

# Memorial Early College High School

With St. Philip's College

## Course Guide

2018-2019



# MECHS

## Course Guide

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**GRADUATION PLAN**  
**Graduating Class of 2018 & Beyond**  
*(Students entering high school in 2014 and beyond)*

| Foundation Program               | 22 Credits | Taken | Foundation Program with an Endorsement | 26 Credits | Taken |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------|--|------------|-------|
| English I                        | 1          |       | English I                              | 1          |       |
| English II                       | 1          |       | English II                             | 1          |       |
| English III                      | 1          |       | English III                            | 1          |       |
| Advanced English Course          | 1          |       | Advanced English Course                | 1          |       |
| Algebra I                        | 1          |       | Algebra I                              | 1          |       |
| Geometry                         | 1          |       | Geometry                               | 1          |       |
| Advanced Mathematics Course      | 1          |       | Advanced Mathematics Course            | 1          |       |
| Biology                          | 1          |       | Additional Advanced Mathematics Course | 1          |       |
| IPC or Advanced Science Course   | 1          |       | Biology                                | 1          |       |
| Advanced Science Course          | 1          |       | IPC or Advanced Science Course         | 1          |       |
| World History or World Geography | 1          |       | Advanced Science Course                | 1          |       |
| U.S. History                     | 1          |       | Additional Advanced Science Course     | 1          |       |
| U.S. Government                  | .5         |       | World History or World Geography       | 1          |       |
| Economics                        | .5         |       | U.S. History                           | 1          |       |
| Physical Education               | 1          |       | U.S. Government                        | .5         |       |
| Languages Other Than English     | 2          |       | Economics                              | .5         |       |
| Fine Arts                        | 1          |       | Physical Education                     | 1          |       |
| Additional Electives             | 5          |       | Languages Other Than English           | 2          |       |
|                                  |            |       | Fine Arts                              | 1          |       |
|                                  |            |       | Additional Electives                   | 7          |       |

# General Information

Please Note:

Specific school-related questions should be directed to campus staff. When a parent or guardian has a question or concern, he or she should contact the person who made the initial decision. After discussing the matter, if the concern continues, the principal should be contacted.

## Grade Level Classifications

All students entering high school as a Freshman will need to meet the following credit requirements.

|           |              |                        |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------|
| Freshman  | 1st year     | 0-4.5 earned credits   |
| Sophomore | 2nd year (+) | 5-9.5 earned credits   |
| Junior    | 3rd year (+) | 10-17.5 earned credits |
| Senior    | 4th year (+) | 18 earned credits      |

These classifications are based on the number of credits actually completed prior to registration

## Grade Averaging

For a two-semester course in which both semesters are completed in the same school year, each semester's grade stands on its own; however, a full credit will be awarded if the average of both semesters is at least 70. Students transferring in during the spring semester with a failing fall semester grade may receive credit under this policy.

## Ranking Classification

1. Recognition for academic honors will be given to the following graduating seniors:

- a. Valedictorian - Highest-ranking student
- b. Salutatorian - Second highest-ranking student
- c. Honor students –
  - Summa Cum Laude - be in top 5% of class
  - Magna Cum Laude - be in top 10% of class
  - Cum Laude - be in top 15% of class

2. To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian, a student shall have been enrolled in a Comal ISD high school for two full years immediately prior to graduation and must be a fourth year student.

3. The following numerical values will be used for letter grades transferred to the school:

|         |         |         |         |        |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| A+ = 97 | B+ = 87 | C+ = 79 | D+ = 74 | F = 60 |
| A = 94  | B = 84  | C = 77  | D = 72  |        |
| A- = 90 | B- = 80 | C- = 75 | D- = 70 |        |

## Class Rank

Class rank is the academic position a student has in relation to other students in the grade level. The student with the highest rank average is number one in the grade level and the student with the lowest rank average is the last student in the grade level. All other students are ranked in between highest (number one) and lowest (last). Class rank is reported comparing that student to the total number of students in the grade level. Students will receive a higher weighted rank point for the more difficult level courses.

For example, given 250 students in a grade level, the highest ranked student (number one) would be reported as 1 of 250; lowest ranking students would be reported as 250 of 250.

Weighted class ranking encourages students to take more challenging academic courses in preparation for further

learning after high school. Institutions of higher learning require a student's class rank for admission purposes.

The weighted rank chart on page 10 is used to calculate a student's weighted cumulative rank average and is not reflected in the actual numerical grade recorded for each course on the academic achievement record (transcript), or the report card. Actual numerical semester grades are converted to weighted rank points according to the Weighted Class Rank Chart. Please see page 11 for a complete list of courses used to calculate class ranking.

Official class standing reports shall be issued to students each school year. Senior class ranking for the purpose of determining Valedictorian and Salutatorian is calculated at the end of the eighth semester. Other honor graduates will be calculated at the end of the seventh semester.

Please refer to Board Policy EIC Local for further details regarding Academic Honors for Seniors.

## Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP), Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Credit Courses

### Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) Courses

Pre-AP courses at the high school include activities and strategies designed to engage students in active, high-level learning. Students will develop the skills, habit of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in college. Depth of material requires students to read and write extensively in and out of class. All students are encouraged to take at least one advanced academics course each year of their high school experience.

### Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

AP Courses are developed by the College Board and are designed to provide college level studies for high school students using college level materials and strategies. Amount and depth of material requires students to read and requires students to develop advanced reasoning and problem solving skills.

### AP and Pre-AP Grading Policies

Student performance is evaluated on rigorous standards appropriate for the grade and content of the course. Courses are weighted when figuring class rank; however, actual grades earned will appear on all report cards and transcripts. In order to receive weighted points at the semester for an AP or Pre-AP course, the student must be enrolled in the advanced course for the entire semester and fulfill all requirements for the course. If the course is dropped within a semester, the un-weighted grade transfers to the new class.

### Should students take all Pre-AP or AP Classes?

Students are encouraged to challenge themselves but also to find a balance among advanced courses, extra-curricular activities, and outside activities. Students should not feel that they have to take all classes at the Pre-AP/AP level. The decision on the number of Pre-AP/AP classes should be an individual decision based on the schedule and interest of each student.

### Dual Credit Courses

Dual credit courses are offered to students interested in taking College Credit courses while still in high school. Students are taught and graded in the same way as college students who take the same course. CISD has analyzed college courses against the state curriculum and has determined which courses

will be accepted as dual credit. Students will receive college credit from the Dual Credit Institution/College immediately after they complete the course. Most courses will transfer to any public Texas college or university when a student earns a "C" or better. All college level courses are not "dual credit" courses; however there are a variety of courses offered in both the Academic and Career and Technology Areas. This list may be obtained from the school counselor. Students are responsible for completing the college application process within a designated time frame and making arrangements to take the on-line entrance exam prior to enrollment in Dual Credit courses.

#### **Gifted and Talented Program for High School Students**

In Comal ISD, the needs of Gifted and Talented students are met in several ways. In the four core subject areas – Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies – identified gifted students may choose to participate in Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement courses with gifted instruction being provided by teachers trained in both Gifted Education and Advanced Placement methodologies.

#### **Graduation Ceremony Participation and Diploma Requirements**

The following guidelines will be used for fourth/fifth year students to be able to participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a diploma from the home campus:

1. Students entering high school as a freshman in 2011 or thereafter are expected to meet the following conditions in order to receive a diploma:
  - a. Complete **ALL** credit requirements
  - b. Pass all required EOC exams (English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, United States History) with a scale score indicating satisfactory performance
2. Students may only participate in one graduation ceremony.

#### **Early Graduation**

Students who anticipate completing high school in fewer than four years must file an application for early graduation in the counselor's office. Students graduating early may participate in graduation ceremonies only if all graduation requirements are completed prior to the graduation ceremony. Students may not be ranked higher than 3rd in the senior class rank and shall share the third ranking position with fourth year student.

Students wishing to graduate early will need to schedule a meeting with their school counselor. The student's 4-year plan will need to be adjusted in order to plan for the early graduation. Students declaring early graduation in 3.5 years will need to declare by May of their Junior year. Students declaring early graduation in 3.0 years will need to declare by May of their Sophomore year.

It is the responsibility of the student to attend graduation rehearsal, pick up cap and gown, and pick up invitations at the designated times. Students who graduate early and wish to participate in graduation exercises will be required to abide by the same school rules and regulations as other students. Students who are not enrolled in Comal ISD in the spring semester shall be able to participate in senior activities during the remainder of the year with principal approval. This includes such activities as the senior trip, junior-senior prom, and other class functions. Diplomas shall be awarded at the end of the school year.

#### **College Assessment Information**

Students entering public community colleges or universities in Texas must meet minimum standards as established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as part of the Texas

Success Initiative before enrolling in any college course work. Students not meeting minimum standards may have to take an additional test to demonstrate college readiness. The campus college and career center has detailed college registration and exemption information. Please contact the individual college to see what standards or tests are required.

#### **Automatic Admission to Texas Public University for Top 10%**

Top students in Texas are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas under state admissions policies. Under House Bill 588 passed by the 75<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 1997, students who are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas. However, SB 175 caps the number of students admitted under the top 10% law to 75% at UT Austin; thus, acceptance rates will vary. The University will determine the acceptance rate.

To be eligible for the top 10 percent automatic admission, a student must:

- Graduate in the top 10 percent of his/her class at a public or private high school in Texas;
- Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
- Submit an application to a Texas public university for admission before the institution's application deadline. Since deadlines vary, please check with the specific university to verify the application deadline.

Once a student is admitted, a university may review a student's high school records to determine if the student is prepared for college-level course work. A student who needs additional preparation may be required to take a developmental, enrichment, or orientation course during the semester prior to the first semester of college.

*The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was responsible for creating rules for this new admissions policy and adopted the "top 10 percent" rules in October 1997. For more information, see Appendix B.*

#### **Alternative Credit Opportunities**

All credits earned through alternative means, as described below, will be used in determining academic honors. All grades earned, including high school courses taken at the middle school, will be used in class ranking except for those courses not included in the ranking system. Grades transferred must be from a four-year accredited high school to be accepted. If a student transfers from an unaccredited school, only grades earned through Comal ISD high school will be used for determining averages for ranking for academic honors.

#### **Correspondence Courses**

Students may use distance-learning courses, including correspondence courses, as a means of earning credit in a subject or course. In order to receive credit, a student shall obtain approval from the principal or designee prior to enrollment in the course. Only correspondence courses from the University of Texas (Austin) or Texas Tech University are acceptable. Seniors should complete their work and submit the grade for recording at least thirty days prior to their graduation date in order to be eligible for graduation at the end of the term.

#### **Credit by Examination with Prior Instruction**

A student must have had prior formal instruction in a semester course to be eligible to gain credit by examination. A score of 70 or above is required on the credit by examination test. Credit by exam may be attempted two times in the same course. There is no limit to the number of credits that can be

earned through credit by exam. The cost of the exam will be the responsibility of the student.

#### **Credit by Examination for Acceleration**

Students may take exams offered by the University of Texas or Texas Tech University for courses in which no prior instruction has been received. A score of 80 must be achieved. Test dates will be published in the spring and fall. Credit by examination for acceleration may be attempted a maximum of two times in each course. There is no limit to the number of credits that can be earned through credit by exam. Students should contact a counselor for registration information.

#### **Credit Obtained through College Programs**

Comal ISD (CISD) provides college level opportunities for credit. Students must meet eligibility and enrollment requirements at the participating college. To receive DAP credit, the grade must be a "B" or better.

- **Dual Credit** – Dual credit is offered to students interested in taking College Credit courses while still in high school. Students are taught and graded in the same way as college students who take the same course. CISD has analyzed college courses against the state curriculum and has determined which courses will be accepted as dual credit. Students will receive college credit from the Dual Credit Institution/College immediately after they complete the course. Most courses will transfer to any public Texas college or university when a student earns a "C" or better. All college level courses are not "dual credit" courses, however there are a variety of courses offered in both the Academic and Career and Technology Areas. This list may be obtained from the school counselor. Students are responsible for completing the college application process within a designated time frame and making arrangements to take the on-line entrance exam prior to enrollment in Dual Credit courses. A student may take a maximum of two courses per semester at no cost to the student.
- **Concurrent Enrollment** – Concurrent enrollment courses are college courses students can take for college credit while enrolled in high school. Concurrent courses count for DAP advanced measures.
- **Credit in Escrow** – A course that is part of a Tech-Prep Articulation Agreement is a credit-in-escrow course. The course is taken at the high school level and the student receives state graduation credit. College credit is based on the articulation agreement with the respective college. For information on the Tech-Prep Articulation Agreements contact the school counselor.

#### **Texas Virtual School Network**

During the 80th Texas Legislative Session, Senate Bill 1788 established a state virtual school network to provide online courses for Texas students. The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) first offered courses to students in Texas districts and open enrollment charter schools beginning January 2009. Course offered for grades 8-12 ensure 100% alignment with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as well as the INACOL National Standards of Quality for Online Courses. All courses offered through the TxVSN are provided by public school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, institutions of higher education, or education service centers. All high school courses are taught by an instructor that is Texas-certified in the course subject area and grade level that have completed a TxVSN approved professional development on effective online

instruction. Tuition and fees for TxVSN courses will be the responsibility of the student and parent. For more information regarding the TxVSN or other online course opportunities, please see your high school Academic Dean. You may also visit the TxVSN website at <http://www.txvsn.org/>.

#### **Summer School/Semester**

Students may attend an accredited summer school, provided that approval of the principal or counselor is obtained before enrolling. Summer school work can be used for the purpose of making up work that has been failed during the regular term, strengthening areas where a student is weak, giving a student an opportunity to avail himself/herself of courses that cannot be taken during the regular term because of scheduling conflicts, and obtaining credits for acceleration purposes.

#### **Credit Recovery**

Student may gain credit through computer-assisted instruction for courses previously failed. Not all courses are eligible for recovery. Students should contact their school counselor for information.

#### **The Advanced Technical Credit Program (Statewide**

**Articulation)** is an advanced placement program initiated to provide a method for high school students who continue technical programs of study in college to receive credit for knowledge and skills without duplication of coursework. Students successfully demonstrating college level competence in content enhanced high school courses are eligible to receive banked (in escrow) credit for courses that are part of an associate of applied science (AAS) degree or certificate plan offered by public two-year colleges. Some universities may also honor these courses, particularly those that offer BAAS, BAT, BSIS, or similar baccalaureate degrees.

**Local Articulation options (TECH PREP)**- provide high school students options for award of articulated credit for high school or college courses not covered by the Advanced Technical Credit Program (Statewide Articulation) and the method to articulate courses and programs with colleges not participating in the ATC program. Conditions for award of credit for courses that are part of an associate of applied sciences (AAS) degree plan are described in locally developed articulation agreements. Some universities may also honor these courses.

#### **Transcript of Credits**

Many schools and colleges require students to submit a copy of their high school record before entering. If students plan to move to another school district, students should request the registrar to send the transcript to the student's new school at the time of withdrawal. If a student plans to attend college, the transcript should be requested sufficiently early for receipt by the college registrar before the end of July. Transcripts will be sent only by request. Students under the age of 18, who want their transcript sent to a college, must have a parent signature of approval.

#### **NCAA Guidelines**

All high-school athletes wishing to compete in college athletics must register with the Initial-Eligibility Center. Information about eligibility can be found in the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). Students who are interested in attending college on athletic scholarships should carefully select high school courses that qualify under the National Collegiate Athletic Association guidelines. After you have registered and paid appropriate fees, please submit paperwork to the high school registrar.

### Course Availability

Courses are offered according to student need and teacher availability. Students and parents are reminded that course selection determines how the school's schedule is built, faculty is hired and room assignments are made.

### Schedule Changes

Schedule changes can have a significant impact on the calculation of the nine-weeks average. Therefore, schedule changes will be considered for the following reasons only:

- The student is a senior not scheduled in a course needed for graduation.
  - The student has already earned credit for a course in which he/she is currently scheduled.
  - The student does not have the prerequisite(s) for a class listed on his/her schedule.
  - The student has previously failed this course under the same teacher.
  - The student has been dismissed from a program for which approval must be granted for placement.
  - The student does not have a full schedule.
  - There is a data entry error (no lunch, class listed twice, free period, etc.).
  - Other as approved by building administrator or designee.
  - Course level changes:
- o To transfer to a lower level class, the student must have made a sincere effort to succeed, as determined by the campus personnel, by completing work and attending tutorials. If these conditions are met and the student is earning less than a grade

of 75, that student will be considered for a change. An administrator or administrative designee must approve schedule changes. State law mandates 90% attendance in each class each semester.

An administrator or administrative designee must approve schedule changes. State law mandates 90% attendance in each class each semester.

### Course Selection

The school cannot take the total responsibility for the proper choice of subjects for either students' graduation or college entrance. Students should carefully check the local graduation requirements and the catalog of the college of choice before choosing courses. A useful reference site in this regard is [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). Under no circumstances should students depend on any high school official to choose the correct courses for their future. The counselors, the administration, or other faculty members will be glad to assist students at any time, but students and parents must make the final choice. The parent must approve changes. The administrator or administrative designee must approve schedule changes. The Recommended Plan is one of the requirements to receive additional State financial aid. The Texas Grant and Exemption Program is an award of varying amounts to assist certain students who graduate on the recommended high school program with college expenses. For more information, visit [www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com) or call 1-800-242-3062 x6344.

## Class Rank Chart

| Actual Grade | 1.0 – General Education | 1.1 – Pre-AP | 1.2 – Dual Credit | 1.25 Advanced Placement |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>              | <b>110</b>   | <b>120</b>        | <b>125</b>              |
| 99           | <b>99</b>               | 108.9        | 118.8             | 123.75                  |
| 98           | <b>98</b>               | 107.8        | 117.6             | 122.50                  |
| 97           | <b>97</b>               | 106.7        | 116.4             | 121.25                  |
| 96           | <b>96</b>               | 105.6        | 115.2             | 120.00                  |
| 95           | <b>95</b>               | 104.5        | 114.0             | 118.75                  |
| 94           | <b>94</b>               | 103.4        | 112.8             | 117.50                  |
| 93           | <b>93</b>               | 102.3        | 111.6             | 116.25                  |
| 92           | <b>92</b>               | 101.2        | 110.4             | 115.00                  |
| 91           | <b>91</b>               | 100.1        | 109.2             | 113.75                  |
| <b>90</b>    | <b>90</b>               | <b>99.0</b>  | <b>108.0</b>      | <b>112.50</b>           |
| 89           | <b>89</b>               | 97.9         | 106.8             | 111.25                  |
| 88           | <b>88</b>               | 96.8         | 105.6             | 110.00                  |
| 87           | <b>87</b>               | 95.7         | 104.4             | 108.75                  |
| 86           | <b>86</b>               | 94.6         | 103.2             | 107.50                  |
| 85           | <b>85</b>               | 93.5         | 102.0             | 106.25                  |
| 84           | <b>84</b>               | 92.4         | 100.8             | 105.00                  |
| 83           | <b>83</b>               | 91.3         | 99.6              | 103.75                  |
| 82           | <b>82</b>               | 90.2         | 98.4              | 102.50                  |
| 81           | <b>81</b>               | 89.1         | 97.2              | 101.25                  |
| <b>80</b>    | <b>80</b>               | <b>88.0</b>  | <b>96.0</b>       | <b>100.00</b>           |
| 79           | <b>79</b>               | 86.9         | 94.8              | 98.75                   |
| 78           | <b>78</b>               | 85.8         | 93.6              | 97.50                   |
| 77           | <b>77</b>               | 84.7         | 92.4              | 96.25                   |
| 76           | <b>76</b>               | 83.6         | 91.2              | 95.00                   |
| 75           | <b>75</b>               | 82.5         | 90.0              | 93.75                   |
| 74           | <b>74</b>               | 81.4         | 88.8              | 92.50                   |
| 73           | <b>73</b>               | 80.3         | 87.6              | 91.25                   |
| 72           | <b>72</b>               | 79.2         | 86.4              | 90.00                   |
| 71           | <b>71</b>               | 78.1         | 85.2              | 88.75                   |
| <b>70</b>    | <b>70</b>               | <b>77.0</b>  | <b>84.0</b>       | <b>87.50</b>            |

## Explanation of Eligibility for Automatic College Admission

Under the Automatic Admission policy (Texas Education Code §51.803), Texas students may be eligible for automatic admission to a state college or university as an undergraduate student if they meet certain criteria. To qualify for automatic admission, a student **must**:

- (1) the applicant graduated from a public or private high school in this state accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization or from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense;
- (2) the applicant:
  - (A) Successfully completed:
    - (i) at a public high school, the curriculum requirements established under Section 28.025 for the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program; or
    - (ii) at a high school to which Section 28.025 does not apply, a curriculum that is equivalent in content and rigor to the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation high school program; or
  - (B) satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent; and
- (3) if the applicant graduated from a high school operated by the United States Department of Defense, the applicant is a Texas resident under Section 54.052 or is entitled to pay tuition fees at the rate provided for Texas residents under Section 54.241(d) for the term or semester to which admitted.

### Curriculum Requirements

Not later than the end of a student's junior year in high school, his or her official transcript should indicate whether the student has satisfied or is on schedule to satisfy the requirements for the FHSP with an endorsement. Students who are unable to satisfy the curriculum requirements of the FHSP with an endorsement because the courses necessary to complete the requirements are unavailable as a result of course scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's control, are considered to have satisfied the requirements of the relevant program. In such cases, the student must have successfully completed the portions of the FHSP with an endorsement curriculum that were available and the student's official transcript or diploma must indicate this.

### Admission and Enrollment

State colleges and universities may admit a student accepted under the Automatic Admission policy for either the fall semester of the academic year for which the student applied or for the summer session that precedes that fall semester. Additionally, the admitting college or university may require that applicants in need of additional preparation for college-level work enroll in enrichment courses or programs during the summer immediately after the student is admitted. Colleges and universities are required to admit an applicant as an undergraduate student if the applicant is the child of a public servant who was killed or fatally injured in the line of duty and who meets the minimum entrance requirements set by the college or university.

### \*The University of Texas at Austin

Beginning with admissions for the 2011-2012 school year, The University of Texas at Austin (UT) is no longer required to automatically admit applicants in excess of 75% of its enrollment capacity for first-time resident undergraduate students. Should the number of applicants who qualify for automatic admission exceed 75% of enrollment capacity, UT shall provide notice of the percentage of qualified applicants that are anticipated to be offered admission. For the 2017-2018 academic year, UT has determined that it will automatically admit all eligible applicants who rank within the **top 7%** of their high school graduating classes. For the 2018-2019 academic year, UT has determined that it will automatically admit all eligible applicants who rank within the **top 6%** of their graduating classes. Please note that students admitted to UT under the Automatic Admission policy will be required to complete at least 6 semester credit hours during evening or other low-demand hours in order to ensure the efficient use of available classrooms.

### Additional Resources

For the complete text of this statute, please refer to the Texas Education Code (TEC), §51.803, available online at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.51.htm#51.803>.

For questions related to the Automatic Admission policy, please visit the Texas Education Agency's Automatic College Admission webpage at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=2147485632>.

A list of state colleges and universities appears in TEC §61.003(3), general academic teaching institutions, available online at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.61.htm#61.003>

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## Endorsements

Students entering high school in 2014 and beyond are required to declare an endorsement. These students are also eligible for a distinguished level of achievement and performance acknowledgements. The endorsements are selected from the following:

### **STEM**

A student entering high school in 2014 and beyond can earn a STEM endorsement by taking courses directly related to science; including environmental science, technology, including computer science; engineering; and advanced mathematics.

### **Business and Industry**

A student entering high school in 2014 and beyond can earn an endorsement in Business and Industry by completing courses directly related to database management, architecture, information technology, construction, communications, welding, accounting, logistics, finance, automotive technology, marketing, agricultural science, graphic design, culinary arts and hospitality, and HVAC.

### **Public Services**

A student entering high school in 2014 and beyond can earn an endorsement in Public Services by completing courses directly related to health sciences and occupations, education and training, and law enforcement.

### **Arts and Humanities**

A student entering high school in 2014 and beyond can earn an endorsement in Arts and Humanities by completing courses directly related to political science, English literature, world languages, history, cultural studies, and fine arts.

### **Multidisciplinary Studies**

A student entering high school in 2014 and beyond can earn an endorsement in Multidisciplinary Studies by completing courses from the curriculum of each endorsement area and earning credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas sufficient to complete the distinguished level of achievement.

### **Distinguished Level of Achievement**

A student may earn a distinguished level of achievement by successfully completing the curriculum requirements for the Foundation High School Program and the curriculum requirements for at least one endorsement, including four credits in science and four credits in mathematics to include Algebra II.

### **Performance Acknowledgements**

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in a dual credit course by successfully completing:

- At least 12 hours of college academic courses with a grade equivalent of 3.0 or higher; or
- An associate degree while in high school.

For students who have participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program and scored at the Advanced High level on the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS), the English language learner may earn a performance acknowledgment by:

- Completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum GPA of an 80 on a scale of 100; and
- Satisfying one of the following:
  - Completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of an 80 on a scale of 100; or
  - Demonstrated proficiency in the TEKS for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of an 80 on a scale of 100; or
  - Completing of at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of an 80 on a scale of 100; or
  - Demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods:
    - A score of 3 or higher on a College Board Advanced Placement exam for a language other than English; or
    - Performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent.

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment by earning a score of 3 or above on a College Board Advanced Placement Exam.

A student may earn a performance acknowledgement by:

- Earning a score on the PSAT/NMSQT that qualifies the student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program of the College Board or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation;
- Achieving the college readiness benchmark score on at least two of the four subject tests on the ACT-PLAN;
- Earning a combined critical reading and mathematics score of at least 1250 on the SAT; or
- Earning a composite score on the ACT exam of 28 (excluding the writing subscore)

A student may earn a performance acknowledgement for:

- Performance on an examination or series of examinations sufficient to obtain a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification; or
- Performance on an examination sufficient to obtain a government-required credential to practice a profession.

| <b>Multidisciplinary Studies</b>  | <b>Arts &amp; Humanities</b>   | <b>STEM</b>   | <b>Business &amp; Industry CTE</b>   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>4 Years of English<br/> 4 Years of Math<br/> 4 Years of Social Studies<br/> 4 Years of Science</p> | <p><b><u>Fine Arts</u></b><br/> Art I<br/> AP Art History<br/> Art II<br/> Art III</p> <p><b><u>Social Studies – 5</u></b><br/> Pre-AP World Geography<br/> World History<br/> DC US History<br/> DC Federal Govt/DC Texas Govt<br/> DC Psychology/DC Sociology</p> <p><b><u>Foreign Language</u></b><br/> Spanish I<br/> Pre-AP Spanish II<br/> DC Spanish III<br/> DC Spanish IV</p> | <p><b><u>CTE</u></b><br/> Digital Media<br/> Principles of Info Technology<br/> Robotics I<br/> Robotics II</p> <p><b><u>Math – 5</u></b><br/> Pre-AP Algebra I<br/> Pre-AP Geometry<br/> Pre-AP Algebra II<br/> DC College Algebra<br/> AP Calculus AB<br/> Statistics</p> <p><b><u>Science-5</u></b><br/> Pre-AP Biology<br/> Pre-AP Chemistry<br/> Physics<br/> DC Biology<br/> Forensic Science</p> | <p><b><u>Video Game Design</u></b><br/> Digital Media<br/> Graphic Design<br/> Video Game Design I<br/> Video Game Design II</p> <p><b><u>Cyber Security</u></b><br/> Digital Media<br/> Principles Info Technology<br/> Principles of Cybersecurity<br/> Computer Programing I</p> <p><b><u>Audio Video</u></b><br/> Digital Media<br/> Graphic Design<br/> Audio Video Production I<br/> Audio Video Production II</p> |

# Course Descriptions

Courses in this guide may not be offered in a given year. Other than required courses, courses may vary based on the number of student requests for the course

## English Language Arts

### Pre-AP English I – 1157

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

Pre-AP English I is designed for students with high academic interest and a strong work ethic in English Language Arts. The Pre-AP class serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program, specifically for AP English III Language and Composition and AP English IV Literature and Composition. Emphasis is placed on developing students' skills in critical, analytical and creative thinking, close reading, grammar, and composition. Students will read extensively in multiple genres from diverse time periods and cultures. A summer reading may be required and students will keep a portfolio of written work.

### Pre-AP English II -1257

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: English I recommended**

Pre-AP English II is designed for students with high academic interest and a strong work ethic in English Language Arts. The Pre-AP class serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program, specifically for AP English III Language and Composition and AP English IV Literature and Composition. Emphasis is placed on developing students' skills in critical, analytical and creative thinking, close reading, grammar, and composition. Students will read extensively in multiple genres from diverse time periods and cultures. A summer reading may be required and students will keep a portfolio of written work.

### English III Dual Credit – 1350

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: English II recommended**

Students will develop an understanding for reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of English. Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. In addition, students will continue to address earlier standards as needed while they attend to standards for their grade level. Students will read extensively from multiple genres with an emphasis on American literature. A summer reading may be required and students will keep a portfolio of written work.

### English IV Dual Credit –1450

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: English III recommended**

Students will develop an understanding for reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of English. Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. In addition, students will continue to address earlier standards as needed while they attend to standards for their grade level. Students will read extensively from multiple genres with an emphasis on British literature. A summer reading may be required and students will keep a portfolio of written work.

### College Preparatory for Transition ELAR - 1501

**Recommended: Students who have successfully completed English I, II, and met the state requirement for "Level II/Satisfactory Academic Performance " on both STARR English I and II**

In this college-preparatory course students will improve integrated critical reading and writing skills through engagement with a variety of texts across content areas and genres. As a result, students will be able to develop and express ideas clearly and effectively to communicate with various audiences for various purposes and occasions.

## Mathematics

### Pre-AP Algebra I – 2000

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Math 8 or PreAP Math 7**

Pre-AP Algebra I is designed for students with high academic interest and a strong work ethic. In addition to the prescribed curriculum for algebra, this course is designed to address high level thinking and problem solving skills. Emphasis is placed on formal proofs using deductive and inductive reasoning. Students who wish to take advanced placement math exams during their senior year should consider this course.

### Pre-AP Geometry – 2237

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**

Pre-AP Geometry is designed for students with high academic interest and a strong work ethic. In addition to the prescribed curriculum for geometry, this course is designed to address high level thinking and problem solving skills. Emphasis is placed on formal proofs using deductive and inductive reasoning. Students who wish to take advanced placement math exams during their senior year should consider this course.

### Pre-AP Algebra II – 2257

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**

**Endorsement: Required for STEM Endorsement**

Pre-AP Algebra II is designed for students with high academic interest and a strong work ethic. In addition to the prescribed curriculum for Algebra II, this course will address higher-level thinking and problem solving skills. Also included are proof and theory of algebraic statements and analyzing and solving more challenging problems. Graphing calculators will be utilized extensively.

### Independent Study in Mathematics – 2170

**College Algebra Dual Credit – 2270**

**Credit: ½ Independent Study, ½ Dual Credit College Algebra**

**Prerequisite: Algebra II**

This college level course focuses on the study of quadratics; polynomial, rational, logarithmic, and exponential functions; systems of equations; progressions; sequences and series; and

## Science

matrices and determinants. This course will count as a fourth math credit. Students enrolled in this course must qualify to enroll in the dual credit course. The Independent Study in Mathematics course carries regular academic weight in rank. One semester of dual credit weighting will only be awarded to students enrolled in the second semester dual credit course.

### **Statistics – 2507**

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**

**Endorsement: STEM**

This course prepares students to take entry level Statistics in college. Students should have a solid foundation in algebra prior to enrollment. This course will introduce students to four major conceptual themes: observing and exploring data; planning a statistically valid investigation; anticipating patterns and using probability and simulations for predicting outcomes; and confirming or rejecting models through statistical inference. Technology is an integral part of the course. Graphing calculators and computers are the primary tools for data analysis. This course will count as a fourth math credit.

### **AP Calculus AB – 2426**

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Endorsement: STEM**

This college level course prepares students to take the AP Calculus AB Exam for possible college credit. It is equivalent to the first semester of college Calculus, and includes practical applications of Calculus. Topics include limits and continuity of functions; derivatives and their applications; definite integrals and their applications; elementary techniques and applications of anti-differentiation, including differential equations and slope fields. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Calculus AB Exam at the conclusion of the course.

### **College Preparatory A for Transition Math - 2160**

**Recommended: Student has credit for Algebra I and Geometry and has met the passing standard on the Algebra I EOC.**

Topics include real numbers, basic geometry, polynomials, factoring, linear equations, inequalities, quadratic equations and rational expressions. Calculator use is allowed in this course when indicated, including the departmental final examination. An overall grade for the semester of 75 or higher indicates that the student has met the Higher Ed Partnership criteria, and the student is prepared for Intermediate Algebra without further assessment or remediation.

### **College Preparatory B for Transition Math - 2180**

**Recommended: Satisfactory performance in Algebra I course and Algebra I EOC, and Transition to College Math Course A. Students may show mastery of Transition to College Math Course A through Credit by Exam.**

Intermediate Algebra: Topics include factoring techniques, radicals, algebraic fractions, complex numbers. Graphing linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, systems of equations, graphing quadratic equations and an introduction to functions. Emphasis is placed on algebraic techniques, in order to successfully complete Math 1314 College Algebra. Calculator use is allowed in this course when indicated, including the departmental final examination. An overall grade for the semester of 75 or higher indicates that the student has met the criteria for Intermediate Algebra, and the student is prepared for entry-level college mathematics without further assessment or remediation.

### **Pre-AP Biology – 3117**

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) Biology is an advanced course recommended for students with a strong interest in science and good study skills. In Pre-AP Biology, students conduct laboratory and field investigations throughout the year. Many of the concepts are the same as those in Biology, except the presentation is more accelerated and in more detail. Students will continue the "Worth the Wait" curriculum, which includes learning about STD's, legal issues, and safe decision-making skills.

### **Pre-AP Chemistry – 3317**

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: One unit of high school science & Algebra I. Completion of or concurrent enrollment in a second year of math is recommended**

**Endorsement: Required for STEM Endorsement**

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) Chemistry is an advanced course recommended for students with a strong interest in science and good study skills. In Pre-AP Chemistry, students conduct laboratory and field investigations throughout the year. Many of the concepts are the same as those in Chemistry, except the presentation is more accelerated and in more detail.

### **Physics – 3418**

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 is recommended**

**Endorsement: Required for STEM Endorsement**

In Physics, students will conduct laboratory and field investigations use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. This course provides students with a conceptual framework, practice in experimental design and interpretation, working collaboratively with colleagues, and developing critical thinking skills. Topics of study include: laws of motion; changes within physical systems and conservation of energy and momentum; forces; thermodynamics, characteristics and behavior of waves; and atomic, nuclear, and quantum physics.

### **Forensic Science – 9249**

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Grade: 11-12**

**Prerequisite: Biology & Chemistry**

**Endorsement: STEM**

Forensic Science is a course that introduces students to the application of science to connect a violation of law to a specific criminal, criminal act, or behavior and victim. Students will learn terminology and procedures related to the search and examination of physical evidence in criminal cases as they are performed in a typical crime laboratory. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence such as fingerprints, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and cartridge cases. Students will also learn the history and the legal aspects as they relate to each discipline of forensic science.

### **Dual Credit Biology – 3115**

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Grade: 12**

**Endorsement: STEM**

This college level course prepares students interested in careers in health and allied fields. Topics include the nature, history and philosophy of science, basic chemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, evolution, classification of living organisms, anatomy and physiology of plants and animals as well as principles of ecology

## Social Studies

### Pre-AP World Geography Studies – 4237

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

Pre-AP World Geography Studies is designed for students with a high academic interest and strong work ethic. This course includes instruction in examining people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography. Students describe the influence of geography of events on the past and present with emphasis on contemporary issues. Students will be taught the skills and strategies needed for Advanced Placement courses.

### World History Studies – 4218

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: World Geography Studies recommended**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

World History Studies is a survey of the history of human kind. The major emphasis is on the study of significant people, events, and issues from earliest times to present western civilization as well as civilizations in other parts of the world. Students use historical inquiry to research and interpret both primary and secondary sources.

### U.S. History Studies Since 1877 Dual Credit - 4350

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: World History Studies recommended**

U.S. History since Reconstruction focuses on the time period from 1877 to present day. The course content is based on the founding documents of the U.S. government, which provides a framework for its heritage. Historical content focuses on the political, economic and social issues related to industrialization and urbanization, major wars, domestic and foreign policies, and reform movements including civil rights. Students use critical thinking skills and a variety of primary and secondary source material to explain and apply different methods that historians use to understand and interpret the past, including multiple points of view and historical context. The dual credit course surveys the period from the first European explorations to present day.

### U.S. Government Dual Credit – 4400

**Credit: ½, Semester**

**Prerequisite: U.S. History recommended**

United States Government focuses on the principles, beliefs, structure, functions, and powers of government at national, state, and local levels. Emphasis will be placed on the U.S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created. The Federalist Papers, landmark cases and other significant primary and secondary sources will also be analyzed. **Students are encouraged to take two semesters of dual credit Government, in order for credit to be accepted by Texas state colleges and universities.**

### American Government/Research Methods Dual Credit - 4440

**Credit: ½, Semester**

**Prerequisite: U.S. Government**

This course continues with the principles of American government, covering the theories and concepts of government politics, public opinion, parties, civil rights and civil liberties, problems and functions of national, state and local government. **Students are encouraged to take two semesters of dual credit Government, in order for credit to be accepted by Texas state colleges and universities.**

### Economics – 4418

**Prerequisite: U.S. History recommended**

Economics focuses on the Free Enterprise System and its benefits including principles of production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services. The student will research the problem of scarcity in the United States and a comparison with those in other countries around the world. Students apply critical thinking skills to create economic models and evaluate economic patterns.

### Sociology Dual Credit - 4550

**Credit: ½, Semester**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

Sociology teaches dynamics and models of individual and group relationships by focusing on history and systems of sociology, cultural and social norms, social institutions, and mass communications. Emphasis is placed on methods of group influence on individual behavior and values.

### Psychology Dual Credit - 4540

**Credit: ½, Semester**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

Psychology teaches theories of human development, motivation, brain development and learning. Students study the science of human behavior and mental processes. The study of psychology is based on an historical framework and relies on effective collection and analysis of data.

## Languages Other Than English

### Spanish I - 1818

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

This course provides an introduction to the five C's: *communication* (speaking, listening, reading, writing), *culture* (understanding of the people, practices, products and perspectives), *connections* (with other subject areas), *comparisons* (own culture/language with another), and *communities* (using language beyond the school setting for personal and career development).

### Pre-AP Spanish II - 1827

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Level I or teacher recommendation and approval**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

Pre-AP is designed for students with high academic interest and a strong work ethic. The Pre-AP class serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program, specifically to prepare students for the rigor of the AP class and the AP exam. Students will also further explore the five C's at the intermediate proficiency level: *communication* (speaking, listening, reading, writing), *culture* (understanding of the people, practices, products and perspectives), *connections* (with other subject areas), *comparisons* (own culture/language with another), and *communities* (using language beyond the school setting for personal and career development).

### Spanish III Dual Credit - 1830

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Level II or teacher recommendation and approval**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

Pre-AP is designed for students with high academic interest and a strong work ethic. The Pre-AP class serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program, specifically to prepare students for the rigor of the AP class and the AP exam. Students will further explore the five C's at the advanced proficiency level. Students will also extend learning to include literature in a variety of genres. In addition, students will develop a deeper knowledge base in advanced grammar and vocabulary to allow for more complex and fluent communication, both oral and written, in a real-world setting.

### Spanish IV Dual Credit - 1840

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: LOTE I, II, III or teacher recommendation and approval**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

This college level course prepares students to take the advanced placement test for possible college credit. Students will further explore the five C's at the advanced proficiency level. Students will also extend learning to include literature in a variety of genres. In addition, students will develop a deeper knowledge base in advanced grammar and vocabulary to allow for more complex and fluent communication, both oral and written, in a real-world setting. Students are required to take the AP exam at the conclusion of the course

## Fine Arts

### Art I - 6014

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

Students may fulfill fine arts or elective requirements for graduation by successfully completing this course. Beginning art encompasses a wide variety of experiences, from elements and principles of art to art history. Students are exposed to a variety of media both two and three dimensional: pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, tempera, watercolor, clay, and printmaking. Some media may vary. The goal is for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art.

### Art II - 6020

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Art I**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

**\*Art fees are assessed**

Art II is designed to incorporate prior learning from Art I and involve the student in more specialized visual art processes. Students will explore a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media to build artistic confidence and creative visual expression. This course will lay the continuing groundwork for further study in additional art classes.

### Art III - 6030

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: Art I**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

**\*Art fees are assessed**

Students will express ideas through original artworks, using a variety of drawing media. They will be able to apply design skills

in creating practical applications. The students will study historical periods, as well as critique artwork.

### AP Art History - 6096

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

This reading intensive course introduces students to the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of works of art. Students will be exposed to a general survey of art history including architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within historical and cultural contexts. Students will examine major forms of artistic expression from the past to the present, as well as from a variety of cultures beyond the European tradition. While visual analysis is a fundamental tool of the art historian, art history emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art. Some content may be of mature nature.

## Physical Education

### Foundations of Personal Fitness - 7104

**Credit: ½ -1, Semester-Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

Foundations of Personal Fitness provides students with a range of knowledge and skills that will equip them with the knowledge and skills to pursue an active lifestyle and to design effective and appropriate personal fitness programs throughout their lives. Activities are based on understanding and establishing personal fitness.

### Aerobic Activities - 7014

**Credit: ½-1, Semester-Full Year**

**Prerequisite: None**

Students in aerobic activities are exposed to a variety of activities that promote health-related fitness. Students are expected to exhibit competency in two or more aerobic activities such as cycling, jogging, power walking, step aerobics, aerobic dance, etc.

## Career and Technical Education

\* For endorsement purposes, CTE courses may be selected from any cluster. The final course in the sequence must be selected from the endorsement designated by the student.

### Professional Communication Dual Credit - 8069

**Credit: ½, Semester**

**Grade: 11-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

Professional Communications blends written, oral, and graphic communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research.

**Digital Media - 8683****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 9-12****Prerequisite: None**

Through the study of digital and interactive media and its application in information technology, students will analyze and assess current and emerging technologies, while designing and creating multimedia projects that address customer needs and resolve a problem. Students implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. The knowledge and skills acquired and practiced will enable students to successfully perform and interact in a technology-driven society. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and critical thinking and apply them to the information technology environment.

**Principles of Cyber Security - 8880****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

This course develops the knowledge and skills needed to master fundamental concepts of cybersecurity. Students in the course will develop a basic foundation for continuing their cybersecurity education and choosing a career in the cybersecurity field.

**Computer Programming I - 8184****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

In Computer Programming I, students will acquire knowledge of structured programming techniques and concepts appropriate to developing executable programs and creating appropriate documentation. Students will analyze the social responsibility of business and industry regarding the significant issues relating to the environment, ethics, health, safety, and diversity in society and in the workplace as related to computer programming. Students will apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies.

**Principles of Information Technology- 8833****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

The IT Essentials: PC Hardware and Software curriculum provides an introduction to the computer hardware and software skills needed to help meet the growing demand for entry-level information and communication technology (ICT) professionals. The curriculum covers the fundamentals of PC technology, networking, and security, and also provides an introduction to advanced concepts.

**Video Game Design - 8686****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

Careers in Video Game Design span all aspects of the video gaming industry. Within this context, in addition to developing knowledge and skills needed for success in the career cluster, students will be expected to develop, design, problem solve, program and create functional video games. Students will be introduced to programming language and skills that are essential to developing an advanced understanding of the industry with a focus on design and implementation activities.

**Video Game Design II - 8209****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

This course is designed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> year Video Game Design student. Continuing from the first year of Video Game Design, students will continue to develop more advanced skills in programming and game design. The focus of the course will be on 3D gaming and will develop basic 3D modeling and texturing skills.

**Robotics I – 8929****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

In Robotics I, students will transfer academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment through implementation of the design process. Students will build prototypes or use simulation software to test their designs. Additionally, students will explore career opportunities, employer expectations, and educational needs in the robotic and automation industry.

**Robotics II – 8930****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

In Robotics II, students will explore artificial intelligence and programming in the robotic and automation industry. Through implementation of the design process, students will transfer academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment. Students will build prototypes and use software to test

**Audio Video Production - 8684****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

Have you ever dreamed of making your own movies? In Audio Video Production that's exactly what we do. We use Mac computers and the latest and greatest film making software, Adobe Premiere Pro and After Effects, to make our own live action, animated, multi-camera, and sound dubbed films. You'll learn pre-production, editing, and postproduction techniques that will allow you to export your films in a variety of formats for DVD, Web, and Podcast use. You will have the opportunity to earn your Adobe Certified in Premiere Pro and After Effects should you wish to do so. This class is for serious filmmakers only because there is a lot to learn.

**Audio/Video Production II - 8691****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media/Audio Video Production and teacher recommendation****Endorsement: Arts and Humanities**

Careers in audio and video technology and film production span all aspects of the audio/video communications industry. Building upon the concepts taught in Audio/Video Production, in addition to developing advance knowledge and skills needed for success in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communication Career Cluster, students will be expected to develop an advanced understanding of the industry with a focus on pre-production, production, and post production products. This course may be implemented in an audio format or a format with both audio and video.

**Graphic Design and Illustration I - 8204****Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 10-12****Prerequisite: Digital Media**

Learn Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop – two programs used widely throughout the art, business, scientific, design and multimedia industries. Build two-dimensional cartoons and artwork in Illustrator and Photoshop and learn to animate them in Photoshop and Flash. Find out what your digital camera is capable of and how to improve and artistically alter your pictures using Photoshop. Don't pay big bucks for this knowledge years from now! Learn it now while you're still young, and while it's free!

## Elective Courses

### Methodology for Academic and Personal Success I – 9057

**Credit: 1, Full Year**

**Grade: 9**

**Prerequisite: None**

This course focuses on the skills and strategies necessary for students to make a successful transition into high school and an academic career. Students will explore the options available in

high school, higher education, and the professional works in order to establish both immediate and long-range personal goals. After identifying their individual learning styles and abilities, students will build on these abilities by developing critical time management, organization, and study skills. The course focuses on self-understanding, decision-making, resiliency, attitude, character education, and leadership to help students maximize personal achievement. As part of the goal setting and leadership activities, students may complete an outside community service learning experience in addition to class assignment.

It is the policy of Comal Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its career and technical education programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Es norma de Comal Independent Distrito Escolar no discriminar por base de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas de Educación y Carreras Técnicas servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requiere el Título VI de la enmienda de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, el Título IX de las enmiendas de Educación, de 1972, y las enmiendas de la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973.