Apex Learning Virtual School

Course Catalog 2018-2019

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Welcome from Our Head of School

At Apex Learning® Virtual School, we offer our students a new way to prepare for college, work, and life.

The foundation of our educational program is built on Virtual expectations for academic rigor both in our online curriculum and in student interactions with experienced teachers. We've designed our online courses to fully engage students in their learning and school community.

Very important to us is building the important skills and personal qualities that today's students need for success. As we teach and mentor, we always have in mind the goal to develop:

- Confident and responsible scholars
- Independent thinkers
- Creative problem solvers
- Effective communicators and collaborators
- Resilient and adaptive people
- Media literate citizens

Our expert faculty, counselors, and administrators look forward to helping students achieve academically and personally.
We are here to support each student every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Erica Carlson
Director of School
Apex Learning Virtual School

An exceptional, individualized college preparatory education

Apex Learning® Virtual School offers the academic excellence of the fines private schools combined with all the learning advantages of innovative online education—interacting one-to-one with Virtually experienced teachers, collaborating with other engaged students, and enjoying the flexibility of schedule and pace.

Academic excellence

Our accredited private school provides a challenging 9th- to 12th-grade curriculum, including a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP)* courses.

Expert teachers

Apex Learning VS teachers have an average of 20 years of teaching experience and share their passion for their subject with each student.

Respect for each student's originality

Teachers and counselors forge strong relationships with students, fostering each student's unique academic and personal development.

Engaging, contemporary online learning

Individualized multimedia courses, schedules, and pacing maximize student learning potential and online discussions, clubs, and activities deepen student engagement and provide a sense of belonging to a school community.

To learn more, visit **www.apexlearningvs.com.**

Accreditation

Apex Learning Virtual School is Accredited by AdvancED. Accreditation by this respected organization is independent validation that we deliver on our high academic standards and maintain a commitment to continuous improvement. Our courses are approved by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and our Advanced Placement (AP)* courses are approved by the College Board.

*Advanced Placement and AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.

Diploma Requirements

Apex Learning® Virtual School is an online college preparatory school accredited by AdvancED, as a full-time Virtual School.

Personalized Path to Graduation

Students attending ALVS work with experienced guidance counselors to chart a personalized path of courses and schedules to meet their individual academic goals.

To accommodate a wide diversity of student needs, we offer multiple learning tracks. Students can choose from two educational pathways: General or College Prep. To earn a diploma, students must complete a total of 20-22 credits.

Students in 12th grade are required to complete their entire senior year (full-time at a minimum of 6 credits) with Apex Learning VS to earn a diploma. Counselors will closely monitor each student's progress to ensure graduation requirements are met.

English

Required Courses

English 9 H

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

English 9 provides an introduction to informational and literary genres and lays a foundation of critical reading and analytical writing skills. Through texts that range from essays, speeches, articles and historical documents to a novel, a play, poetry and short stories, students analyze the use of elements of literature and nonfiction. As they develop their writing skills and respond to claims, students learn to formulate arguments and use textual evidence to support their position. To hone their listening and speaking skills, students engage with a variety of media types through which they analyze and synthesize information, discuss material, create presentations, and share their work.

English 10 H

Prerequisite: English I **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

English 10 builds upon students' foundation of critical reading and analytical writing skills. Through texts that range from investigative journalism, essays, articles and historical documents to a novel, drama, poetry and short stories, students analyze the use of elements of literature and nonfiction. As they develop their writing skills and respond to claims, students learn to refine arguments and organize evidence to support their position. To hone their listening and speaking skills, students engage with a variety of media types through which they analyze and synthesize information, discuss material, create presentations, and share their work.

English 11 H

Prerequisite: English II **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

In the English 11 course, students examine the belief systems, events, and literature that have shaped the United States. They begin by studying the language of independence and the system of government developed by Thomas Jefferson and other enlightened thinkers. Next, they explore how the Romantics and Transcendentalists emphasized the power and responsibility of the individual in both supporting and questioning the government. Students consider whether the American Dream is still achievable and examine the Modernists' disillusionment with the idea that America is a "land of opportunity."

Reading the words of Frederick Douglass and the text of the Civil Rights Act, students look carefully at the experience of African Americans and their struggle to achieve equal rights. Students explore how individuals cope with the influence of war and cultural tensions while trying to build and secure their own personal identity. Finally, students examine how technology is affecting our contemporary experience of freedom: Will we eventually change our beliefs about what it means to be an independent human being?

In this course, students analyze a wide range of literature, both fiction and nonfiction. They build writing skills by composing analytical essays, persuasive essays, personal narratives, and research papers. In order to develop speaking and listening skills, students participate in discussions and give speeches. Overall, students gain an understanding of the way American literature represents the array of voices contributing to our multicultural identity.

English 12 H

Prerequisite: English II **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

English 12 asks students to delve into the mingled history of British and World literature. It asks students to imagine: Face to face with a human being unlike any you've seen before, do you feel fear, awe, or curiosity? Do you look for what you can give, what you can take, or what you can share? Do you find unfamiliar people and customs magical, mysterious, or monstrous? Students explore how humans interact with and influence each other — historically, socially, and otherwise — and examine the complexities of cultural identity in our global and fast-changing world.

Elective Courses

Creative Writing

Prerequisite: English I **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Creative Writing is an English elective course that focuses on the exploration of short fiction and poetry, culminating in a written portfolio that includes one revised short story and three to five polished poems. Students draft, revise, and polish fiction and poetry through writing exercises, developing familiarity with literary terms and facility with the writing process as they study elements of creative writing.

Elements of fiction writing explored in this course include attention to specific detail, observation, character development, setting, plot, and point of view. In the poetry units, students learn about the use of sensory details and imagery, figurative language, and sound devices including rhyme, rhythm, and alliteration. They also explore poetic forms ranging from found poems and slam poetry to traditional sonnets and villanelles.

In addition to applying literary craft elements in guided creative writing exercises, students engage in critical reading activities designed to emphasize the writing craft of a diverse group of authors. Students study short stories by authors such as Bharati Mukherjee and Edgar Allan Poe, learning how to create believable characters and develop setting and plot. Likewise, students read poetry by canonical greats such as W. B. Yeats and Emily Dickinson, as well as contemporary writers such as Pablo Neruda, Sherman Alexie, and Alice Notley. Studying the writing techniques of a range of authors provides students with models and inspiration as they develop their own voices and refine their understanding of the literary craft.

*H - Honors track is available for this course.

Elective Courses (Continued)

Media Literacy

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Media Literacy teaches students how to build the critical thinking, writing, and reading skills required in a media-rich and increasingly technocentric world. In a world saturated with media messages, digital environments, and social networking, concepts of literacy must expand to include all forms of media. Today's students need to be able to read, comprehend, analyze, and respond to nontraditional media with the same skill level they engage with traditional print sources.

A major topic in Media Literacy is nontraditional media reading skills, including how to approach, analyze, and respond to advertisements, blogs, websites, social media, news media, and wikis. Students also engage in a variety of writing activities in nontraditional media genres, such as blogging and podcast scripting. Students consider their own positions as consumers of media and explore ways to use nontraditional media to become more active and thoughtful citizens. Students learn how to ask critical questions about the intended audience and underlying purpose of media messages, and study factors which can contribute to bias and affect credibility.

Reading Skills and Strategies

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Reading Skills and Strategies is a course is designed to help the struggling reader develop mastery in the areas of reading comprehension, vocabulary building, study skills, and media literacy, which are the course's primary content strands. Using these strands, the course guides the student through the skills necessary to be successful in the academic world and beyond. The reading comprehension strand focuses on introducing the student to the varied purposes of reading (e.g., for entertainment, for information, to complete a task, or to analyze). In the vocabulary strand, the student learns specific strategies for understanding and remembering new vocabulary. In the study skills strand, the student learns effective study and test-taking strategies. In the media literacy strand, the student learns to recognize and evaluate persuasive techniques, purposes, design choices, and effects of media. The course encourages personal enjoyment in reading with 10 interviews featuring the book choices and reading adventures of students and members of the community.

Writing Skills and Strategies

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Writing Skills and Strategies develops key language arts skills necessary for high school graduation and success on high stakes exams through a semester of interactive instruction and guided practice in composition fundamentals. The course is divided into ten mini-units of study. The first two are designed to build early success and confidence, orienting students to the writing process and to sentence and paragraph essentials through a series of low-stress, high-interest hook activities. In subsequent units, students review, practice, compose and submit one piece of writing. Four key learning strands are integrated throughout: composition practice, grammar skill building, diction and style awareness, and media and technology exploration. Guided studies emphasize the structure of essential forms of writing encountered in school, in life, and in the work place. Practice in these forms is scaffolded to accommodate learners at different skill levels.

Advanced Placement (AP*) Courses

AP English Language and Composition

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

AP® English Language and Composition invites students to investigate rhetoric and its impact on culture through analysis of notable fiction and nonfiction texts, from pamphlets to speeches to personal essays. The equivalent of an introductory college-level survey class, this course prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in communications, creative writing, journalism, literature, and composition. Students explore a variety of textual forms, styles, and genres. By examining all texts through a rhetorical lens, students become skilled readers and analytical thinkers. Focusing specifically on language, purpose, and audience gives them a broad view of the effect of text and its cultural role. Students write expository and narrative texts to hone the effectiveness of their own use of language, and they develop varied, informed arguments through research. Throughout the course, students are evaluated with assessments specifically designed to prepare them for the content, form, and depth of the AP Exam. This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

AP English Literature and Composition

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition immerses students in novels, plays, poems, and short stories from various periods. Students will read and write daily, using a variety of multimedia and interactive activities, interpretive writing assignments, and class discussions to assess and improve their skills and knowledge. The course places special emphasis on reading comprehension, structural and critical analysis of written works, literary terms, and recognizing and understanding literary devices. The equivalent of an introductory college-level survey class, this course prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in creative writing, communications, journalism, literature, and composition.

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Mathematics

Required Courses

Algebra I [H]

Prerequisite: Introductory or Pre-Algebra
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Algebra I builds students' command of linear, quadratic, and exponential relationships. Students learn through discovery and application, developing the skills they need to break down complex challenges and demonstrate their knowledge in new situations. Course topics include problem-solving with basic equations and formulas; measurement; an introduction to functions and problem solving; linear equations and systems of linear equations; exponents and exponential functions; sequences and functions; descriptive statistics; polynomials and factoring; quadratic equations and functions; and function transformations and inverses.

This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Algebra II [H]

Prerequisite: Algebra I **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Algebra II introduces students to advanced functions, with a focus on developing a strong conceptual grasp of the expressions that define them. Students learn through discovery and application, developing the skills they need to break down complex challenges and demonstrate their knowledge in new situations. Course topics include quadratic equations; polynomial functions; rational expressions and equations; radical expressions and equations; exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometric identities and functions; modeling with functions; probability and inferential statistics; probability distributions; and sample distributions and confidence intervals.

This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Geometry [H]

Prerequisite: Algebra I or equivalent
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Geometry builds upon students' command of geometric relationships and formulating mathematical arguments. Students learn through discovery and application, developing the skills they need to break down complex challenges and demonstrate their knowledge in new situations. Course topics include reasoning, proof, and the creation of sound mathematical arguments; points, lines, and angles; triangles and trigonometry; quadrilaterals and other polygons; circles; congruence, similarity, transformations, and constructions; coordinate geometry; three-dimensional solids; and applications of probability.

This course is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Elective Courses

Mathematics of Personal Finance

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry or their equivalents
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Mathematics of Personal Finance focuses on real-world financial literacy, personal finance, and business subjects. Students apply what they learned in Algebra I and Geometry to topics including personal income, taxes, checking and savings accounts, credit, loans and payments, car leasing and purchasing, home mortgages, stocks, insurance, and retirement planning.

Precalculus [H]

Prerequisites: Successful completion of two years of Algebra and one year of Geometry
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Precalculus is a course that combines reviews of algebra, geometry, and functions into a preparatory course for calculus. The course focuses on the mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. The first semester includes linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, polynomial, and rational functions; systems of equations; and conic sections. The second semester covers trigonometric ratios and functions; inverse trigonometric functions; applications of trigonometry, including vectors and laws of cosine and sine; polar functions and notation; and arithmetic of complex numbers.

Probability and Statistics

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Probability and Statistics provides a curriculum focused on understanding key data analysis and probabilistic concepts, calculations, and relevance to real-world applications. Through a "Discovery-Confirmation-Practice"-based exploration of each concept, students are challenged to work toward mastery of computational skills, deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications.

This course covers topics such as types of data; common methods used to collect data; and various representations of data, including histograms, bar graphs, box plots, and scatterplots. Students learn to work with data by analyzing and employing methods of prediction, specifically involving samples and populations, distributions, summary statistics, regression analysis, transformations, simulations, and inference. Ideas involving probability — including sample space, empirical and theoretical probability, expected value, and independent and compound events — are covered as students explore the relationship between probability and data analysis. The connection between geometry and probability is explored through basic geometric probability.

*H - Honors track is available for this course.

Mathematics

Advanced Placement (AP)* Courses

AP Calculus AB

Prerequisites: Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

In Advanced Placement Calculus AB, students learn to understand change geometrically and visually (by studying graphs of curves), analytically (by studying and working with mathematical formulas), numerically (by seeing patterns in sets of numbers), and verbally. Instead of simply getting the right answer, students learn to evaluate the soundness of proposed solutions and to apply mathematical reasoning to real-world models. Calculus helps scientists, engineers, and financial analysts understand the complex relationships behind real-world phenomena. The equivalent of an introductory college-level calculus course, AP Calculus AB prepares students for the AP exam and for further studies in science, engineering, and mathematics.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

AP Statistics

Prerequisites: Algebra II **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Advanced Placement Statistics gives students hands-on experience collecting, analyzing, graphing, and interpreting real-world data. They will learn to effectively design and analyze research studies by reviewing and evaluating real research examples taken from daily life. The next time they hear the results from a poll or study, they will know whether the results are valid. As the art of drawing conclusions from imperfect data and the science of real-world uncertainties, statistics plays an important role in many fields. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP Statistics prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in science, sociology, medicine, engineering, political science, geography, and business.

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Science

Required Courses

Physical Science [H]

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Physical Science offers a focused curriculum designed around the understanding of critical physical science concepts, including the nature and structure of matter, the characteristics of energy, and the mastery of critical scientific skills. Topics include an introduction to kinematics, including gravity and two-dimensional motion; force; momentum; waves; electricity; atoms; the periodic table of elements; molecular bonding; chemical reactivity; gases; and an introduction to nuclear energy.

Biology [H]

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Biology focuses on the mastery of basic biological concepts and models while building scientific inquiry skills and exploring the connections between living things and their environment.

The course begins with an introduction to the nature of science and biology, including the major themes of structure and function, matter and energy flow, systems, and the interconnectedness of life. Students then apply those themes to the structure and function of the cell, cellular metabolism, and biogeochemical cycles. Building on this foundation, students explore the connections and interactions between living things by studying genetics, ecosystems, natural selection, and evolution. The course ends with an applied look at human biology.

Scientific inquiry skills a e embedded in the direct instruction, wherein students learn to ask scientific questions, form and test hypotheses, and use logic and evidence to draw conclusions about the concepts.

Lab activities reinforce critical thinking, writing, and communication skills and help develop a deeper understanding of the nature of science.

Chemistry [H]

Prerequisites: A physical science course and one year of Algebra
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Chemistry offers a curriculum that emphasizes students' understanding of fundamental chemistry concepts while helping them acquire tools to be conversant in a society highly influenced by science and technology.

The course provides students with opportunities to learn and practice critical scientific skills within the context of relevant scientific questions. Topics include the nature of science, the importance of chemistry to society, atomic structure, bonding in matter, chemical reactions, redox reactions, electrochemistry, phases of matter, equilibrium and kinetics, acids and bases, thermodynamics, quantum mechanics, nuclear reactions, organic chemistry, and alternative energy.

Scientific inquiry skills a e embedded in the direct instruction, wherein students learn to ask scientific questions, form and test hypotheses, and use logic and evidence to draw conclusions about the concepts. Lab activities reinforce critical thinking, writing, and communication skills and help develop a deeper understanding of the nature of science.

Throughout this course, students are given an opportunity to understand how chemistry concepts are applied in technology and engineering. Journal and Practice activities provide additional opportunities for students to apply concepts learned in the Studies and practice their writing skills.

Physics [H]

Prerequisite: Middle school/junior Virtual school Physics, and one year of Algebra (two years recommended
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Physics offers a curriculum that emphasizes students' understanding of fundamental physics concepts while helping them acquire tools to be conversant in a society Virtually influenced by science and technology.

The course provides students with opportunities to learn and practice critical scientific skills wit in the context of relevant scientific questions. Topics include the nature of science, math for physics, energy, kinematics, force and motion, momentum, gravitation, chemistry for physics, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, waves, nuclear physics, quantum physics, and cosmology.

Scientific inquiry skills are embedded in the direct instruction, wherein students learn to ask scientific questions, form and test hypotheses, and use logic and evidence to draw conclusions about the concepts. Lab activities reinforce critical thinking, writing, and communication skills and help students develop a deeper understanding of the nature of science.

Throughout this course, students are given an opportunity to understand how physics concepts are applied in technology and engineering. Journal and Practice activities provide additional opportunities for students to apply concepts learned in the Studies and practice their writing skills.

Elective Courses

Earth Science [H]

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Earth Science offers a focused curriculum that explores Earth's composition, structure, processes, and history; its atmosphere, freshwater, and oceans; and its environment in space.

Course topics include an exploration of the major cycles that affect every aspect of life, including weather, climate, air movement, tectonics, volcanic eruptions, rocks, minerals, geologic history, Earth's environment, sustainability, and energy resources.

*H - Honors track is available for this course.

Science

Elective Courses

Environmental Science

Prerequisites: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Environmental Science explores the biological, physical, and sociological principles related to the environment in which organisms live on Earth, the biosphere. Course topics include natural systems on Earth, biogeochemical cycles, the nature of matter and energy, the flow of matter and energy through living systems, populations, communities, ecosystems, ecological pyramids, renewable and non-renewable natural resources, land use, biodiversity, pollution, conservation, sustainability, and human impacts on the environment.

The course provides students with opportunities to learn and practice scientific skills within the context of relevant scientific questions. Scientific inquiry skills are embedded in the direct instruction, wherein students learn to ask scientific questions, deconstruct claims, form and test hypotheses, and use logic and evidence to draw conclusions about the concepts. Case studies of current environmental challenges introduce each content lesson and acquaint students with real-life environmental issues, debates, and solutions. Lab activities reinforce critical thinking, writing, and communication skills and help students develop a deeper understanding of the nature of science.

Virtual Lab activities enable students to engage in investigations that require long periods of observation at remote locations and to explore simulations that enable environmental scientists to test predictions.

Throughout this course, students are given an opportunity to understand how biology, earth science, and physical science are applied to the study of the environment and how technology and engineering are contributing solutions for studying and creating a sustainable biosphere.

Psychology

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Psychology provides a solid overview of the field's major domains: methods, biopsychology, cognitive and developmental psychology, and variations in individual and group behavior.

By focusing on significant scientific research and on the questions that are most important to psychologists, students see psychology as an evolving science. Each topic clusters around challenge questions, such as "What is happiness?" Students answer these questions before, during, and after they interact with direct instruction.

Students learn about all the domains the American Psychological Association (APA) emphasizes: methods, biopsychology,
cognitive and developmental psychology, and variations in individual and group behavior.

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Advanced Placement (AP)* Courses

AP Biology

Prerequisites: Biology **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

AP* Biology builds students' understanding of biology on both the micro and macro scales. After studying cell biology, students move on to understand how evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. Students will examine how living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information and the processes used by organisms to utilize free energy. The equivalent of an introductory college-level biology course, AP Biology prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in science, health sciences, or engineering.

The AP Biology course provides a learning experience focused on allowing students to develop their critical thinking skills and cognitive strategies. Frequent no- and low-stakes assessments allow students to measure their comprehension and improve performance as they progress through each activity. Students regularly engage with primary source materials, allowing them to practice the critical reading and analysis skills that they will need in order to pass the AP exam and succeed in a college biology course. Students will perform hands-on labs that give them insight into the nature of science and help them understand biological concepts, as well as how evidence can be obtained to support those concepts. Students will also complete several virtual lab studies where they form hypotheses; collect, analyze, and manipulate data; and report their findings and conclusions. During both virtual and traditional lab investigations and research opportunities, students summarize their findings and analyze others' findings in summaries, using statistical and mathematical calculations when appropriate.

Summative tests are offered at the end of each unit as well as at the end of each semester, and contain objective and constructed response items. Robust scaffolding, rigorous instruction, relevant material and regular active learning opportunities ensure that students can achieve mastery of the skills necessary to excel on the AP exam.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

AP Psychology

Prerequisite: Biology **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Advanced Placement Psychology provides an overview of current psychological theories and research methods. Students will explore a range of therapies used by professional counselors and clinical psychologists and examine the reasons for normal human reactions: how people learn and think, the process of human development and human aggression, altruism, intimacy, and self-reflection. They will study core psychological concepts such as the brain and sense functions, and learn to gauge human reactions, gather information, and form meaningful syntheses. Along the way, students will also investigate relevant concepts like study skills and information retention. The equivalent of a 100-level college survey course, AP Psychology prepares students for the AP exam and for further studies in psychology and life sciences.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

AP Chemistry

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Algebra II
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

AP* Chemistry builds students' understanding of the nature and reactivity of matter. After studying chemical reactions and electrochemistry, students move on to understand how the chemical and physical properties of materials can be explained by the structure and arrangements of the molecules and the forces between those molecules. Students will examine the laws of thermodynamics, molecular collisions, and the reorganization of matter in order to understand how changes in matter take place. Finally, students will explore chemical equilibria, including acid-base equilibria. The equivalent of an introductory college-level biology course, AP Chemistry prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in science, health sciences, or engineering.

The AP Chemistry course provides a learning experience focused on allowing students to develop their critical thinking skills and cognitive strategies. Frequent no- and low-stakes assessments allow students to measure their comprehension and improve performance as they progress through each activity. Students regularly engage with primary source materials, allowing them to practice the critical reading and analysis skills that they will need in order to pass the AP exam and succeed in a college chemistry course.

Students will perform hands-on labs that give them insight into the nature of science and help them understand chemical concepts, as well as how evidence can be obtained to support those concepts. Students will also complete several virtual lab studies where
they form hypotheses; collect, analyze, and manipulate data; and report their findings and conclusions. During both virtual and traditional lab investigations and research opportunities students summarize their findings and analyze others' findings in summaries, using statistical and mathematical calculations when appropriate.

Summative tests are offered at the end of each unit as well as at the end of each semester, and contain objective and constructed response items. Robust scaffolding, rigorous instruction, relevant material and regular active learning opportunities ensure that students can achieve mastery of the skills necessary to excel on the AP exam.

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AP Environmental Science

Prerequisite: Two years of high school laboratory science (one year of life science and one year of physical science), and one year of algebra
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Advanced Placement PAP®* Environmental Science provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. The course draws upon various disciplines, including geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography in order to explore a variety of environmental topics. Topics explored include natural systems on Earth; biogeochemical cycles; the nature of matter and energy; the flow of matter and energy through living systems; populations; communities; ecosystems; ecological pyramids; renewable and nonrenewable resources; land use; biodiversity; pollution; conservation; sustainability; and human impacts on the environment. The equivalent of an introductory college-level science course, AP® Environmental Science prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in science, health sciences, or engineering.

The AP® Environmental Science course provides a learning experience focused on allowing students to develop their critical thinking skills and cognitive strategies. Scientific inquiry skills are embedded in the direct instruction, wherein students learn to ask scientific questions, deconstruct claims, form and test hypotheses, and use logic and evidence to draw conclusions about the concepts. Frequent no- and low-stakes assessments allow students to measure their comprehension and improve their performance as they progress through each activity.

Students perform hands-on labs and projects that give them insight into the nature of science and help them understand environmental concepts, as well as how evidence can be obtained to support those concepts. Virtual lab activities enable students to engage in investigations that would otherwise require long periods of observation at remote locations and to explore simulations that enable environmental scientists to test predictions. During both hands-on and virtual labs, students form hypotheses; collect, analyze, and manipulate data; and report their findings and conclusions. Throughout this course, students are given an opportunity to understand how biology, earth science, and physical science are applied to the study of the environment and how technology and engineering are contributing solutions for studying and creating a sustainable biosphere.

Summative tests are offered at the end of each unit as well as at the end of each semester, and contain objective and constructed response items. Robust scaffolding, rigorous instruction, relevant material, and regular active learning opportunities ensure that students can achieve mastery of the skills necessary to excel on the AP exam.

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Social Studies

Required Courses

World History

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

World History helps students learn to see the world today as a product of a process that began thousands of years ago when humans became a speaking, traveling, and trading species. Through historical analysis grounded in primary sources, case studies, and research, students investigate the continuity and change of human culture, governments, economic systems, and social structures.

Students build and practice historical thinking skills, learning to connect specific people, places, events and ideas to the larger trends of world history. In critical reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments, students develop their capacity to reason chronologically, interpret and synthesize sources, identify connections between ideas, and develop well-supported historical arguments. Students write throughout the course, responding to primary sources and historical narratives through journal entries, essays and visual presentations of social studies content. In discussion activities, students respond to the position of others while staking and defending their own claim. The course's rigorous instruction is supported with relevant materials and active learning opportunities to ensure students at all levels can master the key historical thinking skills.

U.S. History H

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

U.S. History traces the nation's history from the pre-colonial period to the present. Students learn about the Native American, European, and African people who lived in America before it became the United States. They examine the beliefs and philosophies that informed the American Revolution and the subsequent formation of the government and political system. Students investigate the economic, cultural, and social motives for the nation's expansion, as well as the conflicting notions of liberty that eventually resulted in civil war. The course describes the emergence of the United States as an industrial nation and then focuses on its role in modern world affairs.
Moving into the 20th and 21st centuries, students probe how the Cold War, and the "information revolution" affected the lives of ordinary Americans. Woven through this chronological sequence is a strong focus on the changing conditions of women, African Americans, and other minority groups.
The course emphasizes the development of historical analysis skills such as comparing and contrasting, differentiating between facts and interpretations, considering multiple perspectives, and analyzing cause-and-effect relationships. These skills are applied to text interpretation and in written assignments that guide learners step-by-step through problem-solving activities.

Elective Courses

Geography and World Cultures H

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Geography and World Cultures offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that enables students to explore how geographic features, human relationships, political and social structures, economics, science and technology, and the arts have developed and influenced life in countries around the world. Along the way, students are given rigorous instruction on how to read maps, charts, and graphs, and how to create them.

Geography and World Cultures is designed as the first course in the social studies sequence. It develops note-taking skills, teaches the basic elements of analytic writing, and introduces students to the close examination of primary sources.

Multicultural Studies

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Multicultural Studies is a history and sociology course that examines the United States as a multicultural nation. The course emphasizes the perspectives of minority groups while allowing students from all backgrounds to better understand and appreciate how race, culture and ethnicity, and identity contribute to their experiences.

Major topics in the course include identity, immigration, assimilation and distinctiveness, power and oppression, struggles for rights, regionalism, culture and the media, and the formation of new cultures. Students are asked to reflect critically on their own experiences as well as those of others. Interactive multimedia activities include personal and historical accounts to which students respond using methods of inquiry from history, sociology, and psychology.

Written assignments and Journals provide opportunities for students to practice and develop skills for thinking and communicating about race, culture, ethnicity, and identity.

Sociology

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Sociology examines why people think and behave as they do in relationships, groups, institutions, and societies.

Major course topics include individual and group identity, social structures and institutions, social change, social stratification social dynamics in recent and current events, the effects of social change on individuals, and the research methods used by social scientists.

Students are asked to reflect critically on their own experience and perspectives, as well as on the ideas of sociologists.

Interactive multimedia activities include personal and historical accounts to which students respond, using methods of inquiry from sociology. Written assignments and journals provide opportunities to practice and develop skills in thinking and communicating about human relationships, individual and group identity, and all other major course topics.

*H - Honors track is available for this course.

Elective Courses (continued)

U.S. and Global Economics [H]

Prerequisite: U.S. Government and Politics is recommended, but not required
Length: One semester
Credits: 0.5

U.S. and Global Economics offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that provides an introduction to key economic principles. The course covers fundamental properties of economics, including an examination of markets from both historical and current perspectives; the basics of supply and demand; the theories of early economic philosophers such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo; theories of value; the concept of money and how it evolved; the role of banks, investment houses, and the Federal Reserve; Keynesian economics; the productivity, wages, investment, and growth involved in capitalism; unemployment, inflation, and the national debt; and a survey o markets in areas such as China, Europe, and the Middle East.

U.S. and Global Economics is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a scaffolded series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. They also apply basic mathematics to economic concepts. Students read selections from annotated primary documents and apply those readings to the course content.

U.S. Government and Politics [H]

Prerequisite: U.S. History is recommended, but not required
Length: One semester
Credits: 0.5

U.S. Government and Politics offers a tightly focused and scaffolded curriculum that uses the perspective of political institutions to explore the history, organization, and functions of the U.S. government. Beginning with basic theories of government, moving to the Declaration of Independence, and continuing to the present day, the course explores the relationship between individual Americans and the governing bodies. It covers the political culture of the country and gains insight into the challenges faced by presidents, congressional representatives, and other political figures. It also covers the roles of political parties, interest groups, the media, and the Supreme Court.

U.S. Government and Politics is designed to fall in the fourth year of social studies instruction. Students perfect their analytic writing through a scaffolded series of analytic assignments and written lesson tests. Students read annotated primary documents and apply those documents to the course content.

World History to the Renaissance [H]

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

World History to the Renaissance traces the development of civilizations around the world from prehistory to the Renaissance.

The course covers major themes in world history, including the development and influence of human-geographic relationships, political and social structures, economic systems, major religions and belief systems, science and technology, and the arts.

Topics covered in this course include the birth of civilizations; the classical civilizations of India, China, Greece, and Rome; the rise of new empires such as the Byzantine; and an examination of civilizations in Africa and North and South America. From there, students journey to the Middle Ages and into the Renaissance.

Primary sources documents, which appear frequently, encourage students to make connections to evidence from the past. Writing skills are honed through a spiraled sequence of short analytic pieces.

*H - Honors track is available for this course.

Social Studies

Advanced Placement (AP*) Courses

AP Macroeconomics

Prerequisites: Algebra II (or Math Analysis)
Length: One semester
Credits: 0.5

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics students learn why and how the world economy can change from month to month, how to identify trends in our economy, and how to use those trends to develop performance measures and predictors of economic growth or decline. They will also examine how individuals, institutions, and economic influences affect people, and how those factors can impact employment rates, government spending, inflation, taxes and production. The equivalent of an introductory college-level class, this course prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in business, political science and history.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

AP Microeconomics

Prerequisites: Algebra I **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Advanced Placement Microeconomics studies the behavior of individuals and businesses as they exchange goods and services in the marketplace. Students will learn why the same product costs different amounts at different stores, in different cities, at different times. They'll also learn to spot patterns in economic behavior and how to use those patterns to explain buyer and seller behavior under various conditions. Microeconomics studies the economic way of thinking, understanding the nature and function of markets, the role of scarcity and competition, the influence of factor such as interest rates on business decisions, and the role of government in promoting a healthy economy. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP Microeconomics prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in business, history, and political science.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Prerequisites: U.S. History **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics studies the operations and structure of the U.S. government and the behavior of the electorate and politicians. Students will gain the analytic perspective necessary to critically evaluate political data, hypotheses, concepts, opinions, and processes. Along the way, they'll learn how to gather data about political behavior and develop their own theoretical analysis of American politics. They'll also build the skills they need to examine general propositions about government and politics, and to analyze the specific relationships between political, social, and economic institutions. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. Government and Politics prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in political science, law, education, business, and history.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

AP U.S. History

Prerequisite: At least a grade of B- in most recent social studies course
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

In AP U.S. History, students investigate the development of American economics, politics, and culture through historical analysis grounded in primary sources, research, and writing. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP U.S. History prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in history, political science, economics, sociology, and law.

Through the examination of historical themes and the application of historical thinking skills, students learn to connect specific people, places, events, and ideas to the larger trends of U.S. history. Critical-reading activities, feedback-rich instruction, and application-oriented assignments hone students' ability to reason chronologically, to interpret historical sources, and to construct well-supported historical arguments. Students write throughout the course, responding to primary and secondary sources through journal entries, essays, and visual presentations of historical content. In discussion activities, students respond to the positions of others while staking and defending claims of their own. Robust scaffolding, rigorous instruction, relevant material, and regular opportunities for active learning ensure that students can achieve mastery of the skills necessary to excel on the AP exam.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

Elective Courses

French I [H]

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

French I teaches students to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics such as sports, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises.

Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the verb system, adjective agreement, formal and informal address, reflexive verbs, and past tense. Student also gain an understanding of the cultures of French-speaking countries and regions within and outside Europe, as well as insight into Francophone culture and people. The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

French II [H]

Prerequisite: French I or the equivalent
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

French II teaches students to communicate more confident about themselves, as well as about topics beyond their own lives, both in formal and informal address. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises.

Vocabulary includes terms in cooking, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes present- and past-tense verb forms and uses, negation, and direct and indirect objects. Students deepen their knowledge of French-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues. The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

German I

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Students begin their introduction to German by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various German-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

German II

Prerequisite: German I or equivalent
Length: Twos emesters
Credits: 1.0

Students continue their study of German by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing.

Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various German-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. By semester 2, the course is conducted almost entirely in German.

*H - Honors track is available for this course.

Elective Courses (continued)

Latin I

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Since mastering a classical language presents different challenges from learning a spoken world language, students learn Latin through ancient, time-honored, classical language approaches which include repetition, parsing, written composition, and listening exercises. These techniques, combined with a modern multimedia approach to learning grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, provide students with a strong foundation for learning Latin.
Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading comprehension activities, writing activities, multimedia culture, history, and mythology presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on engaging with authentic classical Latin through weekly encounters with ancient passages from such prestigious authors as Virgil, Ovid, and Lucretius. The curriculum concurs with the Cambridge school of Latin; therefore, students will learn ancient Virtual classical styles of pronunciation and grammar in lieu of generally less sophisticated medieval styles, making it possible for students to comprehend the most Latin from the widest range of time periods. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, understand and analyze the cultural and historical contexts of the ancient sources they study, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

Latin II

Prerequisite: Latin I or equivalent **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Students continue with their study of Latin through ancient, time-honored, classical language approaches which include repetition, parsing, written composition, and listening exercises. These techniques, combined with a modern multimedia approach to learning grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, prepare students for a deeper study of Latin.

Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading comprehension activities, writing activities, multimedia culture, history, and mythology presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. The emphasis is on reading Latin through engaging with myths from the ancient world which are presented in Latin. The curriculum concurs with the Cambridge school of Latin; therefore, students will learn ancient Virtual classical styles of pronunciation and grammar in lieu of generally less sophisticated medieval styles, making it possible for students to comprehend the most Latin from the widest range of time periods. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand and use common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, understand and analyze the cultural and historical contexts of the ancient sources they study, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

Mandarin Chinese I

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Students begin their introduction to Chinese by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Both Chinese characters and pinyin are presented together throughout the course and specific character practices are introduced after the first quarter. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Chinese-speaking regions, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

Mandarin Chinese II

Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese I or equivalent
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Students continue their study of Chinese by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing.

Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Character recognition and practice are a key focus of the course and students are expected to learn several characters each unit. However, pinyin is still presented with characters throughout the course to aid in listening and reading comprehension. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Chinese-speaking regions, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

Elective Courses (continued)

Spanish I [H]

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Spanish I teaches students to greet people, describe family and friends, talk about hobbies, and communicate about other topics, such as home life, occupations, travel, and medicine. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises.

Vocabulary includes terms to describe school subjects, parts of the body, and people, as well as idiomatic phrases. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes the structures and uses of present-tense verb forms, imperatives, adjective agreement, impersonal constructions, formal and informal address, and reflexive verbs. Students explore words used in different Spanish-speaking regions and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

Spanish II [H]

Prerequisites: Spanish I or the equivalent
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Building on Spanish I concepts, Spanish II students learn to communicate more confidently about themselves, as well as about topics beyond their own lives — both in formal and informal situations. Each lesson presents vocabulary, grammar, and culture in context, followed by explanations and exercises. Students expand their vocabulary in topics such as cooking, ecology, geography, and architecture. Instruction in language structure and grammar includes a review of present-tense verb forms, an introduction to the past tense, the conditional mood, imperatives, impersonal constructions, and reported speech. Students deepen their knowledge of Spanish-speaking regions and cultures by learning about history, literature, culture, and contemporary issues.
The material in this course is presented at a moderate pace.

Spanish III

Prerequisites: Spanish I and II (or equivalent)
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

In Spanish III, students build upon the skills and knowledge they acquired in Spanish I and II. The course presents new vocabulary and grammatical concepts in context while providing students with ample opportunities to review and expand upon the material they have learned previously.

Students read and listen to authentic materials from newspapers, magazines, and television. The content is focused on contemporary and relevant topics such as urbanization and population growth in Latin American countries, global health concerns, jobs of the future, and scientific advancements. These materials engage students as they improve their command of Spanish.

Advanced Placement (AP)* Courses

AP Spanish Language

Prerequisites: 3–4 years of Spanish or equivalent native fluency
Length: Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

AP* Spanish Language students practice perfecting their Spanish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. They study vocabulary, grammar, and cultural aspects of the language, and then apply what they learn in extensive written and spoken exercises. The course addresses the broad themes of Global Challenges, Science and Technology, Contemporary Life, Personal and Public Identities, Families and Communities, and Beauty and Aesthetics.

By the end of the course, students will have an expansive vocabulary, a solid, working knowledge of all verb forms and tenses, strong command of other language structures, and an ability to use language in many different contexts and for varied purposes. The equivalent of a college-level language course, AP Spanish Language prepares students for the AP exam and for further study of Spanish language, culture, or literature.

This course has been authorized by the College Board to use the AP designation.

*H - Honors track is available for this course.

*Advanced Placement and AP are registered trademarks of the College Board.

Fine Arts

Elective Courses

Art Appreciation

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Art Appreciation is a survey of the history of Western visual arts, with a primary focus on painting. Students begin with an introduction to the basic principles of painting and learn how to critique and compare works of art. Students then explore prehistoric and early Greek and Roman art before they move on to the art of the Middle Ages. Emphasis is placed on the Renaissance and the principles and masters that emerged in Italy and northern Europe. Students continue their art tour with the United States during the 20th century, a time of great innovation as abstract art took center stage. While Western art is the course's primary focus, students will finish the course by studying artistic traditions from Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas.

Coverage of each artistic movement highlights historical context and introduces students to key artists who represent a variety of geographic locations. Throughout the course, students apply what they have learned about art critique to analyze and evaluate both individual artists and individual works of art. Art Appreciation encompasses a variety of skills to enable students to critique, compare, and perhaps influence their own works of art

Music Appreciation

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 0.5

Music Appreciation is a streamlined course that introduces student to the history, theory, and genres of music, from the most primitive surviving examples, through the classical to the most contemporary in the world at large. The course is offered in a two-semester format: The first semester cover primitive musical forms, classical music, and American jazz; the second semester presents the rich modern traditions, including gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip-hop.

The course explores the interface of music and social movements and examines how the emergent global society and the Internet are bringing musical forms together in new ways from all around the world.

Health/Physical Education

Elective Courses

Physical Education

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Physical Education offers students cardiovascular, aerobic, and muscle-toning activities. The course promotes a keen understanding of the value of physical fitness and aims to motivate students o participate in physical activities throughout their lives.

Specific areas of study include: cardiovascular exercise and care, safe exercising, building muscle strength and endurance, injury prevention, fitness skills and FITT benchmarks, goal setting, nutrition and diet (vitamins and minerals, food labels, and the evaluation of product claims), and stress management.

Skills for Health

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Skills for Health is a valuable, skills-based health education course designed for general education in grades 9 through 12. The course helps students develop knowledge and essential skills in a variety of health-related subjects, including mental and emotional health; nutrition; physical activity; substance use and abuse; injury prevention and safety; and personal health, environmental conservation, and community health resources.

Through the use of accessible information and real-life simulations, students apply the seven health skills. These include access to valid health information; self-management; analysis of internal and external influences; interpersonal communication; decision making; goal setting; and advocacy. Students who complete Skills for Health acquire the skills they need to protect, enhance, and promote their own health and the health of others.

Life Skills

Elective Courses

College and Career Preparation I

Prerequisites: None **Length**: One semester
Credits: 0.5

High school students have many questions about the college application process, what it takes to be a successful college student, and how to begin thinking about their careers.

In College and Career Preparation I, students obtain a deeper understanding of what it means to be ready for college. Students are informed about the importance of high school performance in college admissions and how to prepare for college testing. They know the types of schools and degrees they may choose to pursue after high school and gain wide exposure to the financial resources available that make college attainable.

Career readiness is also a focus. Students connect the link between interests, college majors, and future careers by analyzing career clusters. Students come away from this course understanding how smart preparation and skill development in high school can lead into expansive career opportunities after they have completed their education and are ready for the working world.

Students who complete College and Career Preparation I have the basic skills and foundation of knowledge to progress into College and Career Preparation II, the capstone course that provides hands-on information about the transition from high school to college and career.

This course is built to the American School Counselors Association National Standards for school counseling programs.

College and Career Preparation II

Prerequisite: None **Length**: One semester
Credits: 0.5

High school students have many questions about the college application process, what it takes to be a successful college student, and how to begin thinking about their careers.

College and Career Preparation II builds on the lessons and skills in College and Career Preparation I. The course provides a step-by-step guide to choosing a college. It walks students through the process of filling out an application, including opportunities to practice, and takes an in-depth look at the various college-admission tests and assessments, as well financial aid options.

College and Career Preparation II also instructs students in interviewing techniques and provides career guidance. Students explore valuable opportunities such as job shadowing and internships when preparing for a career.

Students who complete this course obtain a deeper understanding of college and career readiness through informative, interactive critical thinking and analysis activities while sharpening their time management, organization, and learning skills that they learned in College and Career Preparation I.

College and Career Preparation II prepares students with the knowledge and skills to be successful in college and beyond.

This course is built to the American School Counselors Association National Standards for school counseling programs.

Elective Courses

Business Applications

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Business Applications prepares students to succeed in the workplace. Students begin by establishing an awareness of the roles essential to an organization's success, and then work to develop an understanding of professional communications and leadership skills. In doing so, students gain proficiency with word processing, email, and presentation management software.

This course allows students to explore careers in business while learning skills applicable to any professional setting. Through a series of hands-on activities, students will create, analyze, and critique reports, letters, project plans, presentations, and other professional communications. Regular engagement in active learning ensures students can continually refine the skills necessary to prepare them for work. In addition, students will evaluate the qualifications required for specific careers so they can identify opportunities that are of interest to them.

Introduction to Business and Marketing

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Introduction to Business and Marketing provides the foundational knowledge and skills students need for careers in business and marketing. Students begin exploring roles and functions that business and marketing play in a global society, develop an understanding of the market place, as well as understanding product placement and promotion.

Using hands-on activities, students reinforce, apply and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant real-world inspired scenarios. This course focuses on developing knowledge and skills around marketing, pricing, and distribution, while also focusing on economics and interpersonal skills. This course also addresses exploring career options in marketing as well as securing and keeping a job.

Intermediate Business and Marketing

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Intermediate Business and Marketing provides the intermediate knowledge and skills students need for careers in business and marketing. Students analyze the impact of government, legal systems, and organized labor on business; develop an understanding of business communications and management; and explore legal, ethical, and financial issues in business and marketing. Furthermore, students delve into basic economic concepts including personal finance, economic systems, cost-profit relationships, and economic indicators and trends.

Using hands-on activities, students reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant real-world inspired scenarios. This course focuses on developing knowledge and skills around marketing and management, while also focusing on economics and financial literacy. This course also allows students to explore career options in business and marketing.

Information Technology Applications

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Information Technology Applications prepares students to work in the field of Information Technology. Students will be able to demonstrate digital literacy through basic study of computer hardware, operating systems, networking, the Internet, web publishing, spreadsheets and database software. Through a series of hand-on activities, students will learn what to expect in the field of Information Technology and begin exploring career options in the field.

Information Technology Applications is an introductory level Career and Technical Education course applicable to programs of study in information technology as well as other career clusters. This course is aligned with state and national standards. Students who successfully complete the course will be prepared to pursue the Microsoft® Office Specialist certifications in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access, as well as IC3 certification.

Principles of Information Technology

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Principles of Information Technology prepares students to succeed in the workplace. Students begin by establishing an awareness of the roles essential to an organization's success, and then work to develop an understanding of professional communications and leadership skills. In doing so, students gain proficiency with word processing, email, and presentation management software. Students will also be able to demonstrate digital literacy through basic study of computer hardware, operating systems, networking, the Internet, web publishing, spreadsheets and database software.

This course allows students to explore careers in information technology and business while learning skills applicable to any professional setting. Through a series of hands-on activities, students will create, analyze, and critique reports, letters, project plans, presentations, and other professional communications. Students will learn what to expect in the field of Information Technology and begin exploring career options in the field. Regular engagement in active learning ensures students can continually refine the skills necessary to prepare them for work. In addition, students will evaluate the qualifications required for specific careers so they can identify opportunities that are of interest to them.

Principles of Information Technology is a full-year introductory Career and Technical Education course applicable to programs of study in business, management, and administration; information technology; and other career clusters. This course is aligned with state and national standards. Students who successfully complete the course will be prepared to pursue the Microsoft® Office Specialist certifications in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access*, as well as IC3 certification.

Elective Courses (Continued)

Introduction to Health Science

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Introduction to Health Science provides the foundational knowledge and skills students need for careers in health care. Students begin by exploring the services, structure, and professions of the health care system. The remainder of the course focuses on day-to-day skills and expectations for health professionals, which include promoting wellness, maintaining a safe environment, creating medical records, and practicing good communication, collaboration, and leadership.

Using real-life scenarios and application-driven activities, students learn the responsibilities and challenges of being health care professionals. In addition to building their understanding of technical concepts and skills, students evaluate the qualifications required for specific careers and develop personal career plans to pursue work in the health care industry.

Intermediate Health Science

Prerequisite: None **Length:** One semester
Credits: 0.5

Intermediate Health Science extends the foundations of the Introduction to Health Science course and covers basic medical science, terminology, procedures, and regulations. This course will help guide students toward choosing a specific career path in health services, including career paths in emergency medicine, nutrition, and alternative medicine.
Using real-life scenarios and application-driven activities, students will extend their knowledge of oral and written communication in health science. Students will have an overview of physiology and medical measurements. Students will also synthesize learning from the Introduction to Health Science course by engaging in analysis of real-life scenarios and deepen their knowledge of various career options. In addition, students will expand their understanding of health and safety systems, how to address emergency situations, and deal with infection control issues.

Principles of Health Science

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Principles of Health Science provides knowledge and skills students need for careers in health care. Students explore the services, structure, and professions of the health care system and get guidance on choosing a specific career path in health services, including career paths in emergency medicine, nutrition, and alternative medicine.

Students focus on day-to-day skills and expectations for health professionals, which include promoting wellness, maintaining a safe environment, creating medical records, and practicing good communication, collaboration, and leadership. In addition, students will expand their understanding of health and safety systems, how to address emergency situations, and deal with infection control issues. Students will also explore topics in medical science, terminology, procedures, and regulations - including an overview of physiology and medical measurements.

Using real-life scenarios and application-driven activities, students learn the responsibilities and challenges of being health care professionals and deepen their knowledge of various career options. In addition to building their understanding of technical concepts and skills, students evaluate the qualifications required for specific careers and develop personal career plans to pursue work in the health care industry and extend their knowledge of oral and written communication in health science.

Legal Environment of Business

Prerequisite: None **Length:** Two semesters
Credits: 1.0

Legal Environment of Business examines the role of the law on all aspects of business ownership and management. Throughout the course, students focus on legal ethics, court procedures, torts, contracts, consumer law, property law, employment law, environmental law, and international law. Students also explore the impact of laws, regulations, and judicial decisions on society at large.

This course allows students to explore careers in business while learning skills applicable to any professional setting. Through a series of hands-on activities, students will prepare legal documents, create a compliance plan, and research consumer protection issues. Regular engagement in active learning ensures students can continually refine the skills necessary to prepare them for work. In addition, students will evaluate the qualifications required for specific careers so they can identify opportunities of interest to them.

Legal Environment of Business is a full-year intermediate or capstone Career and Technical Education course applicable to programs of study in the Business, Management and Administration career cluster. This course is built to state and national standards. Students who successfully complete the course will be prepared to pursue certifications such as Accredited Legal Professional, Certified Administrative Manager, or Certified Associate in Project Management®.

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