourth level will include authentic texts, current culture, and literature from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.. Cultural topics include: contemporary and classical music, expressing opinion, German history, transportation, family weekend travel, free time activities, youth and technology, multiculturalism, holidays, education, career, and travel in a foreign country.

Japanese I & II

Japanese I & II blends different forms of communication and culture via unit activities to ensure that the student meets all standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for teaching that focuses on successful communication through a grounding in the culture as well as speaking, writing, reading and listening. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

World Language

Latin I

Latin I is an introduction to the basics of Latin grammar to help develop the skills necessary to translate basic sentences from Latin to English and English to Latin, and for reading simple connected passages of Latin prose and poetry. Learn how verb conjugations and noun declensions work in a highly inflected language, how to analyze the structure of Latin sentences and translate English sentences into well-formed Latin equivalents. Begin to read connected excerpts from ancient authors. Learn how verb conjugations and noun declensions work in a highly inflected language. Analyze the structure of Latin sentences and translate English sentences into well-formed Latin equivalents. And begin to read connected excerpts from ancient authors.

Latin II

Latin II is the continuation of Latin grammar and a deeper study of Roman Mythology and history. The grammar in Latin II reviews topics from Latin I with expanding use of declensions, adjectives, adverbs, and cases. These skills will be used to translate longer Latin texts to English that require more knowledge of grammar rather than just vocabulary recall. The course also incorporates an in-depth study of The Odyssey, the underworld, the rulers and kings of Rome, and entertainment.

Mandarin (Chinese) I

This beginning level course introduces the student to a variety of areas of Mandarin Chinese. The student will learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of foreign language instruction. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in an attempt to help the learner focus on the Chinese speaking world and their culture, people, geographical locations and histories. The course is aligned to national Foreign Language standards.

Mandarin (Chinese) II

This course is a continuation of the beginning level course and introduces the student to a variety of areas of language learning. Throughout the five units of material (daily routine, animals, hobbies, the body, and descriptions), students learn to express themselves using an ever increasing vocabulary, present tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in an attempt to help the learner focus on the Chinese speaking world and their culture, people, geographical locations and histories. The course is aligned to the national Foreign Language standards.

Spanish I, II & III

Spanish unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the course meets the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as a thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams.

Spanish IV

This fourth year of Spanish is a continuation of the first three years. The student will continue to sharpen listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of foreign language instruction. Throughout the units of material, students learn to express themselves using an ever increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, past-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in an attempt to help the learner focus on the Spanish speaking world and their culture, people, geographical locations and histories.

Computer Fundamentals

In this introductory course, students learn how to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2000 to create, analyze, edit, share and publish information for a variety of audiences and purposes. Through step-by-step tutorials and a project-based approach to learning, students become familiar with the key concepts and basic skills of today's information technology sector.

Digital Photography*

In the digital photography and graphic design lessons, students begin by learning general photographic concepts. Composition skills are added to photographs and image-editing techniques are practiced. Students learn how to use layers, crop images, implement color and lighting concepts such as hue, saturation, exposures and special effects. Graphic design, artistic elements, and software skills are taught while producing graphic images. The concept of design as a manner of visual communication is carried throughout. Students build a portfolio of work and explore the fields of photography, graphic arts, advertising, and illustration.

Technology

Technology

Digital Video Production*

This course introduces students to all aspects of digital video, from story-boarding scenes and creating shot lists to editing a finished, professional-quality product. Throughout this project-based course, students will demonstrate mastery of the key learning objectives by recording, capturing and editing their own videos. This is a hands-on course that provides a solid foundation for further study in this exciting field.

Flash Animation*

This course is for anyone who wants to create animations and interactive movies like the ones used on the coolest Web sites. Participants learn how to use Flash CS3-the world's most popular animation software-to create engaging, interactive movies for the Web. Beginning with classic animation techniques, participants learn how to move objects around the screen and change their appearance. From there, it's on to creating movies complete with original artwork. By the end of the course, participants have learned how to build interactivity into their movies and publish them to the Web. This course is a great introduction to the world of Web animation.

Game Design*

This course will introduce students to the basic skills necessary for game design. They will study the various games in the industry and analyze their approach in terms design and development. The student will explore the processes and art of making game elements like story, levels, sound, user interfaces, and levels. This analysis will include an orientation to the gaming market and innovative techniques' impact on it. Finally, the student will merge all these elements into a functional prototype showing their understanding of the game design process.

Java Programming*

This introductory-level course presents the understanding of JAVA and how to build a stand-alone application (such as a countdown clock or leap year indicator). This course is designed for first-time learners who have very little programming background except that introduced in Programming I: VB.NET. The student will also learn the techniques of JAVA, how JAVA can be used in cross-platform programming, and the robustness of the JAVA program. At the end of the course students will be able to write basic programs using JAVA and could pursue further instruction in any programming language.

VB.Net Programming*

This course presents basic programming and teaches the essential concepts of VisualBasic.net (VB.NET). As an introduction to VB.NET, students will see the basic uses of the programming language, its similarities to the English language (and others), and its flexibility as a programming language. The course helps participants understand the processes involved in software development and object-oriented programming. This is an introductory course that could lead to careers such as software engineer, developer, or game designer. The course participants will also complete a series of hands-on projects covering built in data types, operators, control structures, classes, and objects.

Web Design*

This one-semester course introduces students to the mechanics and elements of web design. Students will learn the key elements of design and HTML, the concepts of planning and organizing websites, and documentation and copyright issues associated with website design. Students will progress through the course, engaging in a variety of project-based assessments to evaluate their understanding.

Accounting

Through this course, students gain a foundation in the skills needed for college accounting courses, office work, and managing their own small businesses. These skills are necessary for any student planning to major in Business in college. In this introduction to accounting, students who have never had prior accounting training are given an overview of the three forms of accounting: financial, cost, and management accounting.

Art Appreciation*

This one-semester course will introduce learners to the various forms of the visual arts, such as painting, sculpture, film, and more. Students will learn how to look at a work of art, identify and compare key characteristics in artworks, and understand the role art has played throughout history. Through hands-on activities, virtual museum tours, discussion and research, learners will develop an overall appreciation for the art they encounter in their daily lives.

Career Planning*

In this half-credit course, students will use an informative interactive process to explore career and life options. Students begin with a thorough examination of their own interests, aptitudes, achievements, and personality styles. Potential career matches, job market information, informational interviews, and training and educational paths are examined.

Electives

Electives

Driver's Education*

Driver's Education is a foundation of theory for responsible driving. Emphasis is placed upon the mechanics of driving, execution of driving operations and the rules of safe driving. This course is the equivalent of a one-semester course.

Health*

This Health course will help you develop the knowledge and skills you need to make healthy decisions that allow you to stay active, safe and informed. The lessons and activities are designed to introduce students to important aspects of the main types of health. You will find out about the components of a healthy lifestyle and ways to approach making healthy choices and decisions.

Life Skills*

Life Skills is designed to increase student knowledge and ability in the skills necessary for everyday living. The course emphasizes defining personal values, goal-setting and planning, making decisions and solving problems. Dealing with media and peer pressure, communication and relationships, decision making, wellness and personal safety, and contributing to your community is evaluated.

Music Appreciation*

This one semester course introduces students to the elements, instrumentation, and historical periods of music. Students will learn the significance of surroundings and time periods and how they both influenced the music of the day. Students will listen to and evaluate several types of music, and will be assessed through projects, presentations, and exams on the knowledge and understanding of music.

Nutrition & Wellness*

This half credit course is an overview of good nutrition principles that are needed for human physical and mental wellness. Discussion of digestion, basic nutrients, weight management, sports and fitness, and life-span nutrition is included. Application to today's food and eating trends, plus learning to assess for reliable nutrition information is emphasized.

Personal Finance*

Understanding financial management concepts is an important life skill. From credit to insurance to taxes, it is imperative that students understand the consequences of their choices. Wisely managing their money, students become citizens that are more responsible. A thorough understanding of financial concepts, with practical application through activities and projects, will enable students to leave this course with applicable, useful skills for life.

Physical Education

This course focuses on the fundamental components and principles of fitness. The course examines safety guidelines, proper technique, and exercise principles such as the FITT. Students will also learn strategies to help them begin, design, and maintain an exercise program to keep them fit for life.

Psychology*

The purpose of this course is to investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course and will broadly cover several areas. Theories and current research will be presented for the student to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit will present the terminology, theories and research that are critical to the understanding of Psychology. Assignments and assessments will be included as well as tutorials and interactive drills.

Sociology

This course offers a study of human relationships in society. Additional emphasis is placed on culture, social structure, the individual in society, societal institutions and social inequality.

Algebra I

Algebra I enables the student to gain mastery in working with and evaluating mathematical expressions, equations, graphs, and other topics in a year long algebra course. Topics included are real numbers, simplifying real number expressions with and without variables, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations, graphing linear and quadratic equations, polynomials, factoring, linear patterns, linear systems of equality and inequality, simple matrices, sequences, and radicals.

American History

This course is designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of American History. The content focuses on the origins of the nation's democratic principles and continue through present day domestic and foreign issues that affect American society. Students will utilize critical thinking and problem solving as they complete assignments establishing real-world connections.

Foundations

Foundations

Biology

This course introduces general biology and the processes of scientific inquiry and thinking. It includes the fundamental principles of living organisms including physical and chemical properties of life, cellular organization and function, the transfer of energy through metabolic systems, cellular reproduction, the classification of living things, and the six kingdoms of life.

Earth Science

This introductory Earth Science course incorporates the body of knowledge and facts accumulated from people's observations of the Earth around them and the skies above them. This observed information of the earth has evolved over centuries into the branch of science known as earth science. Earth science has several different branches of study: the solid earth (geology), the earth's waters (hydrology and oceanography), the earth's atmosphere (meteorology), and the universe beyond earth (astronomy).

English I

This course is designed as an introductory Language Arts course. The emphasis in this course is on the multiple types of Mass Media our students encounter on a daily basis. Emphasis is made on a variety of "real world" reading and writing skills.

English II

Students learn to read critically with full comprehension across genres and to communicate through effective writing. Students develop critical reading, writing, viewing, listening, and speaking skills as they explore world literature, both classic and modern. The NWREL rubric for the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing™ is used as a basis for writing instruction. Students learn new vocabulary, language, and literature skills in each unit.

English III

As students move toward the end of high school, it is important to look forward and to understand how the skills developed in high school will transfer to college and the work place. In English III, students will understand the practical applications of strong communication skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. In addition, students develop the skills necessary to communicate their messages effectively to a variety of audiences for both academic and work-related purposes.

English IV

English 4 Foundations is a shortened version of the standard English 4 course. Its length makes it suitable for use in summer programs and in other contexts in which instructional time and teacher time may be limited. Extensive use of instructional tutorials enables the course to be shorter while maintaining high quality and the same concept load. Audio is provided for every lesson.

Geography

This Geography course examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all of the major regions of the world. Each region is reviewed in a similar structure so students can clearly see the similarities and differences between each. The exploration then continues with a look at each region from a cultural, economic, and political perspective, closely examining the human impact on each region from these perspectives and how human activities impact the environments of the region.

Geometry

This comprehensive course features geometric terms and processes, logic and problem solving. The course includes topics such as parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, inequalities and quadrilaterals. Various forms of proof are studied. Emphasis is placed upon reasoning and problem solving skills gained through study of similarity, areas, volume, circles, and coordinate geometry.

Health*

This Health course will help you develop the knowledge and skills you need to make healthy decisions that allow you to stay active, safe and informed. The lessons and activities are designed to introduce students to important aspects of the main types of health: emotional and mental, social and consumer, and physical.

Physical Science

Physical science is the introductory course to high school science courses and beyond. Students expand on their middle science experiences to prepare them for biology, chemistry, and physics. This course emphasizes scientific thinking as a way of understanding the natural phenomenon that surrounds us.

World History

This course is a survey of world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students learn about the socioeconomic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods and study historical events and cultural achievements of world regions. Using primary and secondary sources, critical thinking and problem solving skills are utilized in completing assignments that establish real-world connections.

* = .5 credit course

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