

Hopewell Academy Academic Program Planning Guide

Hopewell Academy is an international school that prepares students for success at the university level and to be productive citizens in a global community.

The Curriculum

Hopewell Academy meets or exceeds the requirements for the Standard Course of Study for the State of North Carolina. The academic program is organized on a quarter-semester-year system. Hopewell Academy offers a changing selection of electives in the arts and sciences for all students. Traditionally, these offerings have been determined by student interest. Annually, Hopewell Academy operates for 180 days per year divided into four quarters of approximately forty-five days each, on a traditional ten-month calendar, and meeting from mid-August to mid-June.

Requirements

High school graduation requirements include:

- 4 credits of English
- 4 credits of mathematics
- 4 credits of science
- 4 credits of social studies
- 2 credits of the same foreign language for native English speakers
- 1 credit healthful living (physical education and health)
- 5 or more credits of electives

Students who attend Hopewell Academy for four years are expected to take six or more courses per year for four years or a minimum of twenty-four units. Middle school course requirements are comparable to Wake County (North Carolina) Public School requirements.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The list below represents courses currently taught at Hopewell and those that are not currently taught but may be scheduled based on need or interest. Some high school courses are taught in a rotation which allows students to complete graduation requirements in a four-year period but does not allow students access to all courses every year. Although most high school courses are assigned a level, they may be offered cross-grade level to accommodate students' needs and proficiency. Finally, certain courses may be offered in an on-line environment.

~English and Language Arts Courses~

6th Grade Language Arts

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th Grade/Middle School

Description: In 6th grade Language Arts, students read poems, novels, and short stories at or above the 6th grade level. Since reading and writing go hand-in-hand, there is a focus on developing grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and written communication skills. Students will complete assignments such as reading comprehension essays, grammar and vocabulary exercises, their own short essays. Students will connect lessons from time to time with the 6th Grade social studies course. The students may read and analyze novels correlating with the region and time periods they are currently studying and will use their writing skills and study skills while researching specific people or events throughout history. Critical thinking, study skills, and comparative analysis are included as well as the synthesizing of works.

7th Grade Language Arts

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 7th Grade/Middle School

Description: In 7th grade Language Arts, students read poems, novels and short stories at or above the 7th grade level. Since reading and writing go hand in hand, there is a focus on developing grammar, spelling, vocabulary, plus listening and speaking skills. Students will complete assignments such as reading comprehension essays, grammar and vocabulary exercises, and the creation of their own essays. Students will connect lessons from time to time with the 7th Grade social studies course. The students may read and analyze novels correlating with the region and times period they are currently studying and will use their writing and study skills while researching specific people or events throughout history. Critical thinking, study skills, and comparative analysis are included as well as the synthesizing of works.

8th Grade Language Arts

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 8th Grade/Middle School

Description: Students in 8th grade Language Arts read poems, plays, novels, and short stories at or above the 8th grade level. Since reading and writing go hand in hand, students focus on developing writing, listening, and speaking communication skills for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes.

Emphasis is placed on using critical thinking and comparative analysis. Students also continue to refine their study of vocabulary, language, and grammar in order to speak and write fluently and effectively. Synthesizing works will be taught as well as study skills.

English I: World Literature

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th Grade

Graduation Requirement: English

Description: Students in English I read, discuss, analyze and write about both classical and contemporary world literature excluding British authors. They will examine a variety of world literature genres in a cultural context to appreciate the diversity and complexity of world issues and to connect global ideas to their own experiences. Students will continue to explore language for expressive, informational/explanatory, critical, argumentative and literary purposes, although emphasis will be placed on comprehending and synthesizing contexts. In addition to literature study, students will-

- Train in insightful interpretations through writing and speaking.
- Research material to use primarily in clarifying their own explanatory responses to situations and literary-based issues and historical context.
- Critically interpret and evaluate experiences, literature, language, and ideas.
- Develop oral and listening skills as well as study skills.
- Use advanced placement approaches.
- Be proficient in various writing styles.
- Study grammar and vocabulary.

English II: Expanded World Literature

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: English I

Level: 10th Grade

Graduation Requirement: English

Description: Students in English II read, write, analyze, and discuss exemplary texts styles of writing through world literature. They will participate in reviewing the elements of writing from the perspective of potential authors and literary critics. Students will be exposed to different types of literature, including but not limited to short stories, poetry, narrative verse, expository nonfiction, argumentative essays, as well as critically-acclaimed novels from a variety of time periods and places. All students will be expected to-

- Express reflections and reactions to texts while sharpening listening, speaking, and writing skills.
- Practice basics inspired by the curriculum: vocabulary and grammar.
- Interpret and qualify texts.
- Develop critical thinking, oral skills, and study skills.
- Use Advanced Placement approaches.
- Create examples of a variety of different literary forms
- Be proficient in various writing styles.
- Study grammar and vocabulary.

English III: American Literature

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: English II

Level: 11th Grade

Graduation Requirement: English

Description: Students in English III analyze United States literature as it reflects social perspective and historical significance by continuing to use language for expressive, expository, argumentative, and literary purposes. The emphasis in English III is on the critical analysis of texts through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media. In addition, the student will-

- Relate the experiences of literary characters to their own.
- Research the diversity of American experience.
- Examine relationships between past and present history.
- Build increasing sophistication in defining issues and using argument effectively.
- Create products and presentations which maintain standard conventions of written and oral Language.
- Develop critical and comparative thinking plus study skills.
- Use Advanced Placement approaches.
- Study vocabulary and grammar.

English IV: British and European Literature

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: English III

Level: 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: English

Description: Students in English IV will integrate all the language arts, talents and study skills gained throughout their education. The curriculum affirms both these skills and equips the students to be life-long learners. Students continue to explore expressive, expository, argumentative, and literary contexts with a focus on British and European Literature. The emphasis in English IV is on clarity and synthesizing by developing a position of advocacy through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media. Students will orally and in writing-

- Express reflections and reactions to texts.
- Explain principles inspired by the curriculum.
- Interpret and qualify texts.
- Research and address issues of public or personal concern.
- Develop comparative and critical thinking.
- Use Advanced Placement approaches.
- Study vocabulary and grammar.

Advanced Placement English Courses

AP English Literature and Composition

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: English II

Level: 11th or 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: English

Description: Students will read an extensive list of classic and world literary works plus poetry examining them for literary elements and for making insightful observations. Critical and comparative conclusions will also be expressed in well-written essays and responses.

AP English Language and Composition (Per College Board)

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: English II

Level: 11th or 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: English

Description: Students will develop their personal and academic writing styles while polishing grammar, spelling, and vocabulary skills per various literary ways. Writing skills within a complete variety of genres will be developed.

English Electives

The English Essentials

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th Grade

Graduation Requirement: English

Description: Students will learn, review, and practice grammar, spelling, and vocab with the emphasis of its use in daily writing approaches. They will also explore and become proficient in the different types of writing along with an emphasis on formal and informal styles.

Survey of Advanced Placement Novels

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: English II

Level: 11th or 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: Students will immerse themselves in a heavy reading rotation of the most popular Advanced Placement novels per the College Board with an emphasis on comparative discussions and writings as well as on critical thinking and insightful analysis

World Survey of Writers Through the Ages

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th – 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: Students will read and write in relation to a broad array of world writers. Relationships between works and genres: novels, poetry, short stories, etc. will be examined and the context of history and international events will be considered.

Historical Reading Survey

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: English II

Level: 11th and 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: The context and relationship of literary works and history are examined, discussed, and pursued. Works will be synthesized and critical thinking attention paid to history's role of repeating itself and to universal themes.

Writing Across Literary Genres

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: Emphasis is placed on a writing response to various literary genre: poetry, interviews, fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, short stories, etc. A developed style within the framework of more formal writing along with proper spelling, grammar, and vocabulary skills will be reinforced and demanded.

Creative Writing

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: Students will write on a variety of topics of their choosing. In addition, various forms, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, dialogue development, and different lengths of writing will be explored. Literary terms will be studied as a technique to improve literary work. Students will also be taught to solve common writing and story development issues. Students will have the opportunity to share their works with one another.

Poetry

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: Students will study the different forms of poetry of known poets while they write in response within

various poetic formats. Literary terms linked to poetry will be developed and used.

Writing and Speaking Performance

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: Students will develop and cultivate their writing talents along with the oral delivery and performance skills of said literary work. Formats and performance venues may vary per the writer

Book Analysis Through Discussion

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th – 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Elective

Description: Novels read for any academic subjects plus those read outside classes and chosen by the group will be discussed in more depth and with added, insightful content.

~Mathematics Courses~

6th Grade Mathematics

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th Grade

Description: Sixth grade mathematics is an exciting and challenging program. The course will cover concepts in numeration, geometry, measurement, algebra and probability. It will give students a chance to probe the world of mathematics. It will enhance their ability through individual accomplishments and teamwork while allowing the students to learn problem solving skills and techniques. Each unit builds on concepts studied in the elementary curriculum, but broadens the level of knowledge and rigor, and requires more focus on application and problem solving.

7th Grade Mathematics

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 7th Grade

Description: Students continue their study of the concepts introduced in the 6th grade and apply them in problem-solving situations. Concepts include computation with rational numbers, ratio and proportion, factors and multiples, volume and surface area, measures of central tendency, box plots and histograms. The students will create and solve relevant problems using appropriate technology.

8th Grade Mathematics

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 8th Grade

Description: Students use rational numbers, irrational numbers, exponents, powers, roots, ratios, proportions, and percentages. They solve simple linear equations, inequalities, and graph functions; understand the concepts of slope and rate; construct shapes that meet given conditions; apply geometric concepts to solve problems; convert between units of measure; use rates and scale factors to solve problems; collect, organize, represent, and interpret relationships in data sets that have one or more variables; make decisions about how to solve problems; and communicate their ideas. This class is offered as a preparatory class for pre-algebra.

Pre-Algebra

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 7th or 8th Grade

Description: Pre-algebra includes a thorough and exciting exploration of the fundamentals of arithmetic, including fractions, exponents, and decimals. We introduce beginning topics in number theory and algebra, including common divisors and multiples, primes and prime factorizations, basic equations and inequalities, and ratios. Pre-algebra grants additional time and opportunity to learn and master basics that are critical to success in higher-level mathematics. It is a course that allows students to develop confidence in their ability to succeed in algebra.

Algebra I

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra

Level: 8th or 9th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Mathematics

Description: Algebra I is the study of algebraic concepts including operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and application of linear functions and relations, and an introduction to nonlinear functions. Topics covered are translations to and from mathematical symbols, linear equations and inequalities, application of rational numbers, basic operations of polynomials, and radical expressions.

Geometry

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Level: 9th or 10th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Mathematics

Description: Geometry is the study of geometric concepts building upon middle school topics. Students will move from an inductive approach to a deductive method of proof in their study of geometric figures. Two- and three-dimensional reasoning skills will be emphasized and students will broaden their use of the coordinate plane to include transformations of geometric figures.

Algebra II

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Geometry

Level: 10th or 11th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Mathematics

Description: This course continues students' study of advanced algebraic concepts including functions, polynomials, and rational expressions, systems of functions and inequalities, and matrices. Students will be expected to describe and translate among graphic, algebraic, numeric, and verbal representations of relations and use those representations to solve problems. Emphasis is placed on practical applications and modeling.

Pre-Calculus

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Algebra II

Level: 11th or 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Mathematics

Description: Pre-Calculus provides students an honors-level study of trigonometry, advanced functions, analytic geometry, and data analysis in preparation for calculus. Applications and modeling are included throughout the course of study. Appropriate technology, from manipulatives to calculators and application software, is used regularly for instruction and assessment.

Calculus

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus

Level: 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Mathematics

Description: The Calculus course develops students' understanding of core calculus concepts (functions, graphs, limits, derivatives and integrals) and provides experience with its methods and applications. The course encourages the geometric, numerical, analytical, and verbal expression of concepts, results, and problems. Appropriate technology including manipulatives, calculators, the Internet, and application software are used for instruction and assessment.

Advanced Placement Mathematics Courses

AP Calculus AB

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Four years of secondary mathematics are recommended

Level: 11th or 12th Grade

Description: AP Calculus AB is roughly equivalent to a first semester college calculus course devoted to topics in differential and integral calculus. The AP course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students will learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

~Science Courses~

Life Science

Prerequisites: None

Level: Middle School

Description: Life science explores the development, classification, and interaction between organisms and ecosystems. This course includes units on cells, the structure and functions of organs, classification and diversity, genetics and heredity, organisms and their environments, human health and reproduction, and changes over time. Students will participate in labs that facilitate a comprehensive understanding of microorganisms, plants, fungi, and classification of organisms.

Earth Science

Prerequisites: None

Level: Middle School

Description: The earth science is designed to encourage students to interpret and understand the world around them. To do so, students will investigate and study the interactions between the four major earth's spheres, including the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere to explain the earth's formation, processes, history, landscapes, how and why the earth changes over time. The course will also explore how current actions of man interact and affect the earth's spheres leading to local and global changes. Topics to be addressed include, but are not limited to, the scientific method, mapping the earth's surface, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, geologic time, and meteorology. Students will participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, web based investigations, class discussions, projects, and research.

Physical Science

Prerequisites: None

Level: Middle School

Description: Physical science is a hands-on, inquiry-based class that provides students the opportunity to learn about lab safety, the use of reference materials and the application of process skills. Students gain an understanding of the properties of matter, atomic theory, periodic law, energy, heat energy, forces and motion, machines and work, sound, electromagnetic waves, static electricity, electrical circuits, and magnetism.

Earth/Environmental Science

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Science

Description: The earth/environmental science curriculum focuses on the function of earth's systems. Emphasis is placed on matter, energy, plate tectonics, origin and evolution of the earth and solar system, environmental awareness, stewardship, materials availability, and the cycles that circulate energy and materials through the earth system. Labs are focused on logical thinking and design of technological solutions. Research projects challenge students to gather and interpret multiple studies and viewpoints. Field trips to environmental

research and renewable energy facilities provide real world examples of the application of earth science in the lives of the students.

Biology with Laboratory

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Science

Description: Biology is a survey course required by North Carolina and colleges to teach high school students the importance of life on earth. Biological concepts and processes are emphasized in lecture, hands-on activities, laboratory experiences and field trips. Cell structure, chemistry, physiology, ecosystems, and genetics are taught in the first semester. Second semester encompasses diversity, evolutionary relationships, plants, and fungi.

Chemistry

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Level: 11th or 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Science

Description: This course is designed to introduce students to topics in chemistry. Major topics covered are properties of matter, chemical and physical changes, atomic structure, and chemical reactions. Students will read relevant literature frequently to supplement in-class instruction and experimentation. Science literacy will be emphasized through writing assignments and research projects. This integrated course will explore high interest topics during all units that will create enthusiasm for science by creating a direct relationship between science education and the daily life of high school students.

Physics

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 11th or 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Science

Description: This course is designed to introduce students to topics in physics. The course will emphasize physical and chemical properties of matter, motion, force, energy, machines, and optics. Students will frequently design experiments and participate in projects that supplement the physics topics being addressed in class. Science literacy will be emphasized through writing assignments and research projects. This integrated course will explore high interest topics during all units that will create enthusiasm for science by creating a direct relationship between science education and the daily life of high school students. Through investigations, students will learn about themselves, their community, and the world around them.

Forensics with Laboratory

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Science

Description: This course is designed for students to learn about how forensic science supports the criminal justice system. Students will focus on the recognition, collection, and analysis of various types of evidence including DNA, ballistics, hair, fiber, powders, blood spatter along with typing and trace evidence. Frequent labs are integrated into the program to achieve this. Case studies will be conducted on famous trials in American history, and students will be required to read relevant scientific literature to accompany class topics.

Advanced Placement Science Courses

AP Environmental Science

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Students should have completed one year of a life science and one year of a physical science. Science.

Level: 11th - 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Science

Description: The AP environmental science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one semester, introductory college in environmental science. The goal of the AP environmental science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world; to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.

AP Biology

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Students should have successfully completed high school courses in biology and chemistry.

Level: 11th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Science

Description: The AP biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a one semester, introductory college course in biology. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes of energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

~Social Studies Courses~

6th Grade/Middle School World Cultures

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th Grade/Middle School

Description: Students will explore a variety of civilizations within the framework of a set of cultural universals that are common to all human societies. The civilizations explored range from ancient Egypt and ancient Mesoamerica to the Middle East, Japan, and China. By examining cultural practices related to basic needs, economics, communications, social structures, government, religious beliefs, and the arts, students develop a shared vocabulary for comparing and contrasting similarities and differences across cultures. Students also gain an appreciation for contributions of ancient peoples to our modern lives. Students will learn map skills and analyze the impact of environmental geography on political, social, and cultural systems. As students move through the world cultures curriculum, they build skills in the content area, reading, writing, research, and small-group presentation.

7th Grade/Middle School Ancient World Civilizations

Prerequisites: None

Level: 7th Grade/Middle School

Description: In world history, students continue to explore civilizations across the world at several different representative time periods: ancient Rome, the year 1000, the age of European and Asian travelers and explorers, Reformation and Revolution, pre-colonial Africa and India, and Industrial Revolutions. The course is designed to give students the opportunity to see that while civilizations change throughout history, they also maintain key characteristics. As students move through the world history curriculum, they build upon and expand the skills of research, writing, presenting, and working in a collaborative setting. Throughout the year, students closely examine a variety of primary source documents including maps, art, and architecture. These resources not only create rich opportunities for students to hone their analytical skills, but also help them relate in a more personal way to events of the past.

8th Grade/Middle School United States History

Prerequisites: None

Level: 8th Grade/Middle School

Description: Students will use skills of historical and geographical analysis to explore the early history of the United States and understand ideas and events that strengthened the Union. Students will continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography as they study United States history, with special interest to North Carolina history done in chronological sequence and learn about change and continuity in our history. Students also will study documents and speeches that laid the foundation of American ideals and institutions and will examine the everyday life of people at different times in the country's history with primary and secondary sources.

United States History

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 11th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: This course emphasizes the political, social, economic, cultural, and geographical evolution of the United States from discovery to modern day. Students will study the growth of the United States and its emergence as a world leader. Students will contribute to class discussions, independent research and thought-provoking projects. With an emphasis on analytical reading, writing, and thinking, this course requires students to critically assess the subject matter.

World History: Ancient Civilizations and Religion

Credit: ½ Unit Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: This course explores the ancient civilizations of Egypt, India, China, Rome, and Greece. Students will learn about the rise and fall of these civilizations along with their contributions to the developments of society, government, politics, economy, cultural diffusion, and religion. This course will also focus on the development of research, analytical writing, and presentation and collaborative skills which will be reinforced in other courses at Hopewell Academy.

World History Medieval and the Dawn of the Renaissance of Western Europe, China, and Japan

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: This course will investigate the history of Europe and the East from the breakup of the Roman Empire to the dawn of the Renaissance. It will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development. Topics covered in the course will be the end of the ancient world; the rise of Christianity, the era of migrations, the Germanic successor kingdoms, the Catholic Church in the West, the Vikings, feudalism, Holy Roman Empire versus the papacy, the rise of Islam and its civilization, the Crusades, the Medieval kingdoms. Students will look at how these civilizations arose and interacted in both peace and war.

Modern World History: World War II and the Cold War

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 10th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: World War II is explored from a global perspective. Students will examine three fronts: The war in Europe, the war in the Pacific, and the war in North Africa. Students will grapple with moral dilemmas such as atomic weaponry, the treatment of prisoners of war, and the impact of total war on civilians. This is social and cultural history of a conflict that examines the events and aftermath of World War II. Students will look at the way WWII forever transformed the economic, political, and social existence of the world.

Modern World History: Contemporary Issues

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 10th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: This course will introduce students to issues that influence life in a global and multicultural society. Current world issues, including politics, economic, cultural, and social problems will be explored. An emphasis will be on the historical origins of current global situations. Critical thinking skills, research, class discussions, presentations, along with a variety of technologies will be incorporated into the curriculum. Topics could include, foreign relations, religious wars, climate change, government regulations, citizenship, terrorism, weapons, and/or space exploration and technology.

Government in the United States

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: This course addresses the structure and implementation of the United States government. Students will learn about the three branches, constitutional law, political parties, interest groups, citizenship, civil rights and liberties, and mass media. Extensive reading and writing will prepare students for an exchange of ideas and discussions in which students will take on roles of policymakers, political figures, and judges. Students are also expected to follow current events.

Introduction to Economics

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: The general objective of a high school economics course is for students to master fundamental economic concepts, appreciate how the principal concepts of economics relate to each other and understand the structure of economic systems. Students will use economic concepts in a reasoned, careful manner in dealing with personal, community, national, and global economic issues. They will use measurement concepts and methods such as tables, charts, graphs, ratios, percentages, and index numbers to understand and interpret relevant data.

Psychology

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Social Studies

Description: Students will learn about the different aspects of psychology and the behavioral sciences. As a survey course, students will be exposed to the theoretical foundations of psychological study and treatment, including the work of psychologists such as Pavlov, Freud, Jung, Skinner, Maslow, Kafka, and many others.

By the end of this course, students will have a working understanding of the basics of behavioral, structural, analytic, and functional psychology.

Advanced Placement Social Studies Courses

AP U. S. History

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 11th or 12th Grades

Description: The AP U.S. history course focuses on the development of historical thinking skills (chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative) plus the development of students' abilities to think conceptually about U.S. history from approximately 1491 to the present. Seven themes of equal importance (American and national identity, migration and settlement, politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world, geography and the environment, and culture and society) provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places.

~Foreign Language Courses~

Spanish A

Prerequisites: None

Level: 7th Grade

Description: This course is an introduction to the study of the target language and its culture. Students perform the most basic functions of the language and become familiar with some elements of its culture. The emphasis is placed on development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a given context, and extending outside of the classroom setting when possible.

Spanish B

Prerequisites: Spanish A

Level: 8th Grade

Description: This course is an introduction to the study of the target language and its culture. Students perform the most basic functions of the language and become familiar with some elements of its culture. The emphasis is placed on development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a given context, and extending outside of the classroom setting when possible.

Spanish I

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: Beginning students study language that can be used in everyday conversation. The course is taught using a communicative approach. Students begin to communicate in the target language through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive reading and listening. Students communicate about such topics as greetings, telling time, school subjects, foods, family and friends, and leisure activities. This class is conducted in Spanish as much as possible and an emphasis is placed on becoming a competent communicator. Students expand their understanding of culture by studying about the countries of the Hispanic world. presentations and skits, reading of short stories, and the writing of original stories in efforts to increase their knowledge and fluency in Spanish. Cultural topics focus on the customs and traditions of the people of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish II

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: This class is conducted in Spanish. Students will build on the basics learned in Spanish I. The course is taught using a communicative approach. Students develop their communication in the target through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive reading and listening. Students continue to learn about Hispanic countries through written materials, movies, speakers, group projects, computer activities, music, and games. Students will participate actively and use the language in class.

Spanish III

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Spanish II or permission of instructor

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: The class is conducted in Spanish. Students deepen their communication in the target language through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive reading and listening. In addition to using the text, students use technology, watch films in the target language, give oral presentations and skits, read short stories, and write original stories in efforts to increase their knowledge and fluency in Spanish. Cultural topics focus on the customs and traditions of the people of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish IV

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Spanish III or permission of instructor

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: This class is conducted in Spanish. Students communicate in the target language through interpersonal speaking and writing, presentational speaking and writing, and interpretive reading and listening to explore cultural themes. In addition to using the text, students use technology, watch films, in the target language, give oral presentations and skits, read short stories, and write original stories in efforts to increase their knowledge and fluency in Spanish. Cultural topics focus on the customs and traditions of the people of the Spanish-speaking world.

French I

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: Students will learn the basics of the French language: days of the week, months, numbers, colors and basic greetings. We will also have discussions about French culture noting the similarities and differences between American and French cultures. The emphasis is placed on development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a given context extending outside of the classroom setting when possible.

French II

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: French I

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: This course provides students with the opportunities to continue the development of their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students participate in simple conversational situations by combining and recombining learned elements of the language orally and in writing. They can satisfy basic survival needs and interact on everyday issues in the present and past time, in and out of the classroom setting.

French III

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: French II

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: This course provides students with additional opportunities to expand their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students satisfy limited communication and social interaction demands as well as initiate and maintain face-to-face contact communication. They read and interpret authentic materials, narrate and describe in sentences, and write short cohesive passages in present, past, and future tenses.

Latin I

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: Students will learn the basics of the Latin language: days of the week, months, numbers, colors and basic greetings. We will also have discussions about Roman culture, noting the similarities and differences between American and Roman cultures. The emphasis is placed on development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing within a given context and is focused on the conjugations and correct use of tenses.

Latin II

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Latin I

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: This course continues the study of the Latin language and Greco-Roman culture. Students learn increasingly complex functions of the language, become familiar with an increasing number of elements of the culture, and increase their understanding of English. Emphasis is placed on the development of skills in reading and comprehension of adapted Latin texts. Integration of other disciplines, with special emphasis on English Language Arts, is ongoing throughout the course.

Exploring Chinese Culture and Language

Prerequisites: None

Level: 7th – 8th Grade

Description: This course provides students the opportunity to learn the basics of the Chinese language plus the culture and traditions of the country. This early exposure to Chinese may help middle school students determine if they want to pursue further study in high school.

Chinese I

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: Chinese I introduces the student to the basics of the language, emphasizing pronunciation, conversational skills, and grammar while developing reading and writing skills. Awareness and appreciation for cultural differences are introduced and integrated with language study.

Chinese II

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: Chinese I

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: Chinese II continues to develop the skills learned in Chinese I while expanding vocabulary, along with the introduction to the Chinese culture. Conversational skills and grammar will continue to be the focus.

Advanced Placement Foreign Language Courses

AP Spanish Language and Culture

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisite: Preferred completion of Spanish III and/or permission of instructor

Level: 11th and 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: The AP Spanish language and culture course provides students with regular opportunities to use Spanish in all three communicative modes: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. In addition to developing rich vocabulary, idiomatic expression, and sophisticated language skills, students will learn about the cultural products, practices, and perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world by interacting with all the following authentic resource materials: online print articles, graphs, charts, maps, audio and audiovisual, and traditional print resources that include literature, essays, magazine and newspaper articles, movies, and native speakers outside of the classroom.

AP Spanish Literature and Culture

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisite: Preferred completion of Spanish III and AP Spanish Language and/or permission of instructor

Level: 11th and 12th Grade

Graduation Requirement: Foreign Language

Description: The AP Spanish literature and culture course is designed to introduce students to the formal study of a representative body of literature written in Spanish from Spain, Latin America, and the United States from medieval times through the twentieth century. The course provides students with ongoing and varied opportunities to develop proficiency in Spanish across a full range of skills with emphasis on critical reading and analytical writing. It also encourages students to reflect on the many voices and cultures included in a rich and diverse body of literature written in Spanish.

~Healthful Living Courses~

Middle School Healthful Living

Prerequisites: None

Level: Middle School

Description- Healthful living is a yearly requirement for middle school students. This course begins their exploration of whole-body wellness and its connection to physical activity. Students will learn about decision-making and goal setting, focus upon risk reduction behaviors to protect self and others from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, evaluate health information and products, and recognize the benefits of regular activity and good nutrition to enhance quality of life, among other items.

Health Education Subjects: mental/emotional health, healthy and safe relationships, nutrition and physical activity, substance abuse prevention, and reproductive health and safety.

Physical Education Activities: volleyball, soccer, ping-pong, football, basketball, fitness testing, wiffleball, fitness run/walk.

High School Healthful Living

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th – 12th Grade

Description: Healthful living is a required course for student to graduate from high school. This course promotes behaviors that contribute to a healthful lifestyle and improved quality of life for all students. The healthy living curriculum supports and reinforces the goals and objectives of its two major components, health and physical education.

Health Education Subjects: mental/emotional health, healthy and safe relationships, nutrition and physical activity, substance abuse prevention, and reproductive health and safety.

Physical Education Activities: volleyball, soccer, ping-pong, football, basketball, fitness testing, wiffleball, fitness run/walk.

~English As a Second Language Courses~

Students whose home language is not English may be enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. The goal of the ESL classroom is to help students improve English proficiency so that they can participate fully and successfully in all academic areas.

English as a Second Language I

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 12th Grade

Description: This course introduces students to basic structures and vocabulary of the English language through the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn strategies to advance their reading, listening, and pronunciation skills. They expand oral comprehensibility and write complete sentences, a standard paragraph, and short content-based essays. They utilize level-appropriate conventions of grammar and punctuation with a minimum of errors.

English as a Second Language II

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 12th Grade

Description: This course is an extension of the skills learned previously as a “Basic User.” It focuses on syntax, continued vocabulary development, reading, listening comprehension, speaking and pronunciation skills, and writing multiple-paragraph compositions that demonstrate organization of ideas, use of a thesis statement, and supportive elements. Intensive grammar instruction that supports academic writing skills is emphasized. This course contributes to skills needed in mainstream classes.

English as a Second Language III

Credit: 1 Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 12th Grade

Description: In this course, advanced English language learners discover how to use and extend their vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills more consciously and effectively for academic purposes. This course is like a mainstream English course in that students analyze different types of literature and write multi-draft essays of various forms. Students participate in whole-class and small-group academic discussions.

~Elective Courses~

Fitness I

Credit: ½ Unit for High School Students

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 8th Grade, 9th – 12th Grade

Description: Fitness I is an introductory motivational course in which the student, through active participation, will develop knowledge and skills of aerobic activities and weight/resistance training.

Fitness II

Credit: ½ Unit for High School Students

Prerequisites: Fitness I

Level: 6th – 8th Grade, 9th – 12th Grade

Description: Fitness II is used to build upon the content and foundation laid in Fitness I. This course, as with Fitness I, is rooted in the student's active participation and demonstration of knowledge regarding higher level fitness ideas. The class will cover flexibility, aerobic and anaerobic conditioning, plyometric training, weight/resistance training, agility, and speed training.

Public Speaking

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: Students will build strong communication skills and gain self-confidence as they learn to present ideas to the public. Students aim to become careful listeners and to prepare, organize, and present ideas. Students will learn how to present themselves and organize their ideas to find their own voices. Classroom experience will include formal and informal talks and speeches. Students will learn to effectively express themselves through these practices.

Journalism

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: The journalism elective is focused on the learning and practice of proper and ethical writing in the style of newspapers, bloggers, or columnists. Students will participate in the process of documenting, recording,

and reporting the details of events they witness as well as review and critique journalistic writing from a variety of sources. This course may be combined with “Yearbook” to create a year-long course.

Yearbook

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: Students in the yearbook elective will be responsible for taking pictures around the school throughout the school year. Students will edit these pictures utilizing a photo editor to adjust scale, size, resolution, and detail; then will be responsible for uploading the photos to the yearbook editor website into appropriate categories. These students will participate in drafting, editing, and revising pages and ultimately publishing the school's yearbook. This course may be combined with “Journalism” to create a year-long course.

Intro to Art

Prerequisite: None

Level: Middle School

Description: This class introduces students to the elements of art through a variety of media that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and weaving. Application of these elements to the students' own original art work is the major emphasis while being introduced to art history and critical analysis of master artists.

Art II

Prerequisite: None

Level: Grades 7 -8

Description: Students will engage in a deeper study of the elements and principles of art. Two and three-dimensional techniques will be taught using a variety of media. Students explore various cultures and their art history. Students will also learn to think and write critically about master works of art.

Visual Arts I

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: This is the foundation course in the visual arts. Students are introduced to drawing, painting and sculpture with the emphasis on the elements and principles of art and design. Students engage in studio production, explore themes in art history, and are challenged with basic art criticism and aesthetic valuing.

Visual Arts II

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: Grade of B- or higher in Visual Arts I or instructor approval

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: This is an intermediate course for the study of visual arts media through illustration techniques in drawing, painting, graphic design and three-dimensional constructions. It is a combined studio and continued world art history course. Students will increase proficiency of expression in various media and of understanding of historical themes and artistic movements.

Science Olympiad

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: Students in this elective will participate in the regional Science Olympiad competition which occurs in the spring. The Science Olympiad competition consists of an ever-changing line-up of STEM events which expose students to scientific disciplines such as chemistry, engineering, physics, astronomy, forensics, technical writing and many more. Participation in at least two events at the regional competition is mandatory.

Technology and Computer Science

Prerequisites: None

Level: 6th – 8th Grade

Description: Students will learn the underlying concepts and fundamentals of computer science including the basics of computer hardware. They will be introduced to software development, programming/coding, and cyber security. Students will become proficient in their use of applicable Microsoft Office programs, such as Word and PowerPoint.

Computer Science Principles

Credit: 1 unit

Prerequisite: None

Level: 9th- 12th Grade

Description: This course is an introduction to the principles of computer science, including the history, social implications, and future of computing plus how computing empowers discovery and progress in other fields. The relevance of computing to the student and society will be emphasized. Students will learn the basics of programming a computer.

Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles

Credit: 1 unit

Prerequisite: Algebra

Level: 10th - 12th Grade

Description: This course is designed to be equivalent to a first semester, introductory college computing course. Students will develop computational thinking vital for success across all disciplines, such as using computational tools to analyze and study data, working with large data sets to analyze and visualize plus draw conclusions from trends. The course is unique in its focus on fostering student creativity. Students are encouraged to apply creative processes when developing computational artifacts, to think creatively while using computer software and other technology, and to explore questions that interest them. They will develop effective communication and collaboration skills, working individually and with a partner or teammates to solve problems while discussing and writing about the importance of these problems and their impacts on their community, society, and the world.

Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science

Credit: 1 unit

Prerequisite: Algebra

Level: 10th - 12th Grade

Description: AP computer science is equivalent to a first semester college level course in computer science. Students will learn fundamental topics including problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, plus the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using Java language.

Fundamental Chess

Credit: ½ Unit

Prerequisites: None

Level: 9th – 12th Grade

Description: Fundamental chess provides beginning students of chess a strong foundation in the rules and strategies needed to play the game of chess. The class is designed for students with little to no experience with chess. The course begins with a brief history of the game of chess. The students are introduced to the board and pieces and learn how each piece moves through interactive lessons, quizzes, videos, and games. The course includes general tactics and strategies to improve the students' game. In addition to learning the fundamentals of chess, this class will promote the growth and development of skills in problem solving, concentration, logic, decision making, planning, and self-discipline.