

A+ Academy Secondary School

Guidance Handbook

2019-2020

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS



A+ CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.

Non-Discrimination Statement for A+ Academy Secondary School

A+ Academy Charter School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex economic background, limited English language proficiency or handicapping condition in providing education services. Mr. Brenton White, Superintendent, has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Title IX and of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

A+ ACADEMY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dallas, TX 75217

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TESTING

There are a number of standardized tests, both required and voluntary, which are administered at A+ Academy High School or at testing sites. Described below are those tests.

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) [Replaced TAKS for Class of 2015+]

	EOC (End-of-Course) Assessed Curriculum
English Language Arts	English I/English II
Mathematics	Algebra I
Science	Biology
Social Studies	U.S. History

PSAT/NMSQT – practice college entrance exam & National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
Grade 10/11 – Preliminary SAT – 11th grade scores used to qualify for National Merit scholarships – Taken for practice by ALL 10th and select 9th grade students.

ACT/SAT for college entrance at 4-year schools

Grade 11/12 – College entrance exams. It is very important to plan ahead and take these exams in 11th grade.

TSI (Texas Success Initiative) for college entrance at 2-year schools

Required for enrollment in any Texas public college or university unless exempt based on TAKS, STAAR, ACT or SAT scores. This test is often required prior to enrolling in dual credit courses.

AP (Advance Placement)

Students in Advanced Placement courses are encouraged to take the AP exam at the end of the year. College credit may be awarded for qualifying scores on AP exams.

ADVANCED ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

A+ Academy High School is proud to provide an abundance of advanced academic learning opportunities, including **Dual Credit (DC)** and **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses.

Dual Credit (DC) courses receive credit toward credit high school graduation and credit through Dallas County College. Students are responsible for meeting TSI requirements prior to enrolling in Dual Credit courses.

Because Pre-AP, AP and Dual Credit courses are actual college courses and use college-level textbooks, parents and students are advised to consider that some material, discussions, etc. may be of a more mature nature than those of a regular high school course. Students are expected to conduct themselves in manner consistent with that which would be expected if the course were being taken on a college campus.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college level courses taught in accordance with the Advanced Placement curriculum. Students are encouraged to take the AP exam at the end of each AP course. Colleges may award credit on the basis of scores made on the AP exam. Students take Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses in preparation for the Advanced Placement courses. **All Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) and Advanced Placement (AP) courses receive Level 3 grade points.**

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Once a student has registered, no schedule changes are to be made except in the case where an error has been made in scheduling or to equalize a teacher’s load. So choose courses that the student will be committed to for the ENTIRE school year. If you fail to complete or turn in a registration form in the spring, courses will be chosen for you and a schedule change will NOT be considered in the fall. **It is the student and parent’s responsibility to make wise and careful choices regarding course selections.**

GRADE CLASSIFICATION AND RANKING INFORMATION

Grade level classification will be based upon the number of documented credits earned. Students are classified by grade level (9, 10, 11, and 12) at the beginning of each school year.

Classification requirements for grade:	9 th (Freshman).....0-5.5 credits
	10 th (Sophomore).....6-11.5 credits
	11 th (Junior).....12-18.5 credits
	12 th (Senior).....19+ credits
	Graduation candidate.....26 credits

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To be eligible to receive a high school diploma, a student with a disability must meet standards for performance on the sections of the exit-level assessment instrument for which he or she is eligible, as specified in the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) by the Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee. Each student for whom an appropriate criterion-referenced assessment instrument has been developed shall participate in the administration of the instrument. A student shall be exempted from participation only upon the formal determination of the student's ARD committee, documented in the student's IEP.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The State of Texas and A+ Charter Schools have approved one graduation plan. The State of Texas Foundation High School Program requires 22 units of credits. Additionally, upon entering grade 9, each student will select one or more endorsements areas for an additional 4 units of credits. In A+ Academy Charter Schools, every student is expected to earn 26 credits and graduate on the Foundation High School Program with an endorsement.

Note: Admission to a college or university is not based on the graduation plan but on the requirement for the particular college or university. College or university admission may also be based on grade point average, class rank, scores on college entrance exams, involvement in school and community activities, and/or other criteria deemed relevant by the university admission policy.

The A+ Academy Charter Schools course guide lists the courses available to high school students. Every course will not be offered during each academic school year. Updates to this guide are made each year as courses are added or deleted.

Requirements in this academic planning guide are effective for students graduating from A+ Academy Charter Schools. In the future changes may be made to this guide in order to complete with new state legislation.

A+ Academy Charter Schools State of Texas Foundation High School Program (Entering Fall of 2014 and thereafter)

English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
World History	1
U.S. History	1
Government	.5
Economic	.5
Foreign Language	2
Fine Arts	1
Physical Education	1
Electives	5
Total	22

Foundation Plan Plus Endorsements

English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
World History	1
U.S. History	1
Government	.5

Economic	.5
Foreign Language	2
Fine Arts	1
Physical Education	1
Electives	3
Endorsements	4
Total	26

AWARDING CREDIT

1. Students will receive credit at the end of each semester for each course regardless if the course is a semester course or a full year course (comprised of two semesters). For full year courses, the two semester course averages can be averaged together to earn the full credit (1.0) under the following procedures:
 - a. The two semesters are averaged together

AND

- b. The average of the two semester courses in 70% or greater

Sample One:

Fall semester: English 1 (a) grade earned – 67%

Spring semester – English 1 (b) grade earned – 75%

Student will earn a 1.0 credit for English 1

2. A student may attend summer school **immediately** following the academic year and re-take a semester of the full year course with permission of the principal and his/her designee. If the semester grade for the summer school class and the corresponding course grade for the semester taken during the school year is 70% when averaged, the student will receive the full credit for both semesters.

Sample Two:

Fall semester: English 1 (a) grade earned – 67%

Spring semester – English 1 (b) grade earned – 66%

Student takes English 1 (b) in summer school in summer 2010, and earns a 78%

Student will earn a 1.0 credit for English 1. (Average of English 1 (a) grade earned – 67%) and English 1 (b) 78% from summer school for an average of 72.5%)

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Students 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 required by the Texas Education Code (TEC), section 28.025(b-15), including four credits in science and four credit in mathematics to include Algebra II.

- *Distinguished Level of Achievement is necessary to be eligible for the top 10% automatic college admission TEC section 51.803*

PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Students may earn performance acknowledgements on their diploma and transcript for outstanding performance in dual credit courses, in bilingualism and biliteracy, on a College Board Advanced Placement test, on the PSAT, the SAT, the ACT, or for earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license. Please consult your counselor for more information about the required coursework and scores necessary to receive a performance acknowledgement.

CLASS RANK AND GPA

For students entering grade 9th, class ranking shall be determined by awarding grade points to all semester grades earned. Class rank shall be calculated after each semester for students. The District shall generally calculate rank the second week of the fall semester and the second week of the spring semester.

In calculating a student's grade point average (GPA) for the purpose of determining class rank and any honor in which class rank is used as a qualifier, courses designated as AP, pre-AP and dual credit shall receive weighted grade points according to the attached grade point scale.

Once a student's grade point average has been determined by the above method, the students will be ranked with the highest GPA ranked number 1, the student with the second highest GPA ranked number 2, and so forth. In case of a tie after the GPA has been rounded to the nearest ten-thousandth point, a tie will be declared for the particular rank where the tie occurred.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District High School for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation; and
2. Have completed the FHS Distinguished Program for graduation.

Breaking Ties:

In case of a tie in weighed GPAs, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian:

1. Compute the weighted GPA to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken.
2. Compare the number of weighted courses taken by each student involved in the tie.
3. Calculate the weighted GPA using only weighted courses taken by each student involved in the tie.

If the tie is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

HIGHEST RANKING GRADUATE

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduates from the state of Texas.

HONOR GRADUATES

Honor graduates shall be students who:

1. Completed the FHS Distinguished Program
2. Have been continuously enrolled in District during the four semesters immediately preceding graduation; and
3. Achieved a GPA of 3.25 or above.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Advanced Placement Program, administered by The College Board, allows students to participate in college-level courses while in high school and possibly earn college credit while still in high school. Students who complete Advanced Placement course are expected to take the AP exam in May. Based on the result of the AP exam, colleges and universities may grant college credit to students with satisfactory Advanced Placement test scores. Students and parents must check with the particular college or university to insure that the college accepts advanced placement exams for credits. The AP Courses that are offered each year may vary based on student requests and enrollment.

- **Students enrolling in AP English, AP United States History, AP Environmental Science and AP Spanish IV are required to complete a summer assignment.**

AP Equality and Access Policy

The College Board strongly encourages educators to make equitable access a guiding principle for their AP programs by giving all willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to participate in AP. We encourage the elimination of barriers that restrict access to AP for students from ethnic, racial and socioeconomic groups that have been traditionally underserved. Schools should make every effort to ensure their AP classes reflect the diversity of their student population. The College Board also believes that all students have access to academically challenging course work before they enroll in AP classes, which can prepare them for AP success. It is only through a commitment to equitable preparation and access that true equity and excellence can be achieved.

PRE-AP PROGRAM

Although the Pre-AP and AP programs are a continuation of the Gifted and Talented program in place at the elementary and intermediate levels, Pre-AP and AP courses are open to ALL students who are prepared and willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum.

- **Students enrolling in Pre-AP English, Pre-AP Math, Pre-AP World History and Pre-AP Sciences are required to complete a summer assignment.**

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer students from non-accredited public, non-accredited private, non-accredited parochial, or home schools have three options to received high school credits. The student may enroll in credit by exam, enroll in approved correspondence course, or take the course at A+ Academy High School.

If the student chooses to take credit by exam to earn course credits, officially documented accredited home school or high school courses will be considered as prior instruction. A+ Academy High School administrative staff will make the final determinations as to prior instruction. In accordance with the credit by exam procedures outlined above, if the student earns a 70 or higher on the credit by exam and has had prior instruction, the student will be awarded the credit. If the student has had no prior instruction, the student must earn an 80 or higher in order to receive the course credit. No grade points will be awarded for credit by exam or correspondence courses.

TRANSFER GRADES

When a student transfers grades for a properly documented and eligible course(s), the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District for the same course offered to the same class of students in the District.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN AT THE JUNIOR HIGH

Students may take selected, pre-approved courses at the junior high school level to receive high school course credit. Credit earned prior to 9th grade will appear on the student's high school transcript.

LOCAL CREDIT COURSES

Local credit courses are courses approved by the A+ Academy Charter School Board of Trustees for local credit only. These courses do not count toward state graduation requirements, cannot be used to fulfill the minimum number of credits on any graduation plan, will not be used in course calculation for promotion, and will not receive grade points.

GRADE POINT SCALE

GRADE	AP/DUAL CREDIT	PRE-AP	ALL OTHER COURSE
100	6.0	5.0	4.0
99	5.9	4.9	3.9
98	5.8	4.8	3.8
97	5.7	4.7	3.7
96	5.6	4.6	3.6
95	5.5	4.5	3.5
94	5.4	4.4	3.4
93	5.3	4.3	3.3
92	5.2	4.2	3.2
91	5.1	4.1	3.1
90	5.0	4.0	3.0
89	4.9	3.9	2.9
88	4.8	3.8	2.8
87	4.7	3.7	2.7
86	4.6	3.6	2.6
85	4.5	3.5	2.5
84	4.4	3.4	2.4
83	4.3	3.3	2.3
82	4.2	3.2	2.2
81	4.1	3.1	2.1
80	4.0	3.0	2.0
79	3.9	2.9	1.9
78	3.8	2.8	1.8
77	3.7	2.7	1.7
76	3.6	2.6	1.6
75	3.5	2.5	1.5
74	3.4	2.4	1.4
73	3.3	2.3	1.3
72	3.2	2.2	1.2

71	3.1	2.1	1.1
70	3.0	2.0	1.0
69 and below	0	0	0

STUDENTS CLASSIFICATIONS

Students will be classified according to the number of credits earned:

Freshmen: 0 to 5.5 credits earned

Sophomore: 6.0 to 11.5 credits earned

Junior: 12.0 to 17.5 credits earned

Seniors: 18.0 or more credits earned

STUDENT COURSE LOAD

Requirements for course enrollments are:

9th Grade – All students must be on campus eight academic periods per day in addition to any required tutorial periods

10th Grade – All students must be on campus eight academic periods per day in addition to any required tutorial periods

11th Grade – All students must be on campus at least eight academic periods unless attending dual credit classes after campus then they must be on campus at least five academic periods per day in addition to any required tutorial periods

12th Grade – All students must be on campus at least eight academic periods unless attending dual credit classes after campus then they must be on campus at least five academic periods per day in addition to any required tutorial periods

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Based on registration information, courses are scheduled and teachers are employed for the next school year. Students are expected to discuss his/her selections with parents and teachers as they make careful decisions about course selections. Counselors will meet the students to collect registration forms and finalize decisions. Parents are responsible to review the course descriptions and initiate any selection changes they feel necessary with the counselor.

Guidelines for the 2019-2020 Schedule Changes

1. No course request changes will be accepted after June 1
2. No schedule changes will be made between schedule pick-up and the start of school except the following:
 - a. A student fails a prerequisite course
 - b. A student earns credit over the summer
 - c. A senior is not schedule in a class needed for graduation
 - d. A student is schedule in a class in which a credit has already been earned
 - e. A schedule change is necessary due to changes in the master schedule
3. No elective changes will be made when a student is in a class he/she selected as a first or alternate class.

Changing AP and Pre-AP courses in high school creates problems in the distribution of students and resources within a department. Before stating the master schedule, hiring teachers, or assigning classrooms, the school takes into consideration the courses that each student has requested. The number of sections developed per class is determined by the number of students registered for the courses. When a student switches from an upper level course to a lower level course the lower level courses becomes over loaded and the teachers become unable to meet the needs of all students. For these reasons, the following Policy was created for A+ Academy High School.

AP/Pre-AP Schedule Change Policy

1. Students will only be able to change an AP/Pre-AP course after grades have been posted for the first six weeks of the semester in which the student is seeking the change.
2. For the request to be reviewed, the following criteria must be completed and documented by the teacher, student and parent.
 - a. The Teacher, Parent and Student must have attended a face-to-face conference to address the student's needs and/or concerns
 - b. The student must attend no less than 3 tutorials with the teacher.
 - c. The students must have completed and turned in ALL assignments for the course
 - d. The teacher must document that the student has shown consistent effort throughout the 6-weeks, however despite efforts the student remains unsuccessful. (Definition of unsuccessful is inability to maintain a passing average of 70%)
 - e. The student has asked the teacher for help when it was needed, however despite these efforts by the student, they remain unsuccessful.
3. Students will be able to request a scheduled change by completing an AP/Pre-AP Schedule Change Request Form. These forms will be available the first day of the second 6-weeks. For request to be considered, the form must be completely filled out with student, parent, administrator and teacher's signatures. The necessary documentation must be completed by the teacher
4. The window for AP/Pre-AP schedule change request is 3 days (days 1-3 of the second 6-weeks).
 - Special Note: Some AP courses do not have an equivalent regular-level course. Therefore, if a senior is dropping an AP course which does not offer an equivalent regular-level course and the student needs that class for graduation, the student would

need to sign up for a credit recovery and complete the necessary credit with a course offered on-line.

COLLEGE CREDIT DURING HIGH SCHOOL

Dual Credit Courses

Accredited schools in the state of Texas may offer dual credit for high school and college when the college meets the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills components for that particular subject. The school district will make every effort to offer some of these classes on campus during the normal course of the day. Students must meet admission requirements for the college before enrolling for the college courses. Dual Credit courses are a permanent part of your high school transcript and college academic record.

Dual Credit: Community College

The District may enter into an agreement with a public college that allows the junior college to offer a course in which a student attending District high school may enroll and for which the student may receive both course credit toward high school graduation requirements and course credit as a junior college student. Such a student will receive junior college credit if the student has been admitted to the junior college or subsequently is admitted to the junior college.

1. The student must see the high school counselor or registration designee before enrolling.
2. The parent(s) or guardian(s) **affirms in writing** to the principal, counselor, or registration designee that the student has parental permission to take college course(s)
3. Credit for successfully completed college course(s) shall be earned in on-half unit increments.
4. The grade must be a minimum of “C” to qualify for high school credit.
5. The student must have completed his or her freshman year of high school before being permitted to take college courses.
6. All portions of the TSI, the college entrance exam, must be successfully completed **before** enrollment of college courses may occur. Even though the college may accept a grade below 70 as passing and reward credit, A+ Academy will not. A+ Academy will only grant credit for a grade of 70 or above.

To be eligible and be awarded credit toward state graduation requirements, a student must have the approval of the high school principal or counselor. **ANY STUDENT WHO MAKES BELOW A 70 AT THE END OF THE FIRST SEMESTER, IN ANY COLLEGE COURSE TAKEN OFF CAMPUS, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENROLL IN COLLEGE CLASSES SECOND SEMESTER WITHOUT ADMINISTRATION APPROVAL.**

Students enrolled in college classes must show proof of enrollment. It is the responsibility of each student to request an “official college transcript” at the end of each semester and provide it to the counselor. A college report card will not take the place of an official transcript. Students should thoroughly examine this option before choosing to take college courses not regulated by A+ Academy. Although this can be a beneficial opportunity, students must be willing to abide by the grade given by the college.

AP SCORES FOR COLLEGE CREDIT

A score of “3” or higher is considered a passing grade by the College Board; however, students should check with the college or university they plan to attend to determine the required score needed for college credit.

CREDIT BY EXAM

In certain situations, credit by examination may be used to earn credit in an academic course at the secondary level. Prior approval of the campus counselor or administrator is required. Credit by examination shall not be used to gain eligibility for participation for participation in extracurricular activities.

The minimum passing standard for a student who has had prior formal instruction in a specific course from an accredited institution is a 70. The minimum passing standard for a student who has not had prior formal instruction is an 80. The principal or his/her designee makes the final determination regarding whether or not a student has received prior instruction from an accredited institution.

The test shall be administered according to procedures and calendar approved by the superintendent or designee. In preparation for graduation, when there is a credit deficit and additional credits are required, the superintendent or designee may allow additional credits to be earned through credit by exam. A grade that meets the requirements (70 with prior instruction; 80 without prior instruction) on a credit by exam will earn high school credit and will not be awarded grade points. A student may not attempt to earn credit by examination for a specific high school course more than two times.

EARLY GRADUATION

To be eligible to graduate early, a student shall complete all coursework and state-mandated assessments required of the ninth grade class in which he or she begins high school and shall notify the principal of his or her intent to graduate early. A student who completes the high school program requirements in fewer than four years shall be ranked in the class with which he or she actually graduates. Early graduates shall be eligible for honors positions including valedictorian and salutatorian.

- Student intending to graduate early must notify their counselor by the end of their ninth grade year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students experiencing difficulties in school may be referred for services in special education. Before a student can receive special education and/or related services for the first time, an initial evaluation must be conducted. Decisions regarding the provision of special education services are made by an Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) committee. If a student is determined

to be eligible for services in accordance with the Texas Education Agency guidelines, an individualized education plan is developed. Instruction that is designed to meet a student's unique educational needs may be provided in a variety of settings. Instructional settings may include (a) general education classroom with accommodations; (b) general education classroom with support; (c) resource classroom; (d) self-contained classroom; or (e) a separate campus. Related services necessary for the student to benefit from special education may also be provided.

PE EQUIVALENT POLICY

All students are required to complete 1.0 credits of physical for all graduation programs. Students may earn additional elective credits in the physical education courses. Athletics may count in lieu of PE as required for graduation up to a maximum of 4.0 credits. Students enrolled in Drill Team, Cheerleading and Marching Band may earn substitute physical education credit in the fall semester only. According to H.B. 246, the credits required for PE may be met by physical education or athletic courses. Students may substitute certain physical activities for the 1.0 required credits of physical education. Such substitutions shall be based on the physical activity involved in:

1. Drill team, marching band and cheerleading in the fall semester
2. Athletics

EXTRA CURRICULAR GUIDELINES

At the conclusion of each grading period, a student must not have recorded a grade lower than a 70 in any course. *For AP/Pre-AP Courses see below.* A student with a failing grade is suspended from participation in any extra-curricular activity, starting seven (7) calendar days after the end of the first grading period in which the failing grade was received. During that suspension period, a student may practice or rehearse with other students for an extra-curricular activity but may not participate in a competition or a performance. Three weeks following each six-week grading period, grades are checked for all students who failed one or more courses during the preceding six-weeks. If a student is passing all courses at the end of the three-week period, he/she may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the three-week evaluation period. If the student is still failing one or more courses at the end of three-week period, he/she remains ineligible. If a student is passing all courses at the end of the six-week period, he/she may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the six-week evaluation period. If the student is still fail one or more courses at the six-week period, he/she remains ineligible until the three-week progress report.

Students receiving an Incomplete in any course at the end of the six-week grading period will remain ineligible or become ineligible seven calendar days after the end of the grading period.

Students are limited to eight (8) hours per school week of practice per activity outside the school day. (School week is defined as 12:01 am on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ending at the close of instruction on the last instruction day of the calendar week.)

UIL COMPETITIVE SPORTS INFORMATION

A+ Academy High School offers the following competitive sports:

Football	Basketball (boys and girls)	Girls' volleyball
Soccer (boys and girls)	Cheerleading	Drill Team
Cross Country	Track	

IMPORTANT!! Students are allowed to sign up for any sport of their choosing. However, you must make the team in order to stay in the class. Athletic cuts are typically made in the first few weeks of each semester. Those students who do not make the team will have to have a schedule change. Underclassmen that do not make the team will be transferred to a physical education class. Other students will be given their choice of elective classes that are still OPEN.

HONOR/ADVANCED COURSE WAIVER

A student in grades in 9-12 enrolled in a course designated by the District as honors or advanced, including AP, Pre-AP and dual credit courses, shall earn a grade average of 60 or above on a scale of 100 during the reporting period to remain eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ABSENCES

The District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extra-curricular activities approved by the Board. A student shall be allowed in a school year a maximum of ten extra-curricular absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition.

SAT AND ACT (COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS) PSAT/NMSQT

The SAT and ACT college entrance exams are administered on several dates during the year. The PSAT/NMSQT is a preliminary test for the SAT, but it is also the test by which the 11th grade students enter competition for National Merit Scholarships. The PSAT is administered in October each year.

ENDORSEMENT AND CAREER EXPERIENCES

Under House Bill 5 from the 83rd Legislature, all students entering high school in 2014-2014 and beyond must graduate with a Foundation Program diploma (22 credits) and must select an Endorsement in one of 5 areas (Arts and Humanities, Business and Industry, Public Service, STEM and Multidisciplinary) for an additional 4 credits.

In A+ Academy Charter School, career experiences for each endorsement area have been created so that students have the opportunity to experience hands-on application in their chosen

endorsement area. In the spring of a student's 8th grade year, he or she will choose a career experience and develop a 4 year Personal Graduation Plan.

** Course requirements as reflected in the following charts are subject to change based on content availability, student enrollment and TEA updates.

CTE ENDORSEMENTS

ENDORSEMENTS	<p>A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curriculum requirements for the endorsement ● A total of four credits in mathematics ● A total of four credits in science ● Two additional elective credits
STEM	<p>A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curriculum requirements for the endorsement ● A total of four credits in mathematics ● A total of four credits in science ● Two additional elective credits
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses from one the one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CTE course with a final course from Art, Audio/Video, Technology & Communication and Information Technology ● The following English electives: public speaking including yearbook ● Technology Applications ● A combination of credits from the categories listed above
PUBLIC SERVICE	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CTE courses from the Education & Training and Health Science
ARTS & HUMANITIES	<p>A coherent sequence or series of course from one of the following”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Studies ● The same language in Language Other Than English ● Courses from one or two categories (art, dance, music and theater) in fine arts ● English electives that are not part of Business and Industry
MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or post-secondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence ● Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or Physics ● Four credits in AP or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, language other than English or fine arts
	TOTAL CREDITS WITH ENDORSEMENTS – 26
DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A total of four credits in math, including Algebra II ● A total of four credits in science ● Completion of curriculum for at least one endorsement
PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	<p>For outstanding performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In a dual credit course ● In bilingualism and biliteracy ● On an AP test ● On the PSAT, the SAT or the ACT ● For earning nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license

COURSE OFFERINGS

English Courses

English 1: Grade Level: 9 Credit: 1

Welcome to a world filled with the excitement of reading world literature, including short stories, novels, nonfiction, and poetry. We will look at both American authors and the classics, such as *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Odyssey*. Students will continue to improve their reading and writing competence, so they may be successful not just in high school courses and on EOC tests, but throughout their lives.

English I – Pre AP: Grade Level: 9 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Summer Reading Assignment

This course offers an integrated approach to literature, writing and grammar. The students use short stories, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, additional novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections as springboards for writing and for exciting creative projects. The conventions of written English are emphasized through the context of the student's own writing and speaking. Novel activities emphasizing "literary literacy", vocabulary skills, and similar competencies are interspersed throughout the course. Most exercises involve higher-level thinking skills. Students and parents should understand that any course labeled Pre-AP is a college preparatory course. Reading selections are at a mature level, and the curriculum is rigorous. In addition, students will be required to write course specific essays and answer higher level multiple choice questions in a strictly timed setting. All work and projects must be completed on time.

English II: Grade Level: 10 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English I

This course includes a review of language skills, the teaching of intermediate composition skills, and an examination of literary themes and forms. Literary studies will cover the short story, novel, poetry, drama, and non-fiction. Emphasis in both semesters will be placed on vocabulary development, composition skills, close reading and critical writing skills. EOC-assessed skills will continue to be emphasized with strong focus on the persuasive and expository essay.

English II – Pre AP: Grade Level: 10 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English I, Summer Reading Assignment

Students will advance literary analysis and writing skills acquired in Pre-AP English I, and extend their study of vocabulary, the short story, the novel, poetry, and drama. Considerable time will be devoted to the development of critical reading skills with numerous requirements for outside reading. Composition will support all literary study. During second semester, attention

will be given to preparation for English III-AP and the AP Language and Composition Test. Pre-AP is a college preparatory course. Reading selections are at a mature level, and the curriculum is rigorous. Student work and projects will be graded stringently based on literary relevance. In addition, students will be required to write course specific essays and answer higher level multiple choice questions in a strictly timed setting. All work and projects must be completed on time and are expected to be exemplary.

English III:

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English II

Students strengthen skills in reading analysis and communication. Students read and write on a daily basis, engaging in activities that build on existing skills as they comprehend and analyze text, write in multiple modes, research, listen, and speak. This course focuses on American fiction and nonfiction, using literary and other texts to present the iconic idea of the American Dream. Students research historical and contemporary texts as they articulate the origins and impact of the ideas and realities of the American Dream on life today and on personal thinking. Students are expected to articulate personal convictions and propose solutions to social issues. Writing in a variety of modes - personal essays, opinions and editorials, credos, reflective self-evaluation, speeches, dramatic scripts, surveys, literary analysis, and research projects - students expand their skills in communicating well through written language. Through the use of multiple learning and instructional strategies, students acquire not only the knowledge they need but also the confidence in their own abilities to learn and to communicate effectively in real-world situations.

English III – AP:

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English II, Summer Reading Assignment

This course is designed to prepare motivated students for the AP English Language exam given at the end of the course in May. The main focus is on close reading and analysis of rhetoric and persuasion. Students will also become more familiar with classic literature, as well as more modern readings, giving students the opportunity to hone their thinking and writing skills. Students and parents should understand that AP classes are considered “college level” and so will many of these readings. Some will deal with controversial and mature subjects, many with frank language that some could find objectionable. In addition, students will be required to write course specific essays and answer higher level multiple choice questions in a strictly timed setting. All work and projects must be completed on time. Students are expected to complete the summer assignment prior to entering the class in the fall.

English IV:

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English III

Students strengthen skills in reading analysis and communication. Students read and write on a

daily basis, engaging in activities that build on existing skills as they comprehend and analyze text, write in multiple modes, research, listen, and speak. This course capitalizes on the confidence and expertise students have gained as interpreters and analyzers of texts by introducing them to multiple lenses through which to view text. Students are asked to broaden their understanding and their interpretive skills by thinking deeply about themes and ideas from multiple perspectives. Students learn to view texts through some of the filters that result in multiple interpretations of the same text or media story. Students apply the theories of criticism to their own reading and interpretation of both fiction and nonfiction texts. Through the use of multiple learning and instructional strategies, students acquire not only the knowledge they need but also the confidence in their own abilities to learn and to communicate effectively in real-world situations.

English IV – AP:

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English III, Summer Reading Assignment

AP English Literature and Composition is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as smaller-scale elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Student is encouraged to take the AP exam for this course at the end of the school year. Students and parents should understand that any course labeled AP is a class that is equivalent to a college course. Reading selections are at a mature level, and the curriculum is rigorous. Student work and projects will be graded stringently based on literary relevance. In addition, students will be required to write course specific essays and answer higher level multiple choice questions in a strictly timed setting. All work and projects must be completed on time.

Business English:

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English III

Students recognize, evaluate, and prepare for a rapidly evolving global business environment that requires flexibility and adaptability. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis. Students edit their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English and produce final, error-free drafts for business reproduction.

English III or IV – Dual Credit:
Composition I

Grade Level: 11 or 12

Credit: 0.5 (High School)
3 hours (College)

Practical Writing:

Grade Level: 9+

Credit: ½ - 1

The study of writing allows high school students to develop skills necessary to composing business letters and requests for information, as well as for completing job applications and résumés. This course emphasizes skill in the use of conventions and mechanics of written English, the appropriate and effective application of English grammar, and the effective use of vocabulary. Students are expected to understand the recursive nature of the writing process. Evaluation of students' own writing as well as the writing of others insures that students completing this course are able to analyze and evaluate their writing.

Technical Writing:

Grade Level: 10+

Credit: ½ - 1

English course designed to teach high school students research and technical writing skills. The information obtained through research will be used to write essays and papers that are supported by facts. Evaluation of students' own writing as well as the writing of others insures that students completing this course are able to analyze and evaluate their writing.

Mathematics Courses

Algebra I

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

A student enrolls in Algebra I as a one-year course. The course involves a study of the language of Algebra through use of linear, quadratic and exponential functions. Topics covered include: operations with polynomial expressions including simplifying them; writing characteristics of linear, quadratic and exponential relations and functions including domain and range; writing, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities; writing, graphing and solving quadratic and exponential functions; application of the 3 functions through basic word problems, polynomials. TI-Inspire CX graphing calculators will be integrated into lessons to aid comprehension. The student should acquire a basic knowledge of the structure and use of Algebra and a better ability to problem solve.

Algebra I Pre-AP

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Completion of Summer Assignment

This course will require higher level critical thinking skills, 3-4 projects during the year outside of class, and 1 project to be completed in the summer preceding entry into the course. Students will experience more challenging problem-solving tasks than in the regular Algebra I class. More rigorous word problems will be used periodically to increase the depth of understanding and to prepare for pre-calculus and Calculus. Topics will be explored in depth, and tests will prove more challenging than ones found in the regular Algebra I course through use of supplemental questions.

Geometry

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students enroll in Geometry as a one-year course. This course is an in-depth study of plane and solid figures. The student will apply the principles of inductive and deductive reasoning in developing basic proofs. Particular emphasis is given to applying definitions, conjectures, postulates, and theorems. The student will study the basic properties of lines, planes, polygons, circles, and geometric solids. Topics include the principle of congruence and similarity of triangles and the basic concepts of coordinate and transformational geometry. The course is directed toward giving the student a thorough understanding of Euclidean geometry.

Geometry Pre-AP

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, and Completion of Summer Assignment

This course will require higher level critical thinking skills, 3-4 projects during the year outside of class, and 1 project to be completed in the summer preceding entry into the course. Extensive problem solving and use of graphing calculators are all included in the course. Students will

study topics more in depth, and tests will prove more challenging than ones found in the general Geometry course.

Algebra II

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

A student enrolls for Algebra II as a one-year course. This course includes a study of foundations of functions, identifying and graphing parent functions, extending those functions using transformations, analyzing the relationships between those functions and their inverses, and identifying and graphing conic sections. Systems of equations and inequalities will be solved using algebraic methods, tables, graphs, and matrices. Students will also expand upon topics covered in Algebra 1, including polynomial operations and more complete function graphs and interpretations.

Algebra II Pre-AP

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Completion of Summer Assignment

This course will require higher level critical thinking skills, 3-4 projects during the year outside of class, and 1 project to be completed in the summer preceding entry into the course. Students will experience more challenging problem-solving tasks than in the general Algebra II class in preparation for Pre-Calculus and Calculus. N-spire CX calculators will be a regular part of the course to aid students' examinations of functions and their graphs. Topics will be explored in depth, and tests will prove more challenging than ones found in the regular Algebra II course through use of supplemental questions.

Statistics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I & Algebra 2

Students will broaden their knowledge of variability and statistical processes. Students will connect data and statistical processes to real-world situations by studying sampling and experimentation, categorical and quantitative data, probability and random variables.

Mathematical Models

Grade Level: 10+

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Administrator Approval

Students who have earned credit for Algebra II may not enroll in this class. In this class students will continue to build on the Algebra I foundations as they expand their understanding through other mathematical experiences to prepare them to take Algebra II. Students use algebraic, graphical, and geometric reasoning to recognize patterns and structure, to model information, and to solve problems from various disciplines. Students use mathematical methods to model and solve real-life applied

problems involving money, data, patterns, music, science, design and chance. Students use mathematical models from algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics and connections among these to solve problems from a wide variety of advanced applications in both mathematical and nonmathematical situations. Students use a variety of representations (concrete, numerical, algorithmic, and graphical), tools, and technology to link modeling techniques and purely mathematical concepts and to solve applied problems. May not be used for DAP graduation plan.

Financial Mathematics

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Financial Mathematics is a course about personal money management. Students will apply critical thinking skills to analyze financial decisions based on current and projected economic factors. Financial Mathematics will integrate career and postsecondary education planning into financial decision making. When possible, students will apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. Students will use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution.

Mathematics for Medical Professionals

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra II

The Mathematics for Medical Professionals course is designed to serve as the driving force behind the Texas essential knowledge and skills for mathematics, guided by the college and career readiness standards. By embedding statistics, probability, and finance, while focusing on fluency and solid understanding in medical mathematics, students will extend and apply mathematical skills necessary for health science professions. Course content consists primarily of high school level mathematics concepts and their applications to health science professions.

Pre-Calculus

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II

Pre-Calculus is a detailed study of the following functions: linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric. This course also covers sequences, series, vectors, and introductory parametric functions. This course meets the minimum prerequisite requirement for AP Calculus AB. This course is not recommended as a prerequisite for AP Calculus BC.

Pre-AP Pre-Calculus

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra II

Pre-AP Pre-Calculus expands on the concepts covered in on-level Pre-Calculus. This course is fast paced and students will require excellent algebraic and problem solving skills to be successful in this course. Students will also develop strategies that prepare them for AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC. Students successful in Pre-AP Pre-Calculus must be organized, committed, and eager to persevere due to the fast paced, abstract nature of the course. This course is the recommended prerequisite requirement for either AP Calculus AB.

AP Calculus AB

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus AB covers advanced mathematical topics including elementary differential and integral calculus. AP Calculus AB is approximately equivalent to a one-semester calculus course at the college level. This course is designed to prepare students for the College Board Advanced Placement Exam. AP Calculus AB is not a prerequisite to AP Calculus BC. AP Calculus AB is a college level course.

AP Calculus BC

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus BC covers advanced mathematical topics including elementary differential and integral calculus and their applications with polar, parametric, and vector functions. Additionally, applications of integral function, logistic models, polynomial approximations, and advanced sequences and series will be studied. AP Calculus BC is approximately equivalent to a two-semester calculus course at the college level. This course is designed to prepare students for the College Board Placement Exam. This course can be taken in lieu of AP Calculus AB. AP Calculus BC is a college level course.

Dual Credit MATH 1314 College Algebra

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: ½

Prerequisite: Algebra II, and TSI and Eastfield Entrance Requirements

College Algebra is an in-depth study of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic functions, and systems of equations using matrices. Additional topics such as sequences, series, probability, and conics may be included. A graphing calculator is required. This course may qualify as 1/2 of the 4th high school math credit as well as 3 college credit hours.

Dual Credit MATH 1316 Trigonometry

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: ½

Prerequisite: Dual Credit College Algebra (MATH 1314), and meet eligibility requirements

Plane Trigonometry is the in-depth study and application of trigonometry including definitions, identities, inverse functions, solutions of equations, graphing, and solving triangles. Additional topics such as vectors, polar coordinates and parametric equations may be included. Graphing

calculator required. This course may qualify as 1/2 of the 4th high school, math credit as well as 3 college credit hours.

Dual Credit MATH 2412 Pre-Calculus Math

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: ½

Prerequisite: Dual Credit College Algebra (MATH 1314) and meet eligibility requirements

In-depth combined study of algebra, trigonometry, and other topics for calculus readiness. Graphing calculator required. Lab required. 4 credit hours. This course may qualify as 1/2 of the 4th high school math credit.

Dual Credit MATH 2413 Calculus I

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: ½

Prerequisite: MATH 2412 and meet eligibility requirements

Calculus is a study of limits and continuity; the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus; definition of the derivative of a function and techniques of differentiation; applications of the derivative to maximizing or minimizing a function; the chain rule, mean value theorem, and rate of change problems; curve sketching; definite and indefinite integration of algebraic, trigonometric, and transcendental functions, with an application to calculation of area. Graphing calculator required. Lab included. This credit course may qualify as 1/2 of the 4th high school, math credit as well as 3 college credit hours.

Science Courses

Integrated Physics and Chemistry/IPC: Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: none

Integrated Physics and Chemistry is a survey lab course that reinforces the foundational knowledge required for all subsequent physical science courses. Students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigation, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. This course integrates the disciplines of physics and chemistry in the following topics: force, motion, energy, and matter.

Biology I:

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Biology is a course designed around the study of living things. This course emphasizes a variety of topics such as functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues and organs; nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; ecosystems; living systems; homeostasis; ecosystems; and plants and the environment. Manipulative laboratory skills, skills in acquiring data, classification skills in ordering and sequencing data, oral and written communication skills, along with career exploration will be stressed in this course. This course will require an End of Course Exam for any student enrolled from the freshman class of 2011-2012 & beyond.

Biology I Pre-AP

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course extends the biology concepts and TEKS with an emphasis on preparing students to take AP Biology. Pre-AP Biology will be a lab-oriented course designed for students exhibiting advanced achievement levels in the biological sciences. This course shall exceed the content and depth of a standard Biology course both in the classroom and laboratory experiences. Pre-AP Biology will strive for higher levels of learning; creative thinking, and critical evaluation tenets such as analyzing, synthesizing, and formulating logical conclusions. This course will require an End of Course Exam for any student enrolled from the freshman class of 2011-2012 and beyond.

Chemistry I

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Biology I and Algebra I

This course emphasizes a variety of topics that include: characteristics of matter, energy transformations during physical and chemical changes; atomic structure; the periodic table of elements; behavior of gases; bonding; nuclear fusion and nuclear fission; oxidation-reduction; chemical equations; solutes; properties of solutions; acids and bases; and stoichiometric

relationships. Chemistry is a course that is oriented toward college preparation and is grounded in a laboratory approach to the study of the matter. Manipulative laboratory skills, skills in acquiring data, classification skills in ordering and sequencing data, oral and written communication skills, along with career exploration will be stressed in this course.

Chemistry I Pre-AP

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Biology I and Algebra I

This course extends the chemistry concepts with an emphasis on preparing students to take AP Chemistry. Pre-AP Chemistry will be a lab-oriented course designed for students exhibiting advanced achievement levels in the chemical sciences. This course shall exceed the content and depth of a standard Chemistry course both in the classroom and laboratory experiences. Pre-AP Chemistry will strive for higher levels of learning; creative thinking, and critical evaluation tenets such as analyzing, synthesizing, and formulating logical conclusions

Physics I

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Suggested Prerequisite/Co-Requisite: Algebra I

Physics is designed to provide a laboratory-oriented approach to the study of matter and energy. The course provides for the development of understanding of the physical laws and devices that govern the world around us. Topics of study include motion, forces, energy, momentum, thermodynamics, waves, and modern physics. This course emphasizes the use of mathematics to solve problems.

Pre-AP Physics I

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry

Pre-AP Physics 1 is equivalent to the first semester of a typical introductory, algebra-based college physics course. Topics of study include Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Emphasis is placed on student-centered, inquiry-based instructional practices to develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills.

Environmental Systems

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Biology I, Chemistry I, Physics I

In Environmental Systems, students conduct field and laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students study a variety of topics that include: biotic and abiotic factors in habitats; ecosystems and biomes; interrelationships among resources and an environmental system; sources and flow of energy through an environmental system; relationship between carrying capacity and

changes in populations and ecosystems; and changes in environments.

Anatomy and Physiology

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Recommended Prerequisite: three credits of Science

Anatomy and Physiology is a college preparatory and a laboratory-oriented course that will provide opportunities for the student to observe anatomical structures and examine physiological systems. Acquiring, classifying, and sequencing data; experiences in oral and written communication. Students in this course may choose to take courses in Health Science Technology. This course may count as the 4th science credit in the recommended and DAP graduation plans.

Engineering Design and Problem Solving

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Engineering Design and Presentation, Algebra 1, Geometry

Engineering design is the creative process of solving problems by identifying needs and then devising solutions. This solution may be a product, technique, structure, process, or many other things depending on the problem. This course is intended to stimulate students' ingenuity, intellectual talents, and practical skills in devising solutions to engineering design problems. Students use the engineering design process cycle to investigate, design, plan, create, and evaluate solutions. At the same time, this course fosters awareness of the social and ethical implications of technological development.

Forensic Science

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Biology I, Chemistry I, Anatomy & Physiology and Algebra II

Forensic Science is a course that uses a structured and scientific approach to the investigation of crimes of assault, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, accidental death, homicide, and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scene, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection, and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes such as fingerprint analysis, ballistics, and blood spatter analysis. Students will learn the history, legal aspects, and career options for forensic science.

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Sciences:

Dual Credit Biology 1408 Principles of Biology I:

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Biology I, Chemistry I; college entrance requirements

BIOL 1408 - (Equivalent to AP Biology II: Scientific Research and Design Semester I) - This

course provides the opportunity for students to receive local high school credit and college credit at the same time. First semester consists of an integrated approach to cell and molecular biology with an emphasis on biological chemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, and evolutionary biology. Second semester will consist of an integrated survey of living organisms with an emphasis on ecology and the anatomical and physiological aspects of organism diversity, nutrition, circulation, gas exchange, and reproduction.

Dual Credit Biology 1409 Principles of Biology II: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Biology I, Chemistry I; college entrance requirements

BIOLC 1409 - (Equivalent to AP Biology II: Scientific Research and Design Semester II) - This course provides the opportunity for students to receive local high school credit and college credit at the same time. First semester consists of an integrated approach to cell and molecular biology with an emphasis on biological chemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, and evolutionary biology. Second semester will consist of an integrated survey of living organisms with an emphasis on ecology and the anatomical and physiological aspects of organism diversity, nutrition, circulation, gas exchange, and reproduction.

AP Biology II: Scientific Research and Design Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Biology I, Chemistry I

The two main goals of this year long course are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and to help students gain an appreciation of science as a process. Primary emphasis is on developing an understanding of concepts rather than on memorizing terms and technical details. Essential to this conceptual understanding are the following: a grasp of science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns.

Dual Credit Chemistry 1411 General Chemistry I: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Chemistry I, Algebra II; college entrance requirements

CHEM 1411 - (Equivalent to AP Chemistry II: Scientific Research and Design Semester I) - This course provides the opportunity for students to receive local high school credit and college credit at the same time. During the first semester, the course content will include the fundamental principles of theoretical and applied chemistry, stoichiometry, atomic structure, periodic arrangement of elements, ionic and covalent bonding, gases, liquids, and solids. The second semester content will address acid-based theory, kinetics, equilibrium, thermochemistry, electrochemistry, nuclear chemistry, qualitative analysis, colloids, and the structures of organic molecules.

Dual Credit Chemistry 1412 General Chemistry II: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: CHEM 1411; college entrance requirements

CHEM 1412 - (Equivalent to AP Chemistry II: Scientific Research and Design Semester II) - This course provides the opportunity for students to receive local high school credit and college credit at the same time. During the first semester, the course content will include the fundamental principles of theoretical and applied chemistry, stoichiometry, atomic structure, periodic arrangement of elements, ionic and covalent bonding, gases, liquids, and solids. The second semester content will address acid-based theory, kinetics, equilibrium, thermochemistry, electrochemistry, nuclear chemistry, qualitative analysis, colloids, and the structures of organic molecules.

AP Chemistry II: Scientific Research and Design Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Chemistry I, Algebra II

Students in this course will attain a depth of understanding of fundamentals and a reasonable competence in dealing with chemical problems. The course will contribute to the development of the students' abilities to think clearly and to express their ideas, orally and in writing, with clarity and logic. Emphasis will be placed on chemical calculations and the mathematical formulation of principles. Topics such as the structure of matter, the kinetic theory of gases, chemical equilibria, chemical kinetics, and the basic concepts of thermodynamics will be presented in considerable depth. The course has a strong problem-solving orientation and includes associated laboratory experimentation. Students will design and/or conduct advanced experiments and research.

Dual Credit Physics 1401 College Physics I: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: MATH 1314 and MATH 1316 or MATH 2412

PHYS 1401 - (Equivalent to Physics or AP Physics Semester I) - This course explores the fundamental principles of physics, using algebra and trigonometry. The course will cover the principles and applications of classical mechanics, thermodynamics, harmonic motion, mechanical waves and sound. Newton's law of motion, gravitation and other fundamental forces. The course places an emphasis on problem solving.

Dual Credit Physics 1402 College Physics II: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: PHYS1401

PHYS 1402 - (Equivalent to Physics or AP Physics Semester II) - This course explores the fundamental principles of physics, using algebra and trigonometry. The course will cover the principles and applications of classical mechanics, thermodynamics, harmonic motion, mechanical waves and sound. Newton's law of motion, gravitation and other fundamental forces. The course places an emphasis on problem solving.

AP Physics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Chemistry I, Algebra II

Recommended: Precalculus or concurrent enrollment

This algebra-based Advanced Placement course is the equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power; and mechanical waves and sound. It also will introduce electric circuits.

AP Environmental Science

Grade Level 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Biology I, Chemistry I, Algebra I

The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Social Studies Courses

World Geography

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

World Geography is the study of the earth, its regions, and the people who live in these regions. Students will study topography, weather, and climate of each region as well as the languages, customs, and ways of living of the people who inhabit these regions. In addition, the interaction of people with the environment and with each other will be studied. Students will become familiar with the relative locations of the world's continents, oceans, and countries and will learn to use maps, charts, graphs, and other methods of research used by geographers.

Pre- AP World Geography

Grade Level: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course will focus on the required course content for World Geography, numerous enrichment concepts, and the skills needed for students to succeed in Advanced Placement courses in the Social Studies. The Pre-AP Geography course will require outside reading, writing, and projects that will provide practice in document, map, graph, and chart analysis; critical reading; research; essay writing; and both guided and independent studies.

World History

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

World History aims both to discover general knowledge about the development and diffusion of civilization and to foster an appreciation that such knowledge is vitally important to understanding our modern era. This course aims to develop students' historical understanding, broaden their perspective on world affairs and sharpen their critical thinking skills.

AP World History

Grade Level: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

AP World History is designed to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in interactions with different types of human societies. It highlights the nature of continuity and change over time and offers global coverage of Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. The course stresses the linkages between people and states formed through trade, the resultant migration of people and ideas, and the mobilizations of mass society, revolutions, and the impact of technology upon humankind. This college level course will be both rigorous and rewarding and is open to all high school students who are motivated and willing to do advanced work. It moves rapidly and covers a lot of ground but teaches students

skills needed to critically read take notes and write historical essays. Interested students would be eligible to take the AP examination in May to qualify to earn college credit.

Dual Credit History 2321 World Civilizations I: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

HIST 2321 - (Equivalent to World History or AP World History Semester I) - A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, religious, and intellectual history of the world from the emergence of human cultures through the 15th century. The course examines major cultural regions of the world in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania and their global interactions over time. Themes include the emergence of early societies, the rise of civilizations, the development of political and legal systems, religion and philosophy, economic systems and trans-regional networks of exchange. The course emphasizes the development, interaction and impact of global exchange.

Dual Credit History 2322 World Civilizations II: Grade Level: 10-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

HIST 2322 - (Equivalent to World History or AP World History Semester II) - A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, religious, and intellectual history of the world from the 15th century to the present. The course examines major cultural regions of the world in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania and their global interactions over time. Themes include maritime exploration and transoceanic empires, nation/state formation and industrialization, imperialism, global conflicts and resolutions, and global economic integration. The course emphasizes the development, interaction and impact of global exchange.

United States History Grade Level: 1 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: none

United States History covers the period after Reconstruction to the present and will include the following: emergence of the United States as a world power, the economic development and growth of the United States, and the social and cultural development of the United States.

AP United States History Grade Level: 11 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

AP United States History is a college level course designed to give students the opportunity to study the history and development of the United States in a more in-depth manner than on-level United States History. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory

college courses. The content for this course emphasizes the Colonial-Revolutionary War Period, Constitutional Period, the Age of Jackson, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Progressive Era, the New Deal, and the emergence of America as a world power after World War II. Students will learn to assess historical materials -- their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability and their importance -- and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Great emphasis is placed on the intellectual, cultural and socioeconomic history of the United States. Students will also study and analyze the politics and diplomacy of this country. Students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Exam upon completion of the course. This course fulfills the graduation requirement of U.S. History. This course covers the 11th grade standards (TEKS) in a different time frame and sequence than on-level U.S. History. Students are strongly encouraged to complete both semesters of AP U.S. History. Students that move from this course to on-level U.S. History during or at the semester will have gaps in coverage of 11th grade standards (TEKS) potentially impacting preparedness for TAKS or End of Course Test. This course will require an End of Course Exam.

Dual Credit History 1301 U.S. History I: Grade Level: 11 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

HIST 1301 - A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era to the Civil War/Reconstruction period. United States History I includes the study of pre-Columbian, colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, and the Civil War/Reconstruction eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History I include: American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government. 3 credit hours. This course satisfies ½ credit of required high school US History credit and must be paired with HIST 1302. Students taking dual credit US History are required to take the Texas End of Course Exam (EOC) for US History in the May testing administration.

Dual Credit History 1302 U.S. History II: Grade Level: 11 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

HIST 1302 - A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction period to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, Cold War, and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History II include: American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and the study of U.S. foreign policy. 3 credit hours. This course satisfies ½ credit of required high school US History credit and must be either paired with HIST 1301. Students taking dual credit US History are required to take the Texas End of Course Exam (EOC) for US History in the May testing administration.

U.S. Government

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

United States Government provides an opportunity for students to study foundations of the United States political system, development of the United States governmental system, the structure and functions of the United States government, and the role of decision-making in civic affairs.

AP US Government and Politics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This second semester course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It also includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples and requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics. Students will become acquainted with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. The course will rely on a variety of primary and secondary source materials and will provide for interaction with the local, state, and national offices and institutions of government. Students will engage in community activities designed to promote active and effective citizenship at all levels. The content of the course will enable students to understand the importance of patriotism, to function in a free enterprise society, and to appreciate basic democratic values.

Dual Credit Government 2305: U.S. Government

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Must meet college eligibility requirements

GOVT 2305 - Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. 3 credit hours. This course satisfies the high school requirement of Government. Dual Credit Government is typically paired with Dual Credit Economics for a full year credit.

Economics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits emphasizes the American free enterprise system, government in the American economic system, American economic system and international economic relations, consumer economics, and social studies attitudes, values, and skills for citizenship.

AP Macroeconomics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this first semester college-level course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics.

AP Microeconomics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this second semester college-level course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision-makers, both consumer and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy.

Dual Credit Economics 2301 Macroeconomics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Must meet eligibility requirements of partnering University

ECON 2301 - The purpose of this course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Analysis of the behavior of individual economic agents, including consumer behavior and demand, producer behavior and supply, price and output decisions by firms under various market structures, factor markets, market failures, and international trade. 3 credit hours. This course fulfills the high school requirement for Economics.

Social Studies Elective Options:

Sociology

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Semester course – linked with Psychology

Sociology is an introductory study in social behavior and organization of human society. This course will describe the development of the field as a social science by identifying methods and

strategies of research leading to an understanding of how the individual relates to society and the ever changing world. Students will also learn the importance and role of culture, social structure, socialization, and social change in today's society.

Psychology

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Semester course – linked with Sociology.

Students study the science of behavior and mental processes. Students examine the full scope of the science of psychology such as the historical framework, methodologies, human development, motivation, emotion, sensation, perception, personality development, cognition, learning, intelligence, biological foundations, mental health, and social psychology.

Dual Credit Sociology 1301: Introduction to Sociology:

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

SOCI 1301 - The scientific study of human society, including ways in which groups, social institutions, and individuals affect each other. Causes of social stability and social change are explored through the application of various theoretical perspectives, key concepts, and related research methods of sociology. Analysis of social issues in their institutional context may include topics such as social stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, and deviance. 3 credit hours. This course satisfies ½ elective credit toward high school graduation.

Dual Credit Psychology 2301 General Psychology:

Grade Level: 11

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

PSYC 2301 - In this course, students consider the development of the individual and the personality. The study of psychology is based on an historical framework and relies on effective collection and analysis of data. Students study topics such as theories of human development, personality, motivation, and learning. Students have an opportunity to evaluate methods of research and to explore subjects such as perception, cognition, and learning theory. They are also challenged to relate psychological concepts to their own lives and to develop self-awareness.

AP Psychology

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Advanced Placement Psychology is a one-semester college-level course that addresses such questions as it surveys the field of psychology from research into human behavior to the application of its findings in treatment. The course itself will have a theoretical and a practical emphasis. On the theoretical side, you will gain knowledge of psychological concepts and principles. On the practical side, you will be expected to demonstrate how these ideas can be

applied in everyday matters of human activity. This requires not only a thorough understanding of the material beyond textbook definitions, but an active participation in class discussions and activities. Note: As of 2015 the new MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) will require a section on the “Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior”. AP Psychology would provide a strong foundation for students interested in the medical field.

AP Human Geography

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. Students also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

AP European History

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

AP European History is a course designed to provide opportunities for students to study the history and development of European cultures and ideas in an in-depth manner. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Significant emphasis is given to questions in intellectual-cultural and social-economic history, as well as to those in the more traditional political diplomatic sphere. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of basic chronology and major events and trends from the High Renaissance to the present. In addition to understanding the principal themes in European history, the students will develop their ability to analyze historical events, to assess historical materials, and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Exam upon completion of the course. This is an elective course and cannot be substituted for the graduation requirement of World History. This is a college level course.

AP Comparative Politics

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This first semester college-level course will provide students with the conceptual tools necessary to develop an understanding of some of the world’s diverse political structures and practices. The course will encompass the study of both specific countries and their governments and of the general concepts used to interpret the political relationships and institutions found in virtually all national politics.

Dual Credit GOVT 2306 Texas Government: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

GOVT 2306 - This course provides a study of the Texas Constitution and government, emphasizing political institutions including political parties, interest groups, the legislature, the governor, bureaucracy, judiciary, and local government.

Dual Credit GOVT 2311 Mexican-American Politics: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

GOVT 2311 - The influence of Mexican-Americans on United States government and policies with special attention given to participation in local, state, and national politics with particular emphasis on the Southwest and Texas, Mexican-American cultural ascendancy on the nation, impact of immigrants and immigration policy in relation to the US labor market, and evaluation of failures and successes of Mexican-American empowerment strategies.

Dual Credit PHIL 1301 Intro to Philosophy: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

PHIL 1301 - A study of the major issues in philosophy and/or the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics may include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value and their practical application.

Dual Credit PHIL 1304 Intro to World Religions: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

PHIL 1304 - A comparative study of world religions, including but not limited to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Dual Credit PHIL 2303 Formal Logic: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

PHIL 2303 - The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to formal and informal logic, including syllogisms, propositional and predicate logic, logical proofs in a system of rules, fallacies, definitions, analogies, and use of language.

Dual Credit PHIL 2304 Introduction to Ethics: Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

PHIL 2304 - The evaluation and application of classical and/or contemporary ethical theories connecting the good life, human conduct in society, morals and standards of value.

Special Topics in Social Studies

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to allow students to pursue interests in social studies in a more in-depth research-based class. Topics vary by semester. Class may be repeated up to four times for a maximum of two (2) high school credits. Current list of Special topics with descriptions:

Philosophy - This course will involve the study of critical thinking throughout history with an emphasis on the development of American intellectual thought. Students will discuss the concepts of logic and abstract thought, will analyze primary sources, and will present findings in written and oral forms. The course will include the analysis of writings and concepts of major philosophers, such as Plato, Socrates, Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, Aquinas, Bacon, Locke, Hobbes, Hegel, and Sartre.

Contemporary Issues in Society - This course, an introduction to contemporary problems facing our nation, will provide students with the opportunity to scrutinize contemporary issues on the local, county, state, national, and international levels. In doing so, students will examine economic, religious, social, political, and military events. In addition to focusing on current events, students will conduct in-depth research to determine the historical causes for current situations.

The Cold War - This course will explore the Cold War as an international phenomenon, the military and diplomatic history of the period, and the social and cultural impact of the confrontation between capitalism and communism. Students will explore the origins of the conflict, the formation of opposing blocs, the interplay between periods of tension and détente, and the relationship between the center of the conflict in the North Atlantic/European area and the global periphery, as well as the remarkable way the Cold War ended.

American Popular Culture - Popular culture provides us a window into the perspectives of the everyday person and allows us to consider the values and experiences of Americans in different historical periods. It comprises a hugely complicated and layered story about evolving technologies; varied entertainment forms; competing companies;

ensorship; politics; laws and public policies; the concept of celebrity; changing public tastes; fresh talent; and issues of race, class, and gender. It can, in other words, tell us much about U.S. history as a whole. Over the course of the year, we will cover topics ranging from celebrity and heroes to sports and leisure. We will also spend time talking about movies, television, radio, art, fads, fashions, and literature. All of these topics cannot of course be divorced from the history and events happening in that time so you will be asked to draw on your knowledge of the various decades of the 20th century.

Civil Rights Movements – This course will look at the similarities and differences between the major civil rights movements in American History. Through studying the African American, Women, Latino, and LGBT movements, we will be able to look at both continual negative stereotypes and movement behaviors that have formed the American society we live in today.

Fine Arts Courses

Art I

Grade Level: 9–12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Art I students will learn to appreciate art and practice artistic skills throughout the year. Students will be exposed to terminology that will enhance their ability to discuss artistic form. Many different art projects will be completed during the course. Some of the areas of skill will include drawing, painting, design and sculpture. Students will gain valuable insight and experience in the world of art.

Art II – Drawing

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Art I

Art II students will explore several concepts in-depth. Particular areas of exploration will include conceptual design, art criticism, and art history. Students will learn more about technique and the successful execution of an idea from start to finish. Art II will require a more rigorous application of ideas acquired in Art I. Only students dedicated to the processes of art should take this course.

Art III – Sculpture

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Art I and Art II

The Sculpture class will be involved in making three-dimensional designs in a variety of media. Students will use the Elements and Principals of Design, while working with clay, paper, metals, wood, and plastic to create both representational and conceptual sculptures.

Art IV – Painting

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Art I and Art II

Building on the foundation of Art I, Painting II students use a sketchbook for visual notation and planning original paintings. Students create original paintings with various techniques and media. They create paintings from sketchbook ideas, still life, models, perspectives, landscapes, portraits, self-portraits, and abstractions.

Dual Credit Arts 1301: Art Appreciation

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

Films, lectures, slides, and discussions focus on the theoretical, cultural, and historical aspects of the visual arts. Emphasis is on the development of visual and aesthetic awareness.

Dual Credit Arts 1316: Drawing I

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

This beginning course investigates various media, techniques, and subjects. It explores perceptual and descriptive possibilities and considers drawing as a developmental process as well as an end in itself. (2 Lec., 4 Lab.)

Music

AP Music Theory

Grade Level 9 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

AP Music Theory is a composition-based course in the advanced study of music. This college level course implements detailed notation, terminology, the reading and writing skills of harmony, analysis, aural skills, and sight singing.

Band I

Grade: 9–12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Middle School Band

High School Band is a performance based music class. Grades will be based on performance individually, and as a group. The band functions within two main areas during the school year. Those areas are Marching Season and Concert Season

Marching Season

- Performances during marching season will include all pep rallies, football games (no scrimmages), parades, Invitational contests and UIL Marching contests. The band will rehearse outside of the school day as well.

Concert Season

- Performances will includes, concerts, solo and ensemble contest, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, as well as other events.

Band II

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Band I or director approval

High School Band is a performance based music class. Grades will be based on performance individually, and as a group. The band functions within two main areas during the school year.

Those areas are Marching Season and Concert Season

Marching Season

- Performances during marching season will include all pep rallies, football games (no scrimmages), parades, Invitational contests and UIL Marching contests. The band will rehearse outside of the school day as well.

Concert Season

- Performances will includes, concerts, solo and ensemble contest, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, as well as other events.

Band III

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Band II or director approval

High School Band is a performance based music class. Grades will be based on performance individually, and as a group. The band functions within two main areas during the school year. Those areas are Marching Season and Concert Season

Marching Season

- Performances during marching season will include all pep rallies, football games (no scrimmages), parades, Invitational contests and UIL Marching contests. The band will rehearse outside of the school day as well.

Concert Season

- Performances will includes, concerts, solo and ensemble contest, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, as well as other events.

Band IV

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Band III or director approval

High School Band is a performance based music class. Grades will be based on performance individually, and as a group. The band functions within two main areas during the school year. Those areas are Marching Season and Concert Season

Marching Season

- Performances during marching season will include all pep rallies, football games (no scrimmages), parades, Invitational contests and UIL Marching contests. The band will rehearse outside of the school day as well.

Concert Season

- Performances will include, concerts, solo and ensemble contest, UIL concert and sight-reading contest, as well as other events.

Jazz Band I

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment Band I, II, III, IV. Students may not participate in Jazz only; exceptions may be made in the rhythm section at the director's discretion and by audition. Rhythm section includes drum set, piano, guitar and bass guitar.

This class will explore the different areas of Jazz music and playing in many different styles. Students will also be exposed to improvisation (make up music while soloing). This group will be ready to perform at a moment's notice for public events, concerts, or other invitational events.

Jazz Band II

Grade 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment Band I, II, III, IV. Students may not participate in Jazz only; exceptions may be made in the rhythm section at the director's discretion and by audition. Rhythm section includes drum set, piano, guitar and bass guitar.

This class will explore the different areas of Jazz music and playing in many different styles. Students will also be exposed to improvisation (make up music while soloing). This group will be ready to perform at a moment's notice for public events, concerts, or other invitational events.

Jazz Band III

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment Band I, II, III, IV. Students may not participate in Jazz only; exceptions may be made in the rhythm section at the director's discretion and by audition. Rhythm section includes drum set, piano, guitar and bass guitar.

This class will explore the different areas of Jazz music and playing in many different styles. Students will also be exposed to improvisation (make up music while soloing). This group will be ready to perform at a moment's notice for public events, concerts, or other invitational events.

Jazz Band IV

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment Band I, II, III, IV. Students may not participate in Jazz only; exceptions may be made in the rhythm section at the director's discretion and by audition. Rhythm section includes drum set, piano, guitar and bass guitar.

This class will explore the different areas of Jazz music and playing in many different styles. Students will also be exposed to improvisation (make up music while soloing). This group will be ready to perform at a moment's notice for public events, concerts, or other invitational events.

Mariachi Band I

Grade Level 9 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Enrollment Band I, II, or III. Students may not participate in Mariachi only.

Areas of concentration include correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger melody construction, musical forms, tablature notation, improvisation, and performing experiences. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills either one elective credit or one Arts/Humanities credit required for high school graduation.

Mariachi Band II

Grade Level 10 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Enrollment Band II, III, or IV. Students may not participate in Mariachi only.

Continuation of what was learned in Beginning Mariachi. Areas of concentration include correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger melody construction, musical forms, tablature notation, improvisation, and performing experiences. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills either one elective credit or one Arts/Humanities credit required for high school graduation.

Mariachi Band III

Grade Level 11 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Enrollment Band III, or IV. Students may not participate in Mariachi only.

This one-year course is designed for students who have successfully completed the intermediate-level Mariachi performance course and are interested in performing in an ensemble which has a selected membership and which specializes in advanced-level Mariachi ensemble literature. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills either one elective credit or one Arts/Humanities credit required for high school graduation.

Mariachi Band IV

Grade Level 11 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Enrollment Band III, or IV. Students may not participate in Mariachi only.

This one-year course is a continuation of Mariachi Band III. It is a performance course with selected membership which specializes in advanced-level Mariachi ensemble literature. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all

cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills either one elective credit or one Arts/Humanities credit required for high school graduation.

Instrumental Ensemble

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

This course is designed for those who want to improve their technical and artistic music skills, at a high level, on their particular instrument. It provides an opportunity for the self-driven student who wants to compete in the ATSSB Honor Band auditions on the local, area and state level as well as the UIL, local and state level, solo and ensemble contest. Students will work out of college level technique books designed especially for their instrument. This course is for disciplined and driven students only. Students looking for a "fun only" class should not sign up for this course. All students will be graded on the UIL judging level with no less than two playing tests per week. There are no other prerequisites for this course.

Choir

Music I Choir

Grade: 9-11

Credit: 1

This course is for those students who enjoy singing and wish to improve vocal production and music reading. It requires time outside of school hours including rehearsals, concerts and contests. It is open to students with little or no experience in singing with a choir. Fees are collected for a uniform and t-shirt. Students are strongly encouraged to compete in vocal contests. Outside rehearsals and performances are required to receive credit.

Music II Choir

Grade: 10-12

Credit: 1

Pre-requisite (Music I Choir)

This course is for students who have already had Music I Choir and wish to continue improving their skills in vocal production and sight reading. Rehearsals, concerts, contests are held outside of school hours and are required to pass the class. Fees are collected for a uniform and t-shirt. Participation in contests is required at this level.

Music III Choir

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Pre-requisites (Music I and II Choir)

This course is for students who have already had Music I and II Choir and wish to continue improving their skills in vocal production and sight reading. Rehearsals, concerts, contests are held outside of school hours and are required to pass the class. Fees are collected for a uniform and t-shirt. Participation in contests is required at this level.

Music IV Choir

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Pre-requisites (Music I, II and III Choir)

This course is for students who have already had Music I, II and III Choir and wish to continue improving their skills in vocal production and sight reading. Rehearsals, concerts, contests are held outside of school hours and are required to pass the class. Fees are collected for a uniform and t-shirt. Participation in contests is required at this level.

Vocal Ensemble (Show Choir) Grade: 10-12 Credit: 1

Pre-requisite – Music I Choir and Audition required

Co-requisite – Music II, II, IV Choir

Available to 10-12 grade students enrolled in Music II, III, IV or Vocal Ensemble.

This course is for vocally independent students. Music will be choreographed. Rehearsals, concerts, field trips, contests, etc. are required to participate in this group. There will be a second uniform for this group. Students are required to perform for the community on multiple occasions. Students are also required to perform in conjunction with the Theatre Department during a “Musical Year”. **Competition for TMEA All-Region Choir and a solo for UIL Solo and Ensemble contest are required.**

Vocal Ensemble (Acapella) Grade: 10-12 Credit: 1

Pre-requisite – Music I Choir and Audition required

Co-requisite – Music II, II, IV Choir

Available to 10-12 grade students enrolled in Music II, III, IV or Vocal Ensemble.

This course is for vocally independent students. Rehearsals, concerts, field trips, contests, etc. are required to participate in this group. There will be a second uniform for this group. Students are required to perform for the community on multiple occasions. Students are also required to perform in conjunction with the Theatre Department during a “Musical Year.” **Competition for TMEA All-Region Choir and a solo for UIL Solo and Ensemble contest are required.**

Applied Music Grade Level 9 – 12 Credit: 1

Corequisite: Band I, II, III, or IV

Applied Music is designed for students who want an advanced course of instrumental study. The class emphasizes the improvement of instrumental musicianship through the preparation of advanced etudes, solos, and ensembles. Members of the class are encouraged to audition for All-Region and compete at UIL solo and ensemble contests.

Theatre Arts

Theatre Arts I

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Theatre Arts students will increase their understanding of self and others and develop clear ideas about the world. Through a variety of theatrical experiences, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts, and relate interpersonally.

Theatre Arts II

Grade: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I

A continuation of Theatre Arts I, this course is designed to focus on acting, directing, theatre history and design. These classes require that students read, write, memorize and perform. Attendance of all department productions is required. Auditioning, and production work is also required. The theatre will be open, which will facilitate a significant amount of “*hands on activity*”.

Theatre Arts III

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts II

PRODUCTION INTENSIVE: This course is designed to focus on acting, directing, theatre history, design and the “*business of show business.*” These classes require that students read, write, memorize, perform and direct. Attendance of all department productions is required. Auditioning and production work is required.

Theatre Arts IV

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts III

PRODUCTION INTENSIVE: This course is designed to focus on acting, directing, theatre history, design and the “*business of show business.*” These classes require that students read, write, memorize, perform and direct. Attendance of all department productions is required. Auditioning and production work is required.

Technical Theatre I

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Application Approval

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will organize, maintain, replace and repair theatre facilities and other equipment (for school functions.) Students will be required to work booked events, meetings and performances which are not Theatre Department productions. Students will be trained to operate lighting, sound, projection and rigging equipment. Class will require some after school time and evenings to facilitate events.

Technical Theatre II

Grade: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Application Approval

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will organize, maintain, replace and repair theatre facilities and other equipment (for school functions.) Students will be required to work booked events, meetings and performances which are not Theatre Department productions. Students will be trained to operate lighting, sound, projection and rigging equipment. Class will require some after school time and evenings to facilitate events.

Technical Theatre III

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Application Approval

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will organize, maintain, replace and repair theatre facilities and other equipment (for school functions.) Students will be required to work booked events, meetings and performances which are not Theatre Department productions. Students will be trained to operate lighting, sound, projection and rigging equipment. Class will require some after school time and evenings to facilitate events.

Technical Theatre IV

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Application Approval

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will organize, maintain, replace and repair theatre facilities and other equipment (for school functions.) Students will be required to work booked events, meetings and performances which are not Theatre Department productions. Students will be trained to operate lighting, sound, projection and rigging equipment. Class will require some after school time and evenings to facilitate events.

Theatre Production I

Grade: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: APPLICATION APPROVAL

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will rehearse and prepare for the productions that occur during the school's theatre seasons. Students will be required to audition and be a part of all productions. Students will learn and teach others new acting styles and become acting coaches for the other students. Students are also required to attend a theatre/debate competition.

Theatre Production II

Grade: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: APPLICATION APPROVAL

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will rehearse and prepare for the productions that occur during the school's theatre seasons. Students will be required to audition and be a part of all productions. Students will learn and teach others new acting styles and become acting coaches for the other students. Students are also required to attend a theatre/debate competition.

Theatre Production III

Grade: 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: APPLICATION APPROVAL

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will rehearse and prepare for the productions that occur during the school's theatre seasons. Students will be required to audition and be a part of all productions. Students will learn and teach others new acting styles and become acting coaches for the other students. Students are also required to attend a theatre/debate competition.

Theatre Production IV

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: APPLICATION APPROVAL

This class is designed as a practicum in which students will rehearse and prepare for the productions that occur during the school's theatre seasons. Students will be required to audition and be a part of all productions. Students will learn and teach others new acting styles and become acting coaches for the other students. Students are also required to attend a theatre/debate competition.

Musical Theatre

Grade Level 9 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: APPLICATION APPROVAL

Course Description This course is for the student that is interested in Musical Theatre – both on stage and “behind the scenes”. Students will have the opportunity to rehearse, perform, direct, and choreograph/stage various scenes and shows from the Broadway genre. All students are expected to both perform and direct/produce. Performances will be both in-class and “main-stage” productions. Performances are required for all students. • Students will obtain training and skills associated with Musical Theatre: singing, acting and movement/choreography, and use correct terminology and vocabulary in written and oral discussion. • Students will achieve understanding of the historical, creative, artistic, and aesthetic aspects of musical theatre in

relationship to American History. • Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural impact of the musical theatre art form on society and culture. • Students will achieve a professional and personal understanding of the arts through rehearsals, auditions, performances and presentations (both written and aural).

Dual Credit Drama 1310 Introduction to Theatre: Grade Level: 9 -12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

DRAM 1310 - The various aspects of theater are surveyed. Topics include plays, playwrights, directing, acting, theaters, artists, and technicians.

Dual Credit Drama 1351 Acting I: Grade Level: 10 -12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

DRAM 1351 - The theory of acting and various exercises are presented. Body control, voice, interpretation, characterization, and stage movement are included. Both individual and group activities are used. Specific roles are analyzed and studied.

Dual Credit Drama 1352 Acting I: Grade Level: 10 -12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: DRAM 1351

DRAM 1352 - The theory of acting and various exercises are presented. Body control, voice, interpretation, characterization, and stage movement are included. Both individual and group activities are used. Specific roles are analyzed and studied. This course is a continuation of DRAM 1351. Emphasis is on characterization and ensemble acting.

Dance

Performing Drill Team

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Audition Tryouts by Judges

Drill Team - To enroll in this class, the student must have been selected a member of the team during spring try-outs. Students will earn fine arts credit for this year long class. During the fall semester students will work on flexibility, anaerobic and aerobic activity, muscular strength and endurance, and technical skills training through precision dance in preparation for football halftime performances, pep rallies and special performances. During the spring semester, students will focus on dance as an art, exploring movement in various forms of dance and preparing for competition and show performances. Many practice hours in addition to the school day are required for membership. (Students will incur some expenses for uniforms, supplies, etc.) Students may earn a P.E. substitution credit for this course. P.E. substitution will be awarded for fall semester only.

Dance Level I

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Students are introduced to cultural genres of dance while learning the basic principles and acquiring the value of dance as an art form. By mastering movement principles and skills, students develop self-discipline, and healthy bodies that move expressively, efficiently, and safely through space and time with controlled energy.

Dance Level II

Grade: 10-12

Credit: 1

Students are introduced to cultural genres of dance while learning the basic principles and acquiring the value of dance as an art form. By mastering movement principles and skills, students develop self-discipline, and healthy bodies that move expressively, efficiently, and safely through space and time with controlled energy.

Dance Level III

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Students are introduced to cultural genres of dance while learning the basic principles and acquiring the value of dance as an art form. By mastering movement principles and skills, students develop self-discipline, and healthy bodies that move expressively, efficiently, and safely through space and time with controlled energy.

Dance Level IV

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Students are introduced to cultural genres of dance while learning the basic principles and acquiring the value of dance as an art form. By mastering movement principles and skills, students develop self-discipline, and healthy bodies that move expressively, efficiently, and safely through space and time with controlled energy.

Speech

Communication Applications

Grade Level: 9th-12th

Credit: 0.5

Understanding and developing skills in communication are fundamental to all other learning and to all levels of human interaction. For successful participation in professional and social life, students must develop effective communication skills. Rapidly expanding technologies and changing social and corporate systems demand that students send clear verbal messages, choose effective nonverbal behaviors, listen for desired results, and apply valid critical-thinking and problem-solving processes. Students enrolled in Communication Applications will be expected to identify, analyze, develop, and evaluate communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal and professional presentations.

Applied Professional Communications

Credit: 0.5

Admission to this course is based on evaluation and review of present levels of academic achievement and functional performance and approval by ARD committee. This course of study will help students develop and strengthen interpersonal communication skills. Students will develop skills involved in sending and receiving messages, understanding and using nonverbal communication, and listening for a variety of purposes. The student will be observed in a variety of settings and activities.

Professional Communications

Credit: 0.5

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.

Dual Credit Speech 1311 Intro to Speech Communication: Grade Level: 10 -12 Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

SPCH 1311 - Theory and practice of speech communication behavior in one-to-one, small group, and public communication situations are introduced. Students learn more about themselves, improve skills in communicating with others, and prepare and deliver formal public speeches.

Dual Credit Speech 1315 Public Speaking:

Grade Level: 10 -12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: college entrance requirements

SPCH 1315 - This course provides the opportunity for students to receive both high school and college credit at the same time. The course involves the study of effective communications through speech. Emphasis is placed upon content, organization, and delivery of speeches for various purposes and occasions.

Language Other Than English Courses

Spanish I

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: none

Spanish I begins the development of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition and reading assignments, dialogue, and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on North America.

Spanish II

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Spanish II emphasizes continued development of the basic skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course explores the culture, customs, and folklore of the Spanish-speaking world. Course work includes oral drills, vocabulary building, dialogue reading of authentic and cultural material, creative and expository writing, and A-V presentations.

Spanish III

Grade: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Spanish II

Spanish III completes the program of language required for the distinguished diploma plan with emphasis on increasing oral and auditory proficiency, reading comprehension skills, and accurate written communication. The course provides opportunities to enhance students' understanding of Hispanic cultures through a wide range of study including film, literature, art, history, geography, and authentic materials. Students will learn structures necessary to interact socially, request and receive information in a variety of situations, and negotiate the actions of others. An increase in the amount of preparation and study time should be expected for successful completion of the course.

AP Spanish IV Language

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Spanish III

AP Spanish Language focuses on the advanced development and the integration of oral and

auditory skills, written communication, and reading comprehension. Through the study of cultural, artistic, literary, and contemporary issues and mediums, students will have the opportunity to develop their skills to the intermediate high proficiency level. Students will frequently take part in discussions, informal conversations, and prepared formal presentations based on current events, literature, and real life situations. Students will analyze and interpret representative works of literature including short stories and poems, and will develop oral fluency through extensive work with advanced topics in grammar.

AP Spanish V Literature

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Spanish IV or AP Spanish IV

AP Spanish Literature is designed to provide high school students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in literature written in Spanish. The course introduces students to the formal study of texts from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Hispanic literature. Students will demonstrate proficiency in Spanish across the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) with special attention to critical reading and analytical writing. This course is held in the target language. Students are highly encouraged to take the Spanish Literature and Culture Advanced Placement Exam for possible college credit at the conclusion of this course.

Note - For Dual Credit language options for Spanish or other Languages, see College Crosswalk.

Physical Education

Athletics

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

This course is a physical conditioning class designed to minimize sport injuries. Participation in an athletic event is required.

Cheerleading	Marching Band (Sem. 1)
Basketball-Boys	Soccer- Boys
Basketball-Girls	Soccer- Girls
Cross Country (Sem. 1—before school)	Dance/Drill Team
Track-Boys	Track-Girls
Football	Volleyball

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Personal fitness classes include fitness activities and textbook instruction in how to develop a personal fitness program, and emphasis is placed on good technique and training. Aerobic activities and sports are used to develop the individual's overall physical fitness.

CHEERLEADING

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

Cheerleaders must meet and retain UIL eligibility by consistently having passing grades in all classes. A student will make application for candidacy and must successfully pass evaluation procedures as set forth by the cheerleading coaches to be considered a candidate. Cheerleaders are selected in the spring, after a week-long clinic, by the cheerleading coaches. Cheerleaders are required to attend camp every summer and must purchase a variety of workout clothes and other required materials.

DANCE/DRILL TEAM

Grade: 9-12

Credit: 1

The purpose of this class is to learn dance terms, techniques, choreography, proper stretching, and a variety of dances.

Specialty Courses

Computer Science

Grade 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and concurrently enrolled in Geometry

This is a beginner's level approach to computer programming using the Java language. No previous knowledge of programming is necessary. Students will develop and apply algorithms to solve real world problems. Programming concepts will be taught using structured programming techniques such as data types, program input/output, if statements, loops, arrays, and lists. Object-oriented programming will also be introduced. Other topics include debugging, hardware components, and social implications of computer systems. Upon completion of this course, the student will have created software programs using computer science programming concepts. This course may qualify as a technology applications credit.

AP Computer Science

Grade 10-12

Credit: 2 (Blocked Class)

Prerequisite: Computer Science

This course continues the study of computer programming using the Java language. Object oriented programming and class design will be studied in depth. Topics include 2D arrays, searching and sorting algorithms, and recursion. Social and ethical ramifications of computer in society will also be addressed. Programming assignments will, in general, be more extensive, and include the use of case studies. This course is intended for students who want to pursue careers in computer science, mathematics, engineering, or science. This college level course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Computer Science "A" Exam. This course may qualify as a mathematics credit. This is a single blocked course.

Financial Literacy

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

The Texas Education Code (TEC) requires instruction in personal financial literacy. The student expectations of Economics with Emphasis on the Free Enterprise System and Its Benefits incorporate the concepts of personal financial literacy. Districts may choose Personal Financial Literacy materials approved by the State Board of Education to teach the 14 areas of instruction.

College & Career Prep

Grade: 11-12

Credit: 0.5

Career Preparation provides opportunities for students to participate in a learning experience that combines classroom instruction with paid business and industry employment experiences and supports strong partnerships among school, business, and community stakeholders. The goal is to prepare students with a variety of skills for a fast-changing workplace. This instructional arrangement should be an advanced component of a student's individual program of study. Students are taught employability skills, which include job-specific skills applicable to their training station, job interview techniques, communication skills, financial and budget activities,

human relations, and portfolio development. Career preparation is relevant and rigorous, supports student attainment of academic standards, and effectively prepares students for college and career success.

Sports Medicine 1 & 2

Grade: 11-12

Credit 1

This course provides an opportunity for the study and application of the components of sports medicine including but not limited to: sports medicine related careers, organizational and administrative considerations, prevention of athletic injuries, recognition, evaluation, and immediate care of athletic injuries, basic rehabilitation and management skills, taping and wrapping techniques, first aid/CPR/AED, emergency procedures, nutrition, sports psychology, human anatomy and physiology, basic therapeutic modalities, and therapeutic exercise. Interested students must complete an application and be accepted into the program.

AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Grade: 9-12

Local Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Limited English proficiency

The ESL student will receive instruction on the affective, linguistic, and cognitive components to learn the English language, including comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing, to enable the student to develop English skills, both oral and written; develop self-assurance and a positive identity; receive instruction in other content areas; become acclimated to the school and non-school environments; and become familiar with American customs and heritage.

SAT/ACT PREP

Grade: 12

Credit: 0.5

Students will be exposed to testing strategies & material in order to score better on these exams.

SENIOR RELEASE

Grade: 12

Credit: None

Seniors may qualify for release periods if they have passed all EOC assessments and do not need a full schedule of classes to meet graduation requirements. Due to scheduling issues, release periods may not be available to all students. Students cannot remain on campus during release periods; therefore they must be able to provide their own transportation to and from school.

THE PALS PROGRAM

PALS stand for Peer Assistance Leadership. The Pals program for A+ Secondary is set up for 11th grade through 12th grade. The students work with at-risk students and serve as mentors in the A+ District. They can be responsible for countless activities at each of their school locations and with work on communication and leadership skills in the process. This is a program designed for students to encourage other students to make more informed, responsible, and constructive decisions. PALs develop a close and trusting relationship with each other and with their PALees and strictly follow the rules of confidentiality among each other. Students are carefully selected by PAL's sponsors and veteran PAL students from a selection of applications, interviews, and teacher recommendations. They will be a very diverse group representing all student interest. They will sign contracts to stay drug free, keep a passing grade in all classes, and be a positive role model both in and out of school. PALs help in countless lives by leading and encouraging others to make the right choices.

PALS 1:

Grade: 11-12

Credit 1

Prerequisite: Application and teacher recommendation and interview. Students are selected through an interview and application process.

PALS 1 uses leadership, peer mediation, and interpersonal skills. Students go to elementary schools mentoring younger students two days a week. Students must complete 15 hours of community service per semester. Students must work well with others. PAL 1 students will carpool/drive themselves to elementary campuses (Parents approval required).

PALS 2:

Grade: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: For Seniors who have taken PAL's 1. Application, teacher recommendation and interview.

Students are selected through an interview and application process. Peer Assistance and Leadership (Pals 2) is a two semester course. Students go to elementary schools mentoring younger students two days a week. Students must complete 20 hours of community service per semester. Students must be able to display and apply previously learned skills. A Student in PALS 2 will make up the governing body of the PALs program. PAL 2 students will carpool/drive themselves to elementary campuses (Parents approval required).

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: ½ - 1

Prerequisite: Must meet college entrance requirements and have administrator approval. Dallas Community College offers many online college courses allowing students to earn both college and high school credit at the same time.

Dallas Community College works with A+ Academy to offer courses for high school students who desire to complete college credit while in high school. Some courses are taught face-to-face on the high school campus.

Courses Offered face-to-face on A+ Academy Campus:

ENGL 1301 (Freshman Comp I)
ENGL 1302 (Freshman Comp II)
ARTS 1301 (Art Appreciation)
GOVT 2305 (US Govt)
BIOL 1408/1409
ECON 2301 (Macro)
DRAMA 1310

For a full list of courses offered at through the Dual Credit Program, please review the College Crosswalk.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

CTE Endorsements and Career Pathways

Pathways*	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Arts & Humanities				
Fine Arts:	Band 1, Choir, Theater 1, Art 1	Band 2, Choir 2, Theater 2, Art 2	Band 3, Choir 3, Theater 3, Art 3	Band 4, Choir 4, Theater 4, Art 4
Foreign Language	Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Spanish 3	Spanish 4
Social Studies	World Geography	World History	US History	Government/Economic & Physiology/Sociology
Business & Industry				
Information Technology	Principles of Information Technology	Digital & Interactive Media/Web Technologies	Computer Programming	Research in Information Technology Solutions
AV Tech (Video)	Principles of AV	Digital Media/Graphic Design	Audio Video Production	Advance AV Production
Public Service				
Education	Principles of Human Services	Child Development	Instructional Practices	Practicum of Education
Health Science	Principles of Health Science/Med Term	Health Science	Anatomy & Physiology	Pharmacy Tech
Multidisciplinary	A student must fulfill one of the following A. Four advance courses from other endorsement areas B. Four credits in each core subject including English 4, Chemistry and/or Physics C. Four credits in Advanced Placement or Dual Credit			
STEM	5 Math Credits or 5 Science Credits (must include 2 advanced classes)			

- *Endorsements are in Bold and Pathways are in regular print.*

Prerequisite: Principles of Arts, A/V Tech & Communications

Focus: Documentary Filmmaking-Students will be expected to develop an advanced understanding of the industry with a focus on pre-production, production, and post-production audio and video activities and documentary filmmaking process. This course will be implemented in an advanced format, including both audio and video. Students will be required to participate, as a team in the UIL Film Festival by creating a short documentary.

Audio Video Production II

Credit: 1

Grades: 10-12

Prerequisite: Audio Video Production I

Building upon the concepts taught in Audio/Video Production, in addition to developing advanced knowledge and skills needed for success in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications 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.

Practicum in Audio Video Production

Credit: 2

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: Principles of Arts, A/V Tech & Communications, Audio Video Production, Advanced Audio Video Production & Teacher Approval

Focus: Studio Broadcast and Community/District Film Projects-Students will be expected to develop an increasing understanding of the industry with a focus on applying pre-production, production, and post-production audio and video activities in a studio environment. This course will be implemented in an advanced audio, video, or animation format. Students will focus more specifically on their role within the A/V Production Team as Producer, Director, Camera Operator, or Editor. Instruction will be delivered through lab-based classroom experiences and community based film projects.

Print and Imaging Technology I

Grade 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Principles of Arts, A/V Tech & Communications

Careers in printing span all aspects of the industry, including pre-press, press, and finishing and bindery operations. In addition to developing technical knowledge and skills needed for success in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster®, students will be expected to develop an understanding of the printing industry with a focus on digital pre-press and digital publishing.

Print and Imaging Technology II

Grade 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Print and Imaging Technology I

In addition to developing advanced knowledge and skills needed for success in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster®, students will be expected to develop an advanced understanding of the printing industry with a focus on digital pre-press and desktop digital publishing.

Practicum in Print and Imaging Technology Grade 11-12 Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Print and Imaging Technology II

In addition to developing advanced technical knowledge and skills needed for success in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster®, students will be expected to develop an advanced technical understanding of the printing industry with a focus on finishing and bindery operations and customer-based projects. Instruction may be delivered through lab-based classroom experiences or career preparation opportunities. Students are encouraged to participate in extended learning experiences such as career and technical student organizations and other leadership or extracurricular organizations.

Graphic Design and Illustration I Grade 10-12 Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Principles of Arts, A/V Tech & Communications

In this course students will explore the creation of 2D computer graphics with an emphasis on the visual communication process, basic terminology and principles and elements of design. Industry standard software is utilized for creation of raster and vector based graphics. Through project-based learning, students will develop the knowledge and skills to produce projects such as posters, brochures, flyers and other various graphic design materials. The student is required to apply technical skills for efficiency and is expected to employ planning and time-management skills to complete work task. A basic working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop is required for this course per the prerequisite. Adobe Illustrator is introduced in this course.

Graphic Design and Illustration II Grade 10-12 Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Graphic Design & Illustration I

The course expands on Graphic Design & Illustration including advanced skills in image editing and vector graphic software focusing on original creation and design of computer graphics for use as ornamentation, illustration, and advertising. Students are expected to interpret, evaluate and justify design decisions. Instruction is project-based and students will develop advanced technical skills needed for success in visual communication industries. Student designs must show original and inventive ideas while utilizing industry and market trends. Software focus continues in Adobe Photoshop with more focus using Adobe Illustrator. Adobe InDesign is introduced in the course.

Practicum in Graphic Design & Illustration Grade 11-12 Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Graphic Design & Illustration II, Passing Score on the Adobe Certified Associate

Exam in Visual Communications, Program Qualification Form & Portfolio Review Required

This is the final course in the Graphic Design & Illustration pathway. Students will be expected to demonstrate & deliver a technical understanding of the graphic design industry with a focus on skill proficiency. Instruction may be delivered through lab-based classroom experiences or career preparation opportunities (field site). Additional focus will be placed on professional communication strategies and ethical decision making in regard to graphic design careers. Software focus is the Adobe Creative Design Suite – Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign.

. Business and Management Cluster

Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance Grade 9-12 Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

In Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance, students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, the marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems, and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

Business Information Management I Grade Level 9 – 12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

Students implement personal and interpersonal skills to strengthen individual performance in the workplace and in society. Students apply technical skills to, improve keyboarding proficiency, create word-processing documents, develop spreadsheets, formulate databases, as well as create and animate electronic presentations using Microsoft Office software. These skills will assist students in making a successful transition to the postsecondary education and the workforce. This course may count as a technology applications credit.

Business Information Management II Grade Level 10 – 12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Business Information Management I

Students apply advanced technical skills to create advanced word-processing documents, develop advanced spreadsheets, formulate advanced databases for use within corporate or small business inventory purposes, as well as create and animate advanced electronic presentations using Microsoft Office software. Students will have the option to become certified as a Microsoft Office Specialist.

Practicum in Business Management Grade Level 9 – 12 Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Business Information Management II

Practicum in Business Management is designed to give students supervised practical application of previously studied knowledge and skills. Practicum experiences occur in a paid or unpaid arrangement and a variety of locations appropriate to the nature and level of experience. Students implement personal and interpersonal skills to strengthen individual performance in the workplace and in society and to make a successful transition to the workforce or postsecondary education. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students develop a foundation in the economic, financial, technological, international, social, and ethical aspects of business to become competent consumers, employees, and entrepreneurs.

Business Management

Grade Level 9 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Business Management is designed to familiarize students with the concepts related to business management as well as the functions of management, including planning, organizing, staffing, leading, and controlling. Students will also demonstrate interpersonal and project-management skills.

Human Resources Management

Grade Level 9 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Business Management

Human Resources Management is designed to familiarize students with the concepts related to human resource management, including legal requirements, recruitment, and employee selection methods, and employee development and evaluation. Students will also become familiar with compensation and benefits programs as well as workplace safety, employee-management relations, and the impact of global events on human resources management.

Business English:

Grade Level: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: English I/II/III

Students recognize, evaluate, and prepare for a rapidly evolving global business environment that requires flexibility and adaptability. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis. Students edit their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English and produce final, error-free drafts for business reproduction.

Business Law

Grade Level 9 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Students analyze the social responsibility of business and industry regarding issues relating to the

legal environment, business ethics, torts, contracts, negotiable financial instruments, personal property, sales, warranties, business organizations, concept of agency and employment, and real property. Students apply technical skills to address the legal, managerial, marketing, financial, ethical, and international dimensions of business to make appropriate business decisions.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING CLUSTER

Principles of Education and Training

Grades: 9-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

Principles of Education and Training is designed to introduce learners to the various careers available within the Education and Training Career Cluster®. Students use self-knowledge as well as educational and career information to analyze various careers within the Education and Training Career Cluster®. Students will develop a graduation plan that leads to a specific career choice in the student's interest area.

Human Growth and Development

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: Principles of Education and Training

Human Growth and Development is an examination of human development across the lifespan with emphasis on research, theoretical perspectives, and common physical, cognitive, emotional, and social developmental milestones. The course covers material that is generally taught in a postsecondary, one-semester introductory course in developmental psychology or human development.

Instructional Practices in Education and Training

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Principles of Education and Training or Human Growth and Development

This course is a field-based internship that provides students with background knowledge of child and adolescent development as well as principles of effective teaching and training practices. Students work under the joint direction and supervision of both a teacher with knowledge of early childhood education and exemplary educators or trainers in direct instructional roles with elementary-, middle school-, and high school-aged students. Students learn to plan and direct individualized instruction and group activities, prepare instructional materials, develop materials for educational environments, assist with record keeping, and complete other responsibilities of teachers, trainers, paraprofessionals, or other educational personnel.

Practicum in Education and Training

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Instructional Practice in Education and Training

This course is a field-based internship that provides students with background knowledge of child and adolescent development as well as principles of effective teaching and training practices. Students work under the joint direction and supervision of both a teacher with knowledge of early childhood education and exemplary educators or trainers in direct instructional roles with elementary-, middle school-, and high school-aged students. Students learn to plan and direct individualized instruction and group activities, prepare instructional materials, develop materials for educational environments, assist with record keeping, and complete other responsibilities of teachers, trainers, paraprofessionals, or other educational personnel. *Students must provide their own transportation.*

FINANCE CLUSTER

Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance Grade 9-12 Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

In Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance, students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, the marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems, and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

Accounting I Grade Level 9 – 12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students investigate the field of accounting, including how it is impacted by industry standards as well as economic, financial, technological, international, social, legal, and ethical factors. Students reflect on this knowledge as they engage in the process of recording, classifying, summarizing, analyzing, and communicating accounting information. Students formulate and interpret financial information for use in management decision making. Materials fee may be required for this course.

Accounting II Grade Level 10 – 12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course uses an integrated approach to teach accounting. Students first learn how businesses plan for and evaluate their operating, financing and investing decisions and then how accounting systems gather and provide data to internal and external decisions makers. This year-long course covers all the learning objectives of a traditional college level financial accounting course, plus those from a managerial accounting course. Topics include an introduction to accounting,

accounting information systems, time value of money, and accounting for merchandising firms, sales and receivables, fixed assets, debt and equity. Other topics include statement of cash flows, financial ratios, cost-volume profit analysis and variance analysis. Materials fee may be required for this course.

Statistics and Business Decision Making Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Accounting II

Statistics and Business Decision Making is an introduction to statistics and the application of statistics to business decision making. Students will use statistics to make business decisions. Students will determine the appropriateness of methods used to collect data to ensure conclusions are valid.

Financial Mathematics Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Financial Mathematics is a course about personal money management. Students will apply critical thinking skills to analyze financial decisions based on current and projected economic factors. Financial Mathematics will integrate career and postsecondary education planning into financial decision making. When possible, students will apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. Students will use a problem-solving model that incorporates analyzing given information, formulating a plan or strategy, determining a solution, justifying the solution, and evaluating the problem-solving process and the reasonableness of the solution.

HEALTH SCIENCE CLUSTER

Principles of Health Science Grades: 9-12 Credit: 1

Recommended prerequisite: Biology (may be taken concurrently)

The Principles of Health Science provides an overview of the therapeutic, diagnostic, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development systems of the health care industry.

Medical Terminology Grades: 9-12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Biology (may be taken concurrently)

Students will develop a working knowledge of the language of medicine. Students acquire word building skills by leaning prefixes, suffixes, root words and abbreviations related to the health science field. By relating terms to body systems, students identify proper use of words in a medical environment. Knowledge of medical terminology enhances the student's ability to

successfully secure employment or pursue advanced education in healthcare.

Health Science Theory

Grade: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Principles of Health Science, Biology, Enrollment in Chemistry

The Health Science course is designed to provide for the development of advanced knowledge and skills related to a wide variety of health careers. Students will have hands-on experiences for continued knowledge and skill development. The course may be taught by different methodologies such as clinical rotation and career preparation learning.

Anatomy and Physiology

Grade Levels 11-12

Credit: 1

Recommended prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Students will conduct laboratory investigations and fieldwork, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and problem solving. Topics will be presented through an integration of biology, chemistry, and physics. Students will study the structures and functions of the human body and body systems and will investigate body's responses to forces, maintenance of homeostasis, electrical interactions, transport systems, and energy systems.

Pharmacology

Grade Levels 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Health Science Theory

This course will equip students with knowledge, technical skills, and work habits required for a Certified Pharmacy Technician. They will develop an understanding of pharmaceuticals and its impact on the healthcare industry. Students will be given Sterile Products (IV) training prior to completion of the course and are eligible to sit for the National Sterile Products (IV) Certification exam. In addition, students will have the opportunity to sit for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE) once they successfully complete the course. Students will be required participate in a clinical rotation with retail and hospital pharmacies. Immunization records, TB test, flu shot and two drug screens are required. Students must have a Social Security # to participate in this course. Students must provide their own transportation to and from off-campus sites.

Practicum in Health Science I (Pharmacy Tech)

Credits: 2

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Anatomy & Physiology, application and instructor

approval

This course will provide an overview of prescription and nonprescription medications. Course content will emphasize drug classifications, drug action, drug administration, ethical and legal issues and safety, pharmacy law and pharmacy calculations. Students will develop an understanding of pharmaceuticals and their impact of the healthcare industry. In addition to classroom learning, students will train at local pharmacies in preparation for the PTCB exam to become Certified Pharmacy Technicians. HSCT program application and unannounced drug screening are required.

Mathematics for Medical Professionals Grade Level: 11-12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra II

The Mathematics for Medical Professionals course is designed to serve as the driving force behind the Texas essential knowledge and skills for mathematics, guided by the college and career readiness standards. By embedding statistics, probability, and finance, while focusing on fluency and solid understanding in medical mathematics, students will extend and apply mathematical skills necessary for health science professions. Course content consists primarily of high school level mathematics concepts and their applications to health science professions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER

Principles of Information Technology Credit: 1
Grades: 9-10

Students develop computer literacy skills to adapt to emerging technologies used in the global marketplace. The course incorporates fundamentals of computer operations including hardware and software operations as well as computer maintenance and operation.

Computer Maintenance Grade 10 -12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Principles of Information Technology

Students acquire principles of computer maintenance, including electrical and electronic theory, computer hardware principles, and broad-level components related to the installation, diagnosis, service, and repair of computer systems. The computer maintenance curriculum offers a hands-on, career-oriented learning experience with an emphasis on practical activities to help students develop fundamental computer and career skills. Computer Maintenance helps students prepare for entry level career opportunities and the Comp TIA A+ Certification, which helps students to differentiate themselves in the marketplace and advance their careers. This course may qualify as a technology applications credit.

Networking

Grade 10 -12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Computer Maintenance

Knowing how to install, configure, and troubleshoot a computer network is a highly marketable and exciting skill. This course first introduces the fundamental building blocks that form a modern network, such as protocols, topologies, hardware, and network operating systems. It then provides indepth coverage of the most important concepts in contemporary networking, such as TCP/IP, Ethernet, wireless transmission, and security. The course will prepare you to select the best network design, hardware, and software for your environment. You will also have the skills to build a network from scratch and maintain, upgrade, and troubleshoot an existing network. Finally, you will be well prepared to pass CompTIA's (the Computing Technology Industry Association's) Network+ certification exam.

Computer Technician Practicum

Grade Level 12

Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Networking and Computer Maintenance

In the Computer Technician Practicum, students will gain knowledge and skills in computer technologies, including advanced knowledge of electrical and electronic theory, computer principles, and components related to the installation, diagnosis, service, and repair of computer-based technology systems. Students will reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills to a variety of settings and problems. Proper use of analytical skills and application of IT concepts and standards are essential to prepare students for success in a technology-driven society. Critical thinking, IT experience, and product development may be conducted in a classroom setting with an instructor, with an industry mentor, or both.

Digital Media

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Principles of Information Technology

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.

Web Technologies

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Principles of Information Technology

Through the study of web technologies and design, students learn to make informed decisions and apply the decisions to the field of information technology. This course introduces software applications and programming with computers through website development and implementation.

Practicum in Information Technology Solutions Grade Level 12 Credits 2

Prerequisites: a minimum of two high school information technology courses and by application only.

Students gain advanced knowledge and skills in the application, design, production, implementation, maintenance, evaluation, and assessment of products, services, and systems. Knowledge and skills in the proper use of analytical skills and application of information technology concepts and standards are essential to prepare students for success in a technology-driven society. Critical thinking, information technology experience, and product development may be conducted in a classroom setting with an industry mentor, as an unpaid internship, or as career preparation.

Computer Programming Grade Level 10-12 Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Principles of Information Technology, Web Technologies

Students acquire knowledge of structured programming techniques and concepts appropriate to developing executable programs and creating appropriate documentation. Students 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 it relates to computer programming. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies.

Video Game Design Grade Level 10-12 Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Principles of Information Technology, Web Technologies

Video Game Design will allow students to explore one of the largest industries in the global marketplace and the new emerging careers it provides in the field of technology. Students will learn gaming, computerized gaming, evolution of gaming, artistic aspects of perspective, design, animation, technical concepts of collision theory, and programming logic. Students will participate in a simulation of a real video game design team while developing technical proficiency in constructing an original game design.

Law Enforcement Cluster

Survey of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security Grade Level 9 – 12 Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to professions in law enforcement, security, corrections, and fire and emergency management services. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities of police, courts, corrections, private security and protective agencies of fire and emergency services. The course provides students with an overview of the skills necessary for careers in law enforcement, fire service, security and corrections. Fee for CPR certification may be required.

Law Enforcement I

Grade Level 10 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Survey of Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

Law Enforcement I is an overview of the history, organization, and functions of local, state and federal law enforcement. This course includes the role of constitutional law, the United States legal system, criminal law, law enforcement terminology and the classification and elements of crime.

Law Enforcement II

Grade Level 11 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Law Enforcement I

Law Enforcement II is designed to provide the students the knowledge and skills necessary for a career in Law Enforcement. The course includes the ethical and legal responsibilities of law enforcement personnel, operation of police and emergency telecommunicator equipment and courtroom testimony. Students will take the knowledge learned in Law Enforcement I to a higher level. Students will apply knowledge and skills through hands-on, field based experiences using classroom projects and activities. Student will also gain experience in Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) through the use of simulation software and equipment as well as through direct observation of people employed in this field. Students will use simulated radio communications systems and participate in simulated 911 calls. Upon completion of this course students will receive the Basic Telecommunicator Certification through IAED.

Federal Law Enforcement and Protective Services

Grade Level 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Law Enforcement I

Federal Law Enforcement and Protective Services provides the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare for certification in security services for federal law enforcement and protective services. The course provides an overview of security elements and types of organizations with a focus on security measures used to protect lives, property, and proprietary information, to ensure computer security, to provide information assurance, and to prevent cybercrime.

Forensic Science

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisites: Law Enforcement II or Federal Law Enforcement

Forensic Science is a course that uses a structured and scientific approach to the investigation of crimes of assault, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, accidental death, homicide, and the

psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scene, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection, and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes such as fingerprint analysis, ballistics, and blood spatter analysis. Students will learn the history, legal aspects, and career options for forensic science.

Court Systems and Practices
10th –12th grade

Grade Level 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Survey of Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security

Court Systems and Practices is an overview of the federal and state court systems. The course identifies the roles of judicial officers and the trial processes from pretrial to sentencing and examines the types and rules of evidence. Emphasis is placed on constitutional laws for criminal procedures such as search and seizure, stop and frisk, and interrogation.

Marketing Cluster

Social Media Marketing

Grades 10-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

Social Media Marketing is designed to look at the rise of social media and how marketers are integrating social media tools in their overall marketing strategy. The course will investigate how the marketing community measures success in the new world of social media. Students will manage a successful social media presence for an organization, understand techniques for gaining customer and consumer buy-in to achieve marketing goals, and properly select social media platforms to engage consumers and monitor and measure the results of these efforts.

Advertising

Grades 10-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

Advertising is designed as a comprehensive introduction to the principles and practices of advertising. Students will gain knowledge of techniques used in current advertising, including print, broadcast, and digital media. The course explores the social, ethical, and legal issues of advertising, historical influences, strategies, and media decision processes as well as integrated marketing communications. The course provides an overview of how communication tools can be used to reach target audiences and increase consumer knowledge.

Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Grades 10-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

Sports and Entertainment Marketing course will provide students with a thorough understanding of the marketing concepts and theories that apply to sports and sporting events and entertainment. The areas this course will cover include basic marketing, target marketing and segmentation, sponsorship, event marketing, promotions, sponsorship proposals, and implementation of sports and entertainment marketing plans. This course will also provide students an opportunity to develop promotional plans, sponsorship proposals, endorsement contracts, sports and entertainment marketing plans, and evaluation and management techniques.

Fashion Marketing

Grades 10-12

Credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

None Fashion Marketing is designed to provide students with knowledge of the various business functions in the fashion industry. Students in Fashion Marketing will gain a working knowledge of promotion, textiles, merchandising, mathematics, selling, visual merchandising, and career opportunities.

Entrepreneurship

Grades 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

Students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to become an entrepreneur. Students will learn the principles necessary to begin and operate a business. The primary focus of the course is to help students understand the process of analyzing a business opportunity, preparing a business plan, determining feasibility of an idea using research, and developing a plan to organize and promote the business and its products and services. In addition, students understand the capital required, the return on investment desired, and the potential for profit.

Practicum in Marketing

Grades 11-12

Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance, Qualification Form, Interview Required, Employment Required

Students gain knowledge and skills that help them become proficient in one or more of the marketing functional areas associated with distribution, financing, marketing information management, pricing, product planning, promotion, purchasing, risk management, and selling skills. Students will integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, interpersonal communication, and management training to make responsible decisions. The practicum course is a paid career experience for students participating in a coherent sequence of career and technical courses in marketing education. The curriculum will present project-based

learning activities that will give the students the opportunity to apply newly acquired marketing skills in real world situations.

STEM Cluster

Principles of Applied Engineering

Grade Level 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Principles of Applied Engineering provides an overview of the various fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and their interrelationships. Students will develop engineering communication skills, which include computer graphics, modeling, and presentations, by using a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects. Upon completing this course, students will understand the various fields of engineering and will be able to make informed career decisions. Further, students will have worked on a design team to develop a product or system. Students will use multiple software applications to prepare and present course assignments.

Engineering Design and Problem Solving

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Engineering Design and Presentation, Algebra 1, Geometry

Engineering design is the creative process of solving problems by identifying needs and then devising solutions. This solution may be a product, technique, structure, process, or many other things depending on the problem. This course is intended to stimulate students' ingenuity, intellectual talents, and practical skills in devising solutions to engineering design problems. Students use the engineering design process cycle to investigate, design, plan, create, and evaluate solutions. At the same time, this course fosters awareness of the social and ethical implications of technological development.

Robotics I

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Engineering Design and Presentation

Students enrolled in this course will demonstrate knowledge and skills necessary for the robotic and automation industry. Through implementation of the design process, students will transfer advanced academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment. Students will build prototypes or use simulation software to test their designs. Additionally, students explore

career opportunities, employer expectations, and educational needs in the robotic and automation industry.

Note: This CTE course may be NOT used as a state science course.

Robotics II

Grade Level: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Robotics I

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 their designs.

Engineering Design and Presentation I

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Students enrolled in this course will demonstrate knowledge and skills of the process design as it applies to engineering fields using multiple software applications and tools necessary to produce and present working drawings, solid model renderings, and prototypes. Students will use a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects. Through implementation of the design process, students will transfer advanced academic skills to component designs. Additionally, students explore career opportunities in engineering, technology, and drafting and what is required to gain and maintain employment in these areas.

Engineering Design and Presentation II

Grade Level: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Engineering Design and Presentation I

Engineering Design and Presentation II is a continuation of knowledge and skills learned in Engineering Design and Presentation I. Students enrolled in this course will demonstrate knowledge and skills of the design process as it applies to engineering fields using multiple software applications and tools necessary to produce and present working drawings, solid model renderings, and prototypes. Students will use a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects. Through implementation of the design process, students will transfer advanced academic skills to component designs. Emphasis will be placed on using skills from ideation through prototyping.

ARTS & HUMANITIES ENDORSEMENT

A student may earn an Arts & Humanities endorsement by completing foundation and general endorsement requirements and:

(A) a total of 5 social studies courses, or

(B) 4 levels of the same language in a language other than English, or

(C) 2 levels of the same language in a language other than English and 2 levels of a different language in a language other than English, or

(E) a coherent sequence of 4 credits by selecting courses from 1 or 2 categories or disciplines in fine arts or innovative courses approved by the commissioner, or

(F) 4 English elective credits by selecting from the following:

- English IV
- Literary Genres
- AP English Literature and Composition; or
- Communications Applications

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ENDORSEMENT

A student may earn a Multidisciplinary Studies endorsement by completing foundation and general endorsement requirements and:

(A) 4 advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully to be selected from the following, or 4 postsecondary education courses without remediation from within 1 endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence, or

(B) 4 credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV, and chemistry and/or physics, or

(C) 4 credits, in any combination, in AP or dual credit selected from English, math, science, social studies, economics, or fine arts.

STEM ENDORSEMENT

(Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

A student may earn a STEM endorsement by completing foundation and general endorsement requirements including Algebra II, chemistry, and physics and:

(A) a coherent sequence of courses for 4 or more credits in CTE that consists of at least 2 courses in the same career cluster including at least one advanced CTE course which includes any course that is the 3rd or higher course in a sequence. The courses may be selected from all CTE career clusters or CTE innovative courses approved by the commissioner of education. The final course in the sequence must be selected from the STEM career cluster.

(B) A total of 5 credits in math by successfully completing Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II and 2 additional math courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite, or

(C) A total of 5 credits in science by successfully completing biology, chemistry, physics, and 2 additional science courses, or

(D) In addition to Algebra II, chemistry, and physics, a coherent sequence of 3 additional credits from no more than 2 of the areas listed in (A), (B), and (C).

A+ ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRODUCTION

This middle school course guide has been developed to provide information to students and parents regarding courses available in grades 7, and 8. It provides a brief description of each course offered, lists any prerequisites or special requirements and gives information on promotion requirements, schedule change policy, and placement process. The goal of the middle schools in the A+ Academy Charter Schools is to provide a challenging academic program in a supportive school environment. We encourage middle school students to explore a variety of courses from our elective offerings.

Since students are making selections for the entire year, it is imperative that parents and students work together during this process. As always, counselors and teachers are available to meet with students and their parents to discuss course descriptions and selections in an effort to help students make the best possible choices. Students and parents are encouraged to use this guide and the middle school support staff to help make appropriate course selections. All students are not guaranteed their first choice of electives, but every effort is made to have at least 1 of the top 3 choices.

GRADE LEVEL COURSE REQUIREMENT

Seventh grade students are required to take the following courses:

1. Language Arts
2. Reading
3. Math
4. Science
5. Texas History
6. Athletics or PE
7. Elective*

Eighth grade students are required to take the following courses:

1. English/Language Arts
2. Reading
3. Math
4. Science
5. Social Studies
6. Careers/Health
7. Elective*

Electives at 8th grade include Athletics, PE, Spanish, Fine Arts, and others

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

Middle school students operate on an eight-period day schedule. Each class meets daily for approximately 45 minutes. All students in grades 7-8 take 8 classes each year.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Both boys' and girls' athletic programs meet the state requirements for physical education. Practice time for all sports will be during the athletic period and either before or after school. Many games are out of town. Students should be prepared for a significant time commitment to sports. An annual U.I.L. physical form must be completed and on file in the coach's office prior to any student participation in athletics.

Athletics is a year-long program for all participants. Students who participate in a fall-only or spring-only sport will participate in an "off season" conditioning program during other points of the year. Schedule changes will not be permitted at the end of a particular sport.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Computer literacy has been integrated into all basic curricula; therefore, students will have essential elements delivered in their core subject classes. In addition, an elective of Technology Applications will be available to students to focus on skills such as: computer basics, keyboarding skills, word processing, desktop publishing, multimedia, electronic research, spreadsheets, databases, interactive environments and technology in society.

ELECTIVES

Each year students have a choice of various electives they may take. These electives include courses in fine arts, technology, yearbook production, agriculture science and more. It is critical that students make thoughtful decisions when choosing electives as once the master schedule is developed, schedule changes will not be permitted.

FINE ARTS

A+ Academy offers a robust selection of fine arts courses throughout middle school. Extensive programming is available in Art, Band, Choir, and Theatre.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Students have several opportunities to earn high school credit throughout middle school. Grading policies and procedures for high school credit courses in Middle School will follow the high school curriculum and grading procedures. The following courses earn high school credit:

- Algebra 1
- Spanish 1

STATE ASSESSMENT

All students are assessed through the STAAR test (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness.) STAAR will assess the following subject areas:

- Reading (7th and 8th Grade)
- Writing (7th Grade)
- Mathematics (7th and 8th Grade)
- Science (8th Grade)
- Social Studies (8th Grade)

Middle school students taking Algebra I will take the corresponding STAAR EOC assessment to demonstrate math competency.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRE-AP PROGRAM

Pre-AP courses are on-grade level academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments and to complete a substantial amount of work outside of class. The curricula for the courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations for each course. Pre-AP middle school courses are designed to prepare students for high school Pre-AP and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses are college-level courses taught in a high school setting. At the end of each AP course an AP Exam is given. Qualifying scores on the AP exams can enable students to receive college credit and/or advanced standing at a university or college. Enrollment into Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) coursework is open to any student who is interested in a challenging and rigorous curriculum and has met standard on the STAAR test. A student may be removed from a Pre-AP class if semester average falls below passing. Recommended guidelines have been included under each Pre-AP Course to note suggested performance levels to ensure student success. Students who experience success in Pre-AP courses typically exhibit the following personal and academic characteristics:

Personal Characteristics:

- Excellent study and organizational skills
- Ability to work well with others
- Persistence in pursuing goals
- A strong sense of responsibility
- Ability to become an independent learner
- A desire to be academically successful
- Reading on or above grade level
- Proficient oral and written communication skills

Academic Characteristics:

- Grade of 85 or higher in a related academic content area course

- Scores at the Advanced Academic Achievement level on the most recent STAAR test closely related to the Pre-AP course being considered

Students are encouraged to take Pre-AP courses that are appropriate to their interests and academic strengths. The number of Pre-AP courses also varies with students' motivation, self-discipline, and available time outside of class.

Coursework for Pre-AP classes is advanced and requires academic discipline. Again, students must maintain a passing average in order to remain in a Pre-AP course.

COURSE GUIDES

Language Arts

Language Arts/Reading 7

The regular language arts course is an integrated approach to the study of English, incorporating reading and writing skills. Vocabulary enrichment, word attack skills, prefixes, suffixes, and etymology, as well as word usage, grammar and editing practice are studied in a process writing / response-based reading approach. The writing program allows students to apply their integrated knowledge in a variety of guided experiences. Opportunities to publish their work in a variety of ways give students the chance to vary their audience and point of view. Reading comprehension and analysis are developed through reading response, novel and poetry projects, and short story study. The use of technology is incorporated throughout the year.

Pre-Advanced Placement Language Arts/Reading 7

As a preparation for Advanced Placement English courses in high school, this curriculum focuses on literary analysis in reading, writing, speaking and listening. *In addition* to what is expected in a regular language arts class, Pre-AP classes will also be exposed to analytical reading of literature, analytical writing and speaking focusing on tone and style, and using analytical literary vocabulary in both writing and speaking which are key facets to this program that aid in preparing students for success on the Advanced Placement exams in high school. The content of this course will be organized to include the in-depth study of major ideas, problems, and themes that integrate knowledge and systems of thought. The development and application of productive thinking skills through Socratic methods will enable students to reformulate existing knowledge and/or generate new knowledge. Part of the program will allow for the integration of multiple disciplines as they relate to literature. The use of technology is incorporated throughout the year. The homework load for this class is intensive. Students should be prepared to invest additional time and effort as the curriculum demands. It is strongly advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

- 90 or above grade average in 6th grade language arts/reading OR
- 80 or above grade average in 6th grade Pre-AP language arts

- Aptitude for and genuine interest in both reading and writing

Successful students are task-oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work.

Language Arts/Reading 8

The regular language arts course is an integrated approach to the study of English, incorporating both reading and writing skills. A literature-based reading program is fused with a process-oriented writing program to provide a well-rounded language arts curriculum. Different genres of literature are read for enjoyment, exposure to different people and ideas, enhancement of reading comprehension, and access to meaningful writing topics. The writing program allows students to apply their integrated knowledge in a variety of guided experiences. Important components of the integrated program include exercises in spelling, vocabulary, punctuation, capitalization, usage, and grammar as each applies to the reading/writing process. The use of technology is incorporated throughout the year.

Pre-Advanced Placement Language Arts/Reading 8

As preparation for Advanced Placement English courses in high school, this curriculum focuses on literary analysis in reading, writing, speaking and listening. *In addition* to what is expected in a regular language arts class, Pre-AP classes will also be exposed to analytical reading of literature focusing on tone and style, and using literary vocabulary in both writing and speaking which are key facets to this program. The content of this course will be organized to include elaborate, complex and in-depth study of major ideas, problems and themes. Activities that allow for the development and application of productive thinking skills enabling students to conceptualize existing knowledge and /or generate new knowledge will be stressed. An essential part of the program will allow for the integration of multiple disciplines as they relate to literature. The use of technology is incorporated throughout the year. The homework load for this class is intensive. Students should be prepared to invest additional time and effort as the curriculum demands. It is strongly advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

- 90 or above grade average in 7th grade language arts/reading **OR**
- 80 or above grade average in 7th grade Pre-AP language arts
- Aptitude for and genuine interest in both reading and writing

Successful students are task-oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work.

ESL (English as a Second Language)

Grade: 7-8

Prerequisite: LPAC Recommendation

ESL is offered to students who are native speakers of a language other than English based on language assessment criteria. Comprehension of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills are addressed at the appropriate level for each individual student.

Mathematics

Math 7

The seventh grade students will further review, develop, and enrich their proportional thinking, algebraic reasoning, operations with rational numbers, geometry and spatial reasoning, statistical analysis, and problem solving. With an emphasis on process and justification, students learn to evaluate their answers for reasonableness. Throughout the year, students maintain basic computation skills through the computation test and applications. Other concepts are taught through conceptual learning, beginning with concrete examples, which eventually lead to the abstract level.

Pre-AP Math 7 (Pre-Algebra)

The seventh grade Pre-AP mathematics curriculum is designed to continue expanding the students' knowledge of number theory, measurement, geometry, proportional reasoning, probability, statistics, pre-algebra, and other advanced mathematics topics. Emphasis will be on problem solving, technology, and independent student discovery. Students will explore the Pre-AP strands on accumulation, functions, and rate.

Math 8

This course enables students to use mathematics skills learned in previous grades to begin the study of introductory algebra with an emphasis on problem solving and applications. Topics covered include measurement, geometry terms and formulas, number theory, probability, statistics, proportions, percents, graphing, computation, and use of calculators. Projects and problem solving will be an integral part of assessment. Enrichment activities will be provided.

Algebra 1

High School Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Students who complete Pre-AP Math 7 and have high STAAR math scores will be able to take the district placement test for Algebra 1. Placement decisions are made in the summer before 8th grade.

Algebra 1 is the study of mathematical relationships. It covers topics such as algebraic properties, solving equations and inequalities (linear, absolute value, radical, and quadratic), and applying equations and inequalities. Operations involving polynomials and exponents, rational algebraic expressions, and functions are also covered. These topics are studied algebraically (abstractly), graphically, and analytically. Students can expect to use graphing calculators frequently in the course. Students who take Algebra 1 are preparing to enter a sequence of courses including Pre-AP Geometry, Pre-AP Algebra 2, Pre-AP Pre-Calculus, and AP Calculus. The curriculum of this course is designed to prepare eighth grade students for these rigorous

courses. Students in Algebra 1 will be administered a comprehensive midterm and final examination that parallels the High School exams. Students in Algebra 1 must take the Algebra 1 End-of-Course exam (EOC).

Science

Science 7

The study of science includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods, critical-thinking, problem-solving, and using tools such as weather instruments and calculators to collect and analyze information to explain a phenomenon. Students also use computers and information technology tools to support scientific investigations. Units of study include solar system, force and motion, simple machines, body systems, chemistry, genetics, energy, cycles and systems. Student research and projects will include research and experimentation.

Science 8

In Grade 8, the study of science includes planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods, analyzing data, critical-thinking, scientific problem-solving and technology tools to support scientific investigations. Students will identify the roles of both human activities and natural events of Earth systems and those of the universe. Students will engage in an understanding of the periodic table including the groups and families. Students will acquire an understanding of chemical reactions and their relationship to matter and energy. Genetic combinations and Darwin's theory of survival is explored.

Social Studies

Social Studies 7

Texas History provides a variety of opportunities for each student to explore our state. State government, geography, the justice system, and general history are studied. Higher-level thinking skills are practiced in cooperative learning groups and through individual performance. Thematic units, interdisciplinary studies, and reinforcement of language arts, math, science, and computer/technology resources are used to study Texas from the period of discovery to the 21st Century.

Social Studies 8

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will understand civic ideals, citizenship practices, and the basis of the U.S. constitutional republic; economic systems, including the benefits of the U.S. free enterprise system; geographic relationships; the purposes, structures, and functions of political systems; ways individuals and societies have interacted over time; the similarities and differences among people; and the relationships among science, technology, and society. Social studies skills enable students to acquire, organize, and use information for problem solving and decision-making.

Language Other Than English

Spanish 1

Grade Level: 8

High School Credit: 1

Spanish 1 introduces the basic language skills of showing, viewing, listening, reading, speaking and writing in Spanish. Students will learn vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate in everyday situations. A variety of videos, student presentations, projects, and dramatizations will be used to reinforce language skills and introduce various aspects of Hispanic culture. As this is a high school level course, students should be prepared to invest additional time and effort as the curriculum demands. It is strongly advised that students have the following prerequisites:

- 85 or above overall average
- Met Standard in all STAAR Assessments
- Aptitude for and genuine interest in Spanish culture and language

Successful students are task-oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work.

Fine Arts

Art 7/8

In this intermediate course, students will continue or begin exploring various art processes and development of skills. Students will explore and study four areas of visual arts. These include perception: where students develop and organize ideas from their environment, creative expression: where students express ideas through original artworks, cultural and historical heritage: where students learn about the world through art history and cultural movements, and evaluation and critique: where students learn to evaluate and analyze works of art. Students work in various mediums and explore various techniques. Students will create original works of art that communicate and foster self-expression. (No previous coursework is required.)

Concert Band

Grade Level: 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Director Approval or Band 6

This course is designed for the intermediate band student. Meaningful musical experiences are offered through a variety of performances and competitions. Festival, contest, and travel opportunities are provided throughout the year. Teamwork, problem solving, and working toward a common goal are strongly emphasized. Performances and some before or after school rehearsals are required.

Symphonic Band

Grade Level: 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Director Approval or Concert Band

This course is designed for the advanced band student. Meaningful musical experiences are offered through a variety of performances and competitions. Festival, contest, and travel opportunities are provided throughout the year. Teamwork, problem solving, and working toward a common goal are strongly emphasized. Performances and some before or after school rehearsals are required.

Jazz Band

Grade Level: 7 and 8

Prerequisite: Director Approval

This course is designed for the advanced band student. Meaningful musical experiences are offered through a variety of performances and competitions. Festival, contest, and travel opportunities are provided throughout the year. Teamwork, problem solving, and working toward a common goal are strongly emphasized. Performances and some before or after school rehearsals are required.

Choir

Grade Level: 7-8

Students will continue developing good vocal technique singing and learning about many genres of music. Students will gain more vocal independence singing in smaller groups or performing solos/duets. Sight-reading will be incorporated in order to prepare students for UIL competition

Theatre Arts

Grade Level: 7-8

This course is designed as an introduction to Theatre Arts. Theatre students develop confidence and stage presence through training in acting techniques. Areas of study may include improvisation, pantomime, scene writing, monologue, directing, theatre history and playwriting, as well as technical skills such as lighting and sound.

Physical Education

According to Senate Bill 530: Physical Activity Requirements for Public School Students, "...students in grades six through eight will be required to participate in daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes for at least four semesters during those grade levels."

Physical Education

The physical education program will involve team sports, lifetime sports, and fitness workouts. Activities will include basketball, cardiovascular conditioning, disc golf, dodge ball, fitness testing, kickball, muscular fitness, orienteering, soccer, softball, tennis, touch football, track and field, and volleyball. The students will be evaluated using the Fitnessgram test to help them take ownership of their individual fitness levels. The class will help students learn goal setting and the importance of good sportsmanship. All instruction will be given in a co-educational setting. Students will be required to suit up every day in proper attire and participate to the best of their abilities.

Girls Athletics

Athletics is a year-round competitive program in which team members compete against other schools for district titles. Team members must participate in class daily as well as additional practices. During the first semester, UIL cross country, volleyball and basketball will be offered. During the second semester, UIL basketball, track and soccer will be offered. Those students not participating in an in-season sport will be required to participate in a rigorous off-season conditioning program that involves weight training, agility drills, and cardiovascular work (running). A yearly U.I.L. physical form must be completed and on file in the coaches office prior to any student participation in athletics.

Boys Athletics

Athletics is a year-round competitive program in which team members compete against other schools for district titles. Team members must participate in class daily as well as additional practices. During the first semester, UIL cross country, football and basketball will be offered. During the second semester, UIL basketball, track, and soccer will be offered. Those students not participating in an in-season sport will be required to participate in a rigorous off-season conditioning program that involves weight training, agility drills, and cardiovascular work (running). A yearly U.I.L. physical form must be completed and on file in the coach's office prior to any student participation in athletics.

Technology

Technology Applications

Grade 7

This project-based course prepares our students to be technologically adept and function effectively in our increasingly technologically-driven world. This class is designed to engage our students in hands-on activities that explore communications, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making.

Exploring Careers

Grade 8

The career development process is unique to every person and changes throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students will also integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software (Career Cruising) and other tools to explore areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements or a variety of chosen career paths. (CTE Course)