

AESA PREP ACADEMY

Course Catalog 2019 - 20



Course Description Catalog

Grades 6-8 and 9-12 • 2019 - 2020

AESA Prep Academy is a 4th-12th grade college preparatory school in Austin, TX offering both flexible and traditional schedules to accommodate the unique needs of our individual students. Accredited by SACS and NCAA approved, AESA provides students the support they need to fulfill their dreams while achieving academic excellence.

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ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS

MATHEMATICS

Our mathematics curriculum satisfies the National Principles and Standards for Mathematics, developed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

SCIENCE

Our science curriculum satisfies the Next Generation Science Standards, developed by the National Science Teachers Association.

ENGLISH

Our English curriculum satisfies the Standards for the English Language Arts, developed by the National Council of Teachers of English.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Our social studies curriculum satisfies the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, developed by the National Council for the Social Studies.

HIGH SCHOOL CORE ACADEMICS

HS MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA 1 (1 CREDIT)

This one-year college preparatory course will help students to view algebra not only as a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships, but they will also experience the power of algebraic thinking in a context of applications by studying the mathematical modeling of real-world problems.

In the first semester of Algebra I, students are introduced to functions, using tables and graphs, multiple representations of functions, exploring linear functions, rate of change, the parent function, writing rules, connecting functions to equations and inequalities, using commutative, associative, and distributive properties to simplify expressions, solving simple equations with manipulatives and symbols, solving equations of the Form $kx + c = b$ and $kx + c = mx + b$, looking closer at inequalities and comparing notations and methods.

The second semester of Algebra I introduces students to systems of linear equation, solving systems using graphs and tables, solving systems by symbolic methods, area and perimeter functions, the parent function multiplied by a constant, adding and subtracting a constant, multiple changes to the parent function, binomial operations, modeling with quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, graphs of exponential functions, and modeling inverse variation data.

Algebra 1 is designed for 9th grade students but occasionally 7th and 8th grade students are prepared for this level of math course.

Textbook: Larson Algebra 1, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64713-5

GEOMETRY (1 CREDIT)

This is a one-year college preparatory Geometry course for the accelerated mathematics student. The course content will include a rigorous in-depth study of geometric concepts from an algebraic perspective. Included in this course is a study of both two and three dimensional shapes, congruence, similarity, transformations and the relationships between geometric shapes.

The first semester of Geometry introduces students to points, lines and planes, segments and distances, angles and angle measures, patterns, perpendicular bisectors and angle bisectors, points of concurrency in triangles, conditional statements, geometric systems, isometrics, parallel lines, slopes of lines, composite transfer, triangle properties, isosceles

and equilateral triangles, proving triangles congruent, and constructing perpendiculars and parallels.

The second semester of Geometry covers similar polygons, right triangles, the Pythagorean Theorem, special right triangles, right triangle trigonometry, properties of quadrilaterals, properties of parallelograms, proving quadrilaterals and parallelograms, properties of special parallelograms, trapezoids and kites, circles in the coordinate plane, properties of tangents, areas of plane figures, circles: circumference and arc length, circles, areas, sectors and segments, representing 3-D figures, prisms and cylinders in the real world, pyramids and cones in the real world, sphere and plane sections, surface area of cylinders and prisms, surface area of pyramids and cones, volumes of cylinders, prisms, pyramids and cones, coordinates and dimensional change, and three-dimensional coordinates.

If a student expects to study Calculus as a 12th grader, this course should be taken in the 9th grade, with Algebra 1 taken in the 8th grade.

Textbook: Larson Geometry, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64714-2

ALGEBRA 2 (1 CREDIT)

This is a one-year college preparatory course that will help students view advanced algebra not only as a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships, they will also experience the power of algebraic thinking in the context of application by studying the mathematical modeling of real-world problems.

Algebra 2 is usually the third math course that is taken in High School, with Geometry in between, and builds upon the information and skills students have acquired in Algebra 1 and aspects of Geometry. This course will focus on the concepts of functions and relations with emphasis on linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, and rational functions.

Algebraic concepts are used in a variety of real-world situations than can be modeled mathematically. The students will learn about rational functions and their properties, investigate the effects of horizontal and vertical translations, solve rational equations and inequalities by graphing and by solving algebraically, compare direct and indirect relations, define the General Exponential Function using Carbon-14 dating, population and other models, discover the number e , use continuous compound interest, use logarithmic functions as the inverse of an exponential function with common and natural logarithmic functions, learn how to use the properties of logarithm and using properties of logarithms in applications, and define conics such as parabolas, ellipses, circles and hyperbolas using the General and Standard Forms of the Equations of a Conic.

Textbook: Larson Algebra 2, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64715-9

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry

PRE-CALCULUS (1 CREDIT)

Pre-Calculus is designed to prepare college-bound students for a first course in Calculus. It combines the topics of trigonometry, elementary analysis, and analytic geometry. Pre-Calculus builds on the concepts and skills learned in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. An intuitive base and some working tools for the study of more advanced mathematics are developed.

The students will use system of inequalities to solve linear and quadratic inequalities, solve polynomials and rational inequalities, use rational, exponential, and logarithmic function to prove properties of logarithms and to solve exponential growth and decay, graph polar equations in the form of complex numbers using products, quotients, powers and roots of complex numbers, use conics to solve equations of circles, ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas, solve problems using the basic operations of matrices and vectors, use sequence and series to identify arithmetic and geometric series, use limits of sequence, sums of infinite series and power series, and introduce students to Calculus using limits of a function of a real variable and limit theorems and find derivatives.

Textbook: Precalculus, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2007 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 10: 0-618-75171-8

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2

CALCULUS 1 (1 CREDIT)

This is a one-year course designed for the accelerated 12th grade mathematics student who is considering advanced placement in college or wishes to have maximum preparation for college calculus.

Get an introduction to differential and integral calculus. Examine the key concepts of limit, derivative and continuity, as well as the main applications of derivatives in graphing and optimizing functions. Explore the fundamental theorem of calculus. Finally, apply the concept of integration to calculating volumes through solids of revolutions.

Recommendation: Satisfactory completion of Pre-Calculus.

At least 2 college dual credit classes are required for the Distinguished Diploma. Calculus 1 is not required for high school graduation with a Recommended Diploma.

CALCULUS 2 (1 CREDIT)

This continuation of Calculus 1 includes techniques of integration, applications of integration, infinite sequences and series, first-order ordinary differential equations, exact equations, second-order ordinary differential equations, Taylor and Maclaurin Series, and series solutions of ordinary differential equations.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Calculus 1.

At least 2 college dual credit classes are required for the Distinguished Diploma.
Calculus 2 is not required for high school graduation with a Recommended Diploma.

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HS SCIENCES

BIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

This course is equivalent to a college-level introductory biology course. Biology is the scientific study of living organisms and is considered to be the first science course in high school. This course teaches traditional biological concepts as students consider the interactions among the vast number of organisms that inhabit our planet.

Topics taught in class are the following: biomolecules, enzymes, prokaryotic cells, eukaryotic cells, cellular organelles, plasma membrane and membrane transport, osmosis, diffusion, mitosis, DNA replication, protein synthesis, mutations, energy and ATP, leaf structure and leaf pigments, stages of photosynthesis, transport of materials in plants, cellular respiration, community ecology, biological communities, population dynamics, asexual and sexual reproduction, meiosis, plant reproduction, human reproduction, menstrual cycle, genetics, karyotypes, ethics of genetics, careers in biotechnology, sex-linked traits, genetic screening, evolution, diversity of life, natural selection, plant adaptations, human body systems, the immune system, and identifying diseases.

Textbook: Biology, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-58666-3

CHEMISTRY (1 CREDIT)

Chemistry covers topics and information normally contained in a first-year college general chemistry course. Chemistry is the science of matter and the changes it undergoes.

This course examines Chemistry by introducing students to the following aspects: chemical reactions, the scientific method, characteristics of matter and its states, chromatography, physical and chemical changes, the law of conservation of mass, measurements in chemistry, accuracy, precision, significant digits, atomic theory, models of atoms, electron configurations, orbital notation, atomic mass, periodic table and its trends, nuclear chemistry, fission, fusion, half-lives of radioactive elements, nuclear reactors, oxidation numbers, polyvalent metals, polyatomic ions, chemical formulas, chemical names, naming binary molecular compounds, naming acids, organic compounds, molar mass, mole calculations, percent composition, empirical and molecular formulas, valence electrons, electronegativity, ionic bonds, covalent bonds, chemical reactions, Stoichiometry, limiting reagents, percent yield, aqueous systems, reaction rates and equilibrium, and chemical applications in the real world.

Textbook: Modern Chemistry, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-58663-2

Prerequisites: Biology

PHYSICS (1 CREDIT)

This mathematically rigorous course is equivalent to an introductory college-level physics course. Physics is the third or fourth science course in high school. Physics is the study of matter and energy and their interactions. It produces a systematic understanding of the fundamental laws that govern physical, chemical and biological processes.

Some of the topics students study are the following: kinetic energy and its relationship to heat, convection, conduction, and radiation; the first law of thermodynamics; the second law of thermodynamics; the third law of thermodynamics; the harmonic motion and waves; reflection, interference, standing waves, sound reasoning, characterizing sound, resonance and forced vibration; the Doppler effect; the behavior of light, the scattering of light, and bending light; elements of quantum physics; spectrographs; medical and industrial applications of light, electricity and magnetism, electric circuits, current, voltage, resistance, series and parallel circuits; electromagnetic induction; electric motors; electric generator; quantum optics; the photon; photoelectric effect; atomic models; dualism of matter; review of scientific techniques; scientific processes and measurement; models and graphs; position; speed; velocity; acceleration, motion, projectile motion, and uniform circular motion; Newton's Laws, gravity as a force, force as a vector quantity, centripetal force, momentum, impulse and impact, kinetic energy, and gravitational potential energy; Hooke's Law; elastic potential energy; the work-energy theorem; and conservation of energy and momentum.

Textbook: Physics, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-58669-4

Recommendation: Satisfactory completion of Algebra 2 or taking Algebra 2 concurrently

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

This course is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the many ecosystems that inhabit the earth, 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.

Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. There are several major unifying constructs, or themes, that cut across the many topics included in the study of environmental systems. Students are introduced to complex environmental issues that include environmental quality, plant systems, human resources, conservation, pollution, and ecosystems. This involves the study of biology, chemistry, and demography that deals with the interaction between man and nature.

Textbook: Environmental Science, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2013 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-90401-6

Recommendation: Satisfactory completion of Biology 1 and Algebra 1

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HS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH I - ANALYSIS OF LITERATURE GENRES AND ELEMENTS (1 CREDIT)

English I will provide an in-depth study of English literature and poetry with an emphasis on critical thinking skills and analyzing and the use of literary devices (plot, theme, character development, etc.). There will also be a strong emphasis on writing (essays, research, persuasive, etc.) along with daily grammar exercises. This course is an introductory survey of literature, with an emphasis on reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama. Vocabulary skills are strengthened through weekly tests in preparation for the SAT and ACT. SAT and ACT Skills are woven throughout this course. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing with an introduction to research writing. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well.

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing. *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, *The Odyssey* by Homer, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, 5th novel to be chosen by student from a provided list.

Textbooks: *Literature*, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-61839-5

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Vocabulary from Classical Roots; Fix It Grammar

ENGLISH II - SURVEY OF WORLD LITERATURE (1 CREDIT)

English II is a survey of world literature. This course emphasizes reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of American literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama.

Vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT are emphasized and tested regularly. In a weekly "Writer's Workshop", students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing. Students will learn to research and write a research paper in MLA format. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well.

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing. *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, 5th novel to be chosen by student

from a provided list.

Textbooks: Literature, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-61840-1

Prerequisites: English I

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Vocabulary from Classical Roots; Fix It Grammar

ENGLISH III - AMERICAN LITERATURE (1 CREDIT)

This course is a survey of American literature, spanning the early 1600's through contemporary literature. Students will encounter writing from the Native American period and the Colonial Period through contemporary literature. This course emphasizes reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of American literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama.

Vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT are emphasized and tested regularly. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and expository writing. Students will learn to research and write a research paper in MLA format. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well.

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing. Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko, Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton, As I Lay Dying by William Faulkner, A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry, 5th novel to be chosen by student from a provided list.

Textbook: Literature, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 9780547618418

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Fix It Grammar

Prerequisites: English I and English II

ENGLISH IV - BRITISH LITERATURE (1 CREDIT)

This course is a survey of British literature from the Renaissance period through Romanticism and Modernism. This course emphasizes reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students utilize critical thinking skills to analyze and interpret reading selections from specific time periods, diverse cultures and various genres of British literature including fiction, non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and drama. Vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT are emphasized and tested regularly. Students will demonstrate proficiency of the writing process through narrative, persuasive, and

expository writing. Students will learn to research and write a research paper in MLA format. Grammar and punctuation skills will be developed as well.

There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing. Beowulf, Hamlet by William Shakespeare, Dracula by Bram Stoker, Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro, 5th novel to be chosen by student from a provided list.

Textbook: Literature, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-61842-5

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Vocabulary from Classical Roots; Fix It Grammar

Prerequisites: English I, English II and English III

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HS SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD GEOGRAPHY (1 CREDIT)

This course examines environmental factors such as climate, topography and natural resources throughout the world. It also explores population distribution and growth and their effect on the world's population. The study of varied customs and cultural characteristics of world societies, as well as productivity and consumption of natural resources on a global scale are also main aspects of this class. Regions covered are the United States, Canada, Middle, Central, and South America, Caribbean Islands, Caribbean South America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica.

Textbook: Geography, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-49110-3

WORLD HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

Students will examine and analyze historic, geographic, political and economic concepts and issues. The focus is on the United States in the second half of the 20th century through the present and its relationship to the rest of the world through four lenses: United States' perspective, international perspective, geography and economics.

Textbook: Geography, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-49110-3

Prerequisite: World Geography

U.S. HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

The purpose of this course is to increase students' knowledge of the development of the United States as a democratic nation. The course is organized as a chronological survey of the American past from 1877 to World War II. Emphasis will be placed on major events, geography, individuals and ideas which comprise our American heritage.

Textbook: The Americans, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-49115-8

Prerequisites: World Geography and World History

U.S. GOVERNMENT (.5 CREDIT)

U.S. Government will focus on the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States politics. Students will gain an analytical perspective on

government and politics in the United States both by studying the general concepts used to interpret U. S. politics and by analyzing specific examples. Students will learn how to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U. S. government and politics and will write extensively to perfect their essay writing and critical thinking skills.

In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American Government. In addition, they draw on their studies of world and American history and geography and other societies to compare differences and similarities in world governmental systems today.

This course is the culmination of history/social sciences classes to prepare students to solve society's problems, to understand and to participate in the governmental process, and to be a responsible citizen of the United States and the world.

Textbook: United States Government: Principles in Practice, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-45138-1

Prerequisites: World Geography, World History, and US History

PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (0.5 CREDIT)

This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Economics. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of how individuals and societies function through economic practices. Topics include basic economic components, the organizational structure of the economy, money and banking, markets, governmental roles and economic indicators. This course introduces concepts and analysis, supply and demand analysis, theories of the firm and individual behavior, competition and monopoly, and welfare economics. Students will also be introduced to the use of microeconomic applications to address problems in current economic policy throughout the semester.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGES

HS SPANISH

HS SPANISH 1 (1 CREDIT)

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

HS SPANISH 2 (1 CREDIT)

Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

HS SPANISH 3 (1 CREDIT)

Students further deepen their understanding of Spanish by focusing on the three modes

of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Each unit consists of a variety of activities which teach the students how to understand more difficult written and spoken passages, to communicate with others through informal speaking and writing interactions, and to express their thoughts and opinions in both formal and informal spoken and written contexts. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, use correct vocabulary terms and phrases naturally, incorporate a wide range of grammar concepts consistently and correctly while speaking and writing, participate in conversations covering a wide range of topics, respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries, read and analyze important pieces of Hispanic literature, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

HS SPANISH 4 (ADVANCED) (1 CREDIT)

This course is available upon request. It is designed for the highly advanced Spanish student and will be tailored for the individual needs of the students. Course work will focus on conversational Spanish at a high level as well as advanced writing skills.

HS MANDARIN CHINESE

HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 1 (1 CREDIT)

This course is an introductory course to Mandarin Chinese. It represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit.

HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 2 (1 CREDIT)

In this course, both Chinese characters and pinyin are presented together throughout the course and specific character practices are introduced. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Chinese-speaking regions, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored.

HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 3 (1 CREDIT)

In this course, students continue their study of Chinese by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit.

HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 4 (1 CREDIT)

In this course, Mandarin Chinese Character recognition and practice are a key focus of the course and students are expected to learn several characters each unit. However, pinyin is still presented with characters throughout the course to aid in listening and reading comprehension. Course work will focus on conversation at a high level as well as advanced writing skills.

HS FRENCH

HS FRENCH 1 (1 CREDIT)

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

HS FRENCH 2 (1 CREDIT)

Students continue their study of French by focusing more deeply on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension

activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices, which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

HS FRENCH 3 (1 CREDIT)

Students further deepen their understanding of French by focusing on the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal and presentational. Each unit consists of a variety of activities which teach the students how to understand more difficult written and spoken passages, to communicate with others through informal speaking and writing interactions, and to express their thoughts and opinions in more formal spoken and written contexts. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, use correct vocabulary terms and phrases naturally, incorporate a wide range of grammar concepts consistently and correctly while speaking and writing, participate in conversations covering a wide range of topics and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, read and analyze important pieces of literature and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course is conducted almost entirely in French. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

HS FRENCH 4 (ADVANCED) (1 CREDIT)

Students further deepen their understanding of French by focusing on the three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal and presentational. Each unit consists of a variety of activities which teach the students how to understand more difficult written and spoken passages, to communicate with others through informal speaking and writing interactions, and to express their thoughts and opinions in more formal spoken and written contexts. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, use correct vocabulary terms and phrases naturally, incorporate a wide range of grammar concepts consistently and correctly while speaking and writing, participate in conversations covering a wide range of topics and respond appropriately to conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, read and analyze important pieces of literature and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course is conducted almost entirely in French. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

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HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

HS COMMUNICATIONS ELECTIVES

HS DEBATE 1, HS DEBATE 2, & DEBATE TEAM (1 CREDIT EACH)

Debate is a yearlong course that provides instruction in the art of public speaking, with an emphasis on specific debating techniques. Students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and analytic skills along with logic and impromptu speaking techniques to defend opposing sides of social issues. The course is designed to further students' research skills and promote an awareness and understanding of political and current-event issues.

Students will find themselves learning various formats of debate including: Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum (a type of team debate), and Extemporaneous Speaking (impromptu speeches analyzing current events). Most of the course focuses on the in-class debating of major political and ethical issues. Major concepts to be taught include, case-writing, rebuttals, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy.

HS SPEECH 1 & HS SPEECH 2 (1 CREDIT EACH)

This elective course will teach students how to write, prepare, edit, and give a speech in a variety of situations. Areas of emphasis will include: knowing your audience, conquering stage fright, body language, stage presence, humor as a key component and developing the ability to relay informative or persuasive content. This will be a dynamic class where every student will be getting up and talking in front of the other students during each and every session! Through immersion, repetition, and fun classroom exercises, students will learn how to grab the audience's attention and how to hold it. They will simultaneously learn how to relax and be themselves in front of any size audience, therefore giving a much more effective speech. Students will also learn the process of writing a speech for a variety of settings or occasions. Appropriate videos of different speakers in different situations will be shown as examples. These will include motivational speeches, standup comedy routines, informational speeches, and persuasive speeches. The course will conclude with the students giving a speech from a category of their choosing to assembled students and parents. Grades will be based on student participation during class, enthusiasm for the coursework, and on improvement from day one to the final speech.

At the end of the course, students will:

Know how to relax and be confident while addressing an audience.

Be able to prepare an effective speech for any situation.

Feel confident in their ability to address large and small groups of people.

Stand up straighter, be more confident, and feel empowered to get up and speak!

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HS ENGLISH ELECTIVES

HS CREATIVE WRITING (1 CREDIT)

There's good writing, and then there's writing that sings. This course will push students' work toward the melodious. We will work on techniques to raise the level of the language—from creating strong word pictures to turning phrases to finding and highlighting the telling details—and ways to keep readers' interest, such as developing strong hooks and building a solid spine. The types of writing we work on will be determined partly by student interest, but could include essays, narrative nonfiction, short fiction and, at the end of the year, poetry (classic form as well as music lyrics). Guest writers will be brought to class to discuss their work and method, and students will have the opportunity for writing-related field trips, such as poetry slams. We will read and dissect published examples of specific genres to learn about construction and literary devices, and then students will try their own hand. Through classroom readings, peer comments and teacher editing, students will improve their work and leave the class with a strong sense of how to hit the high notes.

LITERATURE STUDIES (1 CREDIT)

This course will study novels and short stories from a variety of genres, time periods, and authors. Students will analyze literature through independent study, Socratic discussion, and collaborative literature circles. Students will develop their literary analysis skills and receive detailed individual feedback to improve writing. *** Ideal students are avid and self-motivated readers. ***

NOVEL WRITING (1 CREDIT)

Do you want to write a novel but you're not sure where to begin? Have you started a novel, only to find yourself feeling lost? Has your story hit a brick wall? Do you feel that you're missing some of the tools you need to write or finish a novel? Then this class is for you!

In this course, you'll learn:

- how to write an opening chapter that hooks the reader and establishes the novel's ground rules
- how to create characters who live and breathe on the page
- how to choose the best point of view for your novel
- how to vividly depict the physical world of the story
- how to make every chapter buzz with suspense, no matter the genre.

JOURNALISM (1 CREDIT)

Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study

the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

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HS FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

HS ART ELECTIVES

VISUAL STUDIES 1 (1 credit)

Visual Studies 1 is designed for students who have completed the Art Exploration course and are motivated to improve visual art skills while beginning to develop personal ideas through making art. Visual Studies students are expected to have a basic understanding of how to use tools and materials in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media projects. Students will explore how and why artists throughout history continue to push the boundaries of artmaking. For each project, students will be given different themes to consider and will be guided to create artworks that respond to those themes. Students who complete Visual Studies 1 may take two additional semesters by completing Visual Studies 2 and Visual Studies 3.

Prerequisites: Art Exploration (or record of basic middle school level art course from another school)

VISUAL STUDIES 2 (1 credit)

Visual Studies 2 is designed for students who have completed the Visual Studies 1 course and are working toward further exploration of personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Studies 2 students are expected to have a thorough understanding of how to use tools and materials in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media projects. Students will continue to develop their own ideas in order to explore and respond to how and why artists throughout history continue to push the boundaries of artmaking. For each project, students choose different themes to consider and will be guided to create artworks that respond to those themes. Students who complete Visual Studies 2 may register for Visual Studies 3.

Prerequisites: Visual Studies 1

VISUAL STUDIES 3 (1 credit)

Visual Studies 3 is designed for students who have completed the Visual Studies 2 course

and have developed their own strategies for portraying personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Studies 3 students are expected to have a thorough understanding of how to use tools and materials in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media projects. Visual Studies 3 students are expected to have their own topics and ideas ready to research as part of creating visual art. For each project, students choose different topics or ideas to research, and will be guided to create artworks that respond to their research. Students who complete Visual Studies 3 may register for Art Studio.

Prerequisites: Visual Studies 2

ART STUDIO 1, 2, 3, & 4 (1credit)

Art Studio is designed for students who have a deep understanding of visual art skills and processes and who are self-motivated to create and complete projects independently. Students will be given guidance and support and are expected to complete multiple projects throughout the semester. Students will create timelines and deadlines for all projects and may use any medium or media they choose throughout this course. This is the most advanced level Art Course available and students are expected to spend extra time developing personal expression and working toward achieving their artistic goals.

Prerequisites: Art Exploration and Visual Studies 1, 2, & 3.

HS PHOTOGRAPHY ELECTIVES

INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (1 credit)

***Students MUST own a basic point and shoot digital camera, charger and memory card to join this class.

Intro to Digital Photography is a course designed for beginning students who are interested in learning about photography. You will learn how to use your basic digital camera settings, how to shoot and upload photographs to your computer, and how to get creative when taking photographs. This is a basic class with no prior experience required.

No prerequisite. May be taken in Middle School or High School

ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 1 (1 credit)

***Students MUST own a DSLR camera, tripod, charger and memory card to join this class.

Advanced Digital Photography 1 is a course designed for students who own DSLR cameras and are interested in exploring photographic techniques. Students will learn and practice both the manual and automatic camera settings and understand ways to manipulate the camera in order to achieve desired effects in photographs. Students are required to bring their cameras, laptops and accessories to class every day and will be given theme-based projects to complete throughout the semester. Students who complete Advanced Digital Photography 1 may register for Advanced Digital Photography 2.

Prerequisites: Intro to Digital Photography. This course can be taken in Middle School or High School.

ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 2 (1 credit)

***Students MUST own a DSLR camera, tripod, charger and memory card to join this class.

Advanced Digital Photography 2 is a course designed for students who own DSLR cameras and are interested in creating photographs as self-expression. Students will research historical and contemporary topics, photographers during this class, and will use this research to build a portfolio of personal projects. Students are expected to work independently at times, with the guidance of the instructor. Students who complete Advanced Digital Photography 2 may register for Photography Studio.

Prerequisite: Advanced Digital Photography 1. This course can be taken in Middle School or High School.

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO (1 credit)

Photography Studio is designed for students who have a deep understanding of photography and who are self-motivated to create and complete projects independently. Students will be given guidance and support and are expected to complete multiple projects throughout the semester. Students will create timelines and deadlines for all projects and will occasionally be required to capture photographs in settings outside of AESA such as different neighborhoods and parks in Austin. Consent of instructor required.

Prerequisites: Advanced Digital Photography 2. Photography Studio is an upper level HS course.

HS PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY (1 credit)

Professional Photography is designed for upper level high school students who would like to secure an internship in photography and who are self-motivated to create and complete projects independently on and off campus. Consent of instructor and Head of School is required.

HS DRAMA ELECTIVES

HS DRAMA 1, HS DRAMA 2, HS DRAMA 3, & HS DRAMA 4 (1 credit each)

Theater is an immersive daily program that will be administered in a workshop format with an emphasis on acting, writing and directing for the stage. Improv will be a large part of the class, to encourage students to try different “voices” and become comfortable with thinking on their feet in a fast-moving stage setting.

There will be two performances, one per semester. One will be a play and the other a

selection of scenes that the students will be writing and directing themselves.

Students will be involved in all aspects of production. Grades are largely based on participation and enthusiasm.

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HS HEALTH, MEDICAL SCIENCE, & GENERAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES

HS HEALTH (1 CREDIT)

Health education prepares students to shape their behavior in health enhancing ways. Students will learn to access valid and reliable health information, analyze the influences in their lives, communicate effectively, and use real life scenarios to practice making decisions and set attainable goals. Students will also watch various documentaries that involve emotional, physical, and nutrition wellness. By the end of this course, students will understand advanced health principles. The goal of this course is for students to develop the skills necessary to manage stress healthfully and enhance the quality of their personal, family, and community life.

MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

This is an introductory course in immunology and microbiology. Students will gain familiarity with the biological characteristics of important microbial pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.

The course will cover epidemiology, mechanisms and routes of transmission, pathogenesis and immunity, host response, control, and prevention. Laboratory activities will enhance understanding of course material. This course is designed primarily for those planning careers in medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dental hygiene, and related fields.

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

INTRODUCTORY ZOOLOGY (.5 CREDIT)

Zoology is the study of animal life with particular emphasis on the nine major phyla of the kingdom Animalia. This course will focus on the anatomy, physiology, genetics, and the distributions and habitats of both vertebrates and invertebrates within these phyla. Some of the topics discussed will include the morphological classification of various organisms including sponges, flatworms, mollusks, insects, arthropods, echinoderms, and vertebrates (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals). In addition, students will acquire basic knowledge in evolution, ethology, and human ecology. As humans, we are irrevocably tied to animal life therefore understanding their taxonomic relationships, life processes, and survival mechanisms are essential. This course will include dissections of various animals.

MARINE BIOLOGY (.5 CREDIT)

Students will learn about the physical structure and chemistry of the ocean, the diversity of ocean life, marine ecology, and the scope and impact of human interactions with the

oceans. This course will focus on subjects like:

The Chemistry of Water; Marine Reptiles and Birds; Marine Algae and Plant Life; Marine Fishes; The Microbial Ocean; Fishing and Fisheries; Marine Invertebrates; The World Ocean; Marine Mammals; Human Impact of the Ocean

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

This course is an advanced study of the human body designed specifically for students with an interest in pursuing a career in a health-related field. The course covers the topics of human anatomical structure, physiological processes, homeostasis, anatomical and physiological disorders, medical diagnosis and treatment, biochemistry, cytology, and histology. Laboratory activities will reinforce concepts and principles presented in the course and will include several microscopic analyses of tissue specimens as well as dissections.

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

INTEGRATIVE NUTRITION (1 CREDIT)

Discover the science behind nutrition. This class will discuss how current science explains, not only that “food is medicine” but is one of the most influential factors for preventing disease and providing a superior quality of life. This class will focus on how the interaction of food, nutrients, genes and the environment influence the body and brain’s ability to function at optimal levels. Research in the past 10 years has made many significant new findings. We will look at these in detail, discuss how they differ from past finding, as well as, how these new findings tell us our dietary habits are one of the most significant determining factors of one’s body and brain’s health. Science is learning how one’s intestinal flora (gut) and brain are connected and through this interaction what we put in our bodies affects the entire body’s ability to function.

In the second half of our class we will discuss sports nutrition, cooking, how to research nutrition on PubMed and applying lessons to real life. Explore if your current eating patterns are best for your body type or what changes would be best recommended for you and your specific body.

CRIMINAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

This course compares legal and psychological approaches to human ... and forensic psychology and analyzes the roles of lawyers and of psychologists. Focuses on the paradigm differences in the mental health and legal systems and the challenges associated with integrating the two. Provides the students with an overview of the American legal system and the American mental health system. Discusses various areas of the intersection of the two systems in criminal, civil, juvenile, and family law settings. The role and ethics of the mental health professional in legal settings is addressed.

PSYCHOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

An introduction to psychological science -- the study of behavior and mental processes. This course surveys the major subdisciplines of the field, including such topics as the brain and neuroscience, behavioral genetics, cognitive and social development, perception, learning, memory, decision-making, language, consciousness, emotions, motivation, psychological disorders, social identity, interpersonal interactions and group and cultural processes.

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HS PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

HILL COUNTRY INDOOR FITNESS 1, 2, 3, & 4 (1 CREDIT)

HCI Fitness is a new physical education class that will be twice a week at the fabulous Hill Country Indoor the last two class periods of the day. Students will be transported to HCI in a small bus/van along with their teacher Lizzy Overby.

HCI has four gyms, two turf fields, a dedicated teenage weight room, locker rooms, aerobic and dance studios, rock climbing, an elevated running/walking track, and a small dining area.

Students would participate in team sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, field hockey, flag football, field hockey. (This course has an additional charge.)

HS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, & 3 (1 CREDIT EACH)

High School students learn lifetime-activities skills, knowledge & values. Including but not limited to outdoor pursuits, selected-performance activities, net/wall and target games. In addition, upper level physical education classes will focus on physical fitness, cardio endurance, muscular endurance.

The goal of physical education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual has

1. Learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities.
2. Knows the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities.
3. Participates regularly in physical activity.
4. Is physically fit.
5. Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

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HS SELF AWARENESS ELECTIVES

MINDS UP: MINDFULNESS AND YOU

Understanding your own mind is like unlocking a secret weapon for success. This one-semester elective will provide a time and space for students to investigate the brain and the power of mindfulness. The sessions will be divided in three ways: (a) the curriculum content, which is a mixture of science, mindfulness, and healthful living, (b) time for mindfulness practice, including feedback from the MUSE Headband and other techniques for advancing the mind to body connection, and (c) focus discussions that addresses self-knowledge and social emotional learning.

It explores several topics including:

- An Introduction to the Brain—including the Adolescent Brain
- An Introduction to Mindfulness and Executive Function
- An Introduction to the MUSE Headband for Mindfulness
- Paying Attention
- Taming the Animal Mind
- Recognizing Worry
- Being Here and Now
- Moving Mindfully
- Stepping Back
- Taking in the Good
- Pulling It All Together

HS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (1 CREDIT & .5 CREDIT)

This course will teach children how to cultivate Mindfulness practices and apply them to their everyday life. Giving our AESA students the tools to help them fend off negative thoughts and behaviors, build self-confidence, focus, and treat others and themselves with respect and appreciation, this is a gift they will have for the rest of their lives. In this course we will be identity mapping, exploring goals, creating healthy social and emotional habits along with designing a personal toolbox of stress and pressure safeguards. A passion project will be a strong cornerstone of this course in which the joy of learning will be sparked when the students embark on an adventure of following their true passion. During this project, students will really take time to explore who they are and what they stand for, then transition that identity into an outreaching community serving concept. Their passion project will be something that they work on throughout their years at AESA slowly curating a strong drive, an intense work ethic, self-satisfaction, and the realization of their impact on this world. This class will conclude daily with a yoga flow designed to activate brain function, intensify focus, and relieve stress and body alignments.

LIFE SKILLS (.5 CREDIT)

This course will teach students the basic life skills of how to live on their own after they graduate from High School and enter into their university years. Students will learn everything from: personal finance; following a budget; how to buy a car; balancing their checkbook; how to start a 401K; how to cook, clean, organize, structure their day; study skills, time management, how to schedule time to work out, nutrition, , how to turn on the electricity, and all of the things they have never thought of:)

Safety aspects and self-defense will also be taught, driving skills in different types of weather will be covered, traveling abroad by themselves, living in larger cities that require knowledge of how to ride the subway and flying by themselves nationally and internationally.

This course will also have guest speakers and do field trips.

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HS PROFESSIONAL CAREER FIELDS ELECTIVES

INTRO TO LAW (1 CREDIT)

This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Law. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the historical development of laws, basic legal principles and concepts, and the many areas of legal practice available. Classes will be engaging, participative and thought provoking. Particular focus is made on the United States Constitution and all Amendments, including listening to and reviewing actual US Supreme Court audio of oral arguments for landmark First Amendment cases. Major disciplines of law that are studied include Criminal Law, Torts, Contracts, Property, Corporations, Wills & Trusts, Evidence, Litigation/Trial Process and Professional Responsibility. Students will take a field trip to observe an actual case at the Travis County Courthouse.

INTRO TO ENGINEERING (1 CREDIT)

This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Engineering. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the historical development of engineering, the use of multiple subjects including mathematics, chemistry, physics, etc., and bringing together scientific understanding to real world problems. Classes will review basic engineering principles, an introduction to the many different engineering disciplines, and case study of engineering successes and failures. Specific areas covered in the class include: Civil Engineering (including basic structural analysis (Statics), geotechnical principles, and water resources), Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering (circuit analysis), Chemical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Petroleum Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Engineering Economics. Basic project management skills are also presented.

INTRO TO BUSINESS (1 CREDIT)

This course consists of an introductory examination into the study of Business Administration. The objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the historical steps in the development of modern business practices, cover in greater detail key disciplines within the study of business including: Budgeting, Accounting, Finance, business types and organizations, Business Statistics, Strategic Planning, Marketing (both products and services), Business Communication & Communication, Organizational Behavior, Human Resources and basic Project Management. The course also includes a review of business law principles and ethical business practices. The course will wrap up with a review of business case studies that highlight both successes and failures.

Students develop their own fictional business throughout the course to put into practice the concepts learned throughout the course. The result of this effort is to produce a complete Business Plan for their individual business.

PRACTICE OF STATISTICS (1 CREDIT)

Practice of Statistics introduces probability and statistical concepts with applications to various disciplines using technological tools such as the TI 83+ graphing calculator and excel.

Topics include descriptive statistics such as measures of central tendency, variation, and positions; probability, conditional probability and probability distributions; inferential statistics include, estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, chi-square test and regression and correlation.

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HS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1 CREDIT)

This course will help students learn essential computer applications and Internet technology skills for personal, academic, and professional success. Students will effectively use a current Windows operating system and appropriate file management resources; develop and refine keyboarding skills on computers for speed and accuracy; apply word processing and desktop publishing functions to create, edit, manipulate, format, cite resources, print, and store common personal and business documents; apply spreadsheet functions to solve financial, mathematical, and statistical problems in business; create and edit charts and graphs to interpret spreadsheet data; design and create databases to extract, sort, calculate, and report business data; design, create, and execute an artistic and professional PowerPoint presentation which includes appropriate text formatting, graphics, animation, and public speaking skills, and use the Internet in an ethical manner to research, communicate, collaborate, and efficiently retrieve information.

COMPUTER SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

Computer Science introduces students to computer science concepts such as computer programs, computer apps, the internet, different networks, and the architecture of a computer. Students learn to operate various computer software programs, how to design their own software and produce finished software programs. This course is designed for students who plan on working in the computer software industry.

VIDEO GAME DESIGN (1 CREDIT)

This course is an introductory course in video game design and production. It will focus on both the design and technical aspects of creating a game, from concept inception and prototyping through coding and playtesting. This course practices what it preaches with students earning experience points (XP) throughout the semester as opposed to letter grades on assignments. Students must complete a variety of quests (assignments) in order to level up to the point they can earn a C, B, or A for the class.

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ADDITIONAL HS ELECTIVES

STUNT SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

What do you get when you combine writing, drama, math, science and chemistry with teamwork, video cameras and safety? Kids learning about the science and preparation that goes into making action movies, as they create their own little blockbuster.

Stunt Science is led by Steve Wolf, a stunt & FX Coordinator whose done projects with Tom Cruise and James Cameron, and who was also named Science Teacher of the year for his work bringing science to live and television audiences.

Steve owns Stunt Ranch in Austin, and his son Dash is a 7th grader here at AESA. Stunt Science meets for a double period once a week.

HS COMPARATIVE RELIGION (1 CREDIT)

The study of world religions is an integral part of understanding individuals, countries, and nations. Many concepts in religion can be very abstract. Consequently, an effort has been made to create a course outline that simplifies the task at hand: teaching world religions in a manner that communicates abstract concepts in historical context with an understanding of diversity and sensitivity to individual beliefs.

This course outline relies upon a chronological and geographic approach. For units IA and IB a sequential approach is employed. Beginning with IC, a geographic approach is added. At this point the study of world religions is divided into eastern and western with Mesopotamia being the dividing line. Under the development of western religions, a study of Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are included. Under the development of the eastern religions a study of Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Shinto, and religions of Korea and Japan are included. Although this is only one approach, by taking a geographic perspective, religions with similar history and features are automatically grouped. Additionally, the study of religions benefits from an approach that considers the three fundamental features of religions: theoretical, practical, and sociological. Finally, the study of religions is not limited to those included in this course outline. The included religions are those that have been historically studied as part of religious studies. The instructor should integrate other religions where appropriate.

INTRO TO LOGIC (1 CREDIT)

In this course, we will learn the basics of symbolic logic -- a method of reasoning that converts logical propositions and arguments to a system of symbols (variables, connectives, and operators), in order to make the critical analysis of arguments easier and less ambiguous. We will also take a close look at common logical fallacies, or mistakes commonly made in argumentative discourse. We will look at and analyze some

famous arguments, as well as some arguments plucked from today's headlines. We will also construct our own, and analyze each other's, arguments. In this course, students can expect to engage in both algebra-like work with symbols, as well as in English-Composition-like writing -- so, familiarity and comfort with both should be considered a prerequisite.

MYTHOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

World Mythology explores the beliefs, cultures, and history of ancient societies from around the world in order to gain knowledge beneficial to the academic disciplines of literature, philosophy, art, comparative religion, science, anthropology, archeology, and psychology.

In this course students will: Interpret myths for their sociological, philosophical, and historical significance. Identify various universal archetypes, themes, symbols, and motifs found in myths. Analyze the cultural significance and relevance of important ancient stories (including *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *The Aeneid*, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, and *Sigurd the Volsung*). Develop a greater knowledge of the world cultures (including Greco-Roman, Norse, Judeo-Christian, Celtic, Mesoamerican, Native American, and Babylonian).

Students will improve their communication skills through many classroom discussions, multimedia presentations, and speeches.

FILM HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

Cinema has become the most powerful and influential art form of our time, but it is still very new. This course will trace the history of film from its beginnings in the silent era to modern day classics.

We will study the development of cinematic technology from early photography to modern computer-generated images and special effects. The history of special effects, development of color film and sound and the timeline of cartoons. Several projects will help students understand early technology and special effects.

Students will take these concepts and apply them to their own silent film project and later a short film. These projects will involve storyboards, skits, special effects and editing practice.

We will also watch a variety of films through the decades and analyze these films for character development, plot, conflict resolution, cinematic styles, special effects, costumes and more.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE ACADEMICS

MS MATHEMATICS

MATH 6 (1 CREDIT)

This two-semester one credit course covers addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, mixed numbers and integers. Students will learn to solve for unknown numbers using these functions. Percents, proportions, and algebraic logic will be covered. Area, perimeter, surface area, coordinate planes, and different types of graphs are learned.

MATH 7 (1 CREDIT)

This two-semester one credit course teaches mathematics as a step-by-step process, including adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals and fractions. Also covers pre-algebraic expressions and equations, number theory, and geometry.

MATH 8 (1 CREDIT)

An introductory course covering basic concepts in preparation for Algebra I. Includes adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, decimals, fractions, mixed numbers, and integers. Also, manipulating place value and powers of 10; estimating sums, differences, products, and quotients. Teaches identification of angles, triangles and use of scientific notation.

8TH GRADE ALGEBRA I FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT (1 CREDIT)

This one-year college preparatory course will help students to view algebra not only as a theoretical tool for analyzing and describing mathematical relationships, but they will also experience the power of algebraic thinking in a context of applications by studying the mathematical modeling of real-world problems.

In the first semester of Algebra I, students are introduced to functions, using tables and graphs, multiple representations of functions, exploring linear functions, rate of change, the parent function, writing rules, connecting functions to equations and inequalities, using commutative, associative, and distributive properties to simplify expressions, solving simple equations with manipulatives and symbols, solving equations of the Form $kx + c = b$ and $kx + c = mx + b$, looking closer at inequalities and comparing notations and methods.

The second semester of Algebra I introduces students to systems of linear equation, solving systems using graphs and tables, solving systems by symbolic methods, area and perimeter functions, the parent function multiplied by a constant, adding and subtracting a constant, multiple changes to the parent function, binomial operations, modeling with quadratic functions, solving quadratic equations, graphs of exponential functions, and modeling inverse variation data.

Algebra 1 is designed for 9th grade students but occasionally 7th and 8th grade students are prepared for this level of math course.

Textbook: Larson Algebra 1, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-64713-5

MS SCIENCES

SCIENCE 6 - EARTH SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

Science 6 is Earth Science. This course introduces students to all physical aspects of the Earth and the universe as a whole. As an activity-based course, students are required to perform a variety of scientific experiments and to report their findings. Students discover the thrill of scientific investigation while learning how to hypothesize, perform experiments, write reports on their findings, chart their information, graph data they have collected, and read graphs and other forms of data displays. Students will delve into topics such as: earthquakes; volcanoes; rocks and minerals; layers of the Earth; plate tectonics; the Earth's atmosphere; all different forms of weather - hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, floods; the Sun and moon; the solar system, aspects of the universe such as worm holes, and black holes; various cycles that occur naturally on the Earth, such as the water cycle and photosynthesis.

Students will prepare the Science Fair project in this class and will do some field work as well.

SCIENCE 7 - LIFE SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

This course is an introduction to Life Science. Students will study fundamental principles of Biology and Zoology. Emphasis is placed on interactive discussion and observation. Students will learn how to classify and describe living things, from the simplest organisms to the most complex plants and animals. Each lesson provides a hands-on experiment and teaches the scientific process. Topics include introduction to cells, cell processes and replication, genetics and DNA, Ecology and the environment, classification of living things, and anatomy.

In addition to regular labs and activities, students will do numerous dissections, a number of field studies outdoors.

SCIENCE 8 (1 CREDIT)

This course is a combined introductory course for both chemistry and physics and how these two disciplines interact. As a very hands-on, interactive science course students will perform a variety of lab work and other hands on activities. They will study matter; describing matter, classifying matter, changes in matter, and states of matter. Students will study atoms, elements, metals, nonmetals, metalloids, radioactive elements. They will then study how atoms bond, the periodic table, ionic bonds, covalent bonds, and how metals bond. Students will observe chemical changes, describe chemical reactions, control chemical reactions and lastly in the area of Chemistry they will work with solutions, learning about concentrations and solubility, will describe acids and bases, and acids and bases in solutions.

For the physics aspect of this course students will focus on forces and energy; studying in particular: describing motion, speed, velocity, and acceleration. They will learn about the forces of nature, such as friction, gravity, Newton's Laws of Motion, momentum, and free fall and circular motion. They will observe and experiment with the principals of work and power and understanding machines, inclined planes and levers, and putting machines together. Lastly, they will learn about energy, all forms of energy, energy transformation and conservation. The purpose of this course is to prepare them for High School Physics and High School Chemistry.

MS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 6 (1 CREDIT)

This two-semester one credit course emphasizes clear, coherent writing for a variety of purposes. Students will write personal narratives, compare and contrast essays, conduct an interview with a person of significance as well as write several research papers. In all of these topics' students will learn the process of webbing/ outlining, rough drafts, editing and a final composition. This course also teaches principles of grammar as they relate to writing, spelling patterns and strategies, and listening. Students will also write a variety of styles of poetry.

The required combination of Reading and English for 6th graders introduces students to a range of essential skills. The course emphasizes clear, coherent writing for a variety of purposes. It also teaches principles of grammar as they relate to writing, spelling patterns and strategies, and listening and speaking skills. Students read both silently and aloud, for clarity and comprehension. They also gain practice in paraphrasing, summarizing, determining main ideas, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, and generalizing. In addition to the required text and featuring Anne of Greene Gables, Maniac Magee, The Phantom Tollbooth, the course also requires self-selected reading material. There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature 6, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen, Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park, Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare, Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare, 5th Novel (student's choice from a provided list)

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Rules of the Game Grammar

ENGLISH 7 (1 CREDIT)

This two-semester one credit course teaches literature, writing, grammar, and vocabulary. Students learn to identify basic literary devices, understand and analyze readings, write for a variety of audiences and purposes, use appropriate grammar and usage in writing, improve speaking and listening skills, and expand vocabulary. The course includes introductions to the genres of Fantasy, Science Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Young Adult Novels, Poetry, Adventure Novels, Greek Epics, Folk Literature, Nonfiction, and Drama. Students will read *The Outsiders*, *The Odyssey* and *Kavik the Wolf Dog*, as well as Fables. There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature 7, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, *Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury, *Tell Tale Heart* and *The Raven* by Edgar Allen Poe, *A Midsummer's Night Dream* by William Shakespeare, 5th novel (student's choice from a provided list)

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Rules of the Game Grammar

ENGLISH 8 (1 CREDIT)

The course covers reading strategies, literature studies, vocabulary development, spelling review, writing for a variety of purposes and modes, speaking and listening skills, and principles of grammar and punctuation as they relate to writing, with a special emphasis throughout upon nonfiction. There will be 5 novel studies which will encompass all aspects of literature and writing.

Textbooks: Literature 8, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA.

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, *The Illiad* for Boys and Girls by Alfred J. Church, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (play) by Oscar Wilde; 5th novel (student's choice from a provided list)

The Institute for the Excellence in Writing Program; Vocabulary from Classical Roots, Rules of the Game Grammar

MS SOCIAL STUDIES

HISTORY 6 - ANCIENT & MODERN WORLD CIVILIZATIONS (1 CREDIT)

Ancient and modern world civilizations are very important studies for our students to participate in. While examining civilizations such as the ancient Egyptian civilization, students will also study the climate, topography and natural resources of the land in which they lived. This course examines environmental factors such as climate, topography and natural resources throughout the world. It also explores population distribution and growth and their effect on the world's population. The study of varied customs and cultural characteristics of world societies, as well as productivity and consumption of natural resources on a global scale are also main aspects of this class. Regions covered are Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt and Kush, The Israelites and the Rise of Christianity, Ancient India, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Ancient China, and The Americas and Their Early Peoples.

Students will examine and analyze historic, geographic, political and economic concepts and issues. The focus is on the United States in the second half of the 20th century through the present and its relationship to the rest of the world through four lenses: United States' perspective, international perspective, geography and economics.

This course has three textbooks.

The Aeneid for Boys and Girls by Alfred J. Church, Mystery of the Egyptian Scroll by Scott Peters, Heart of Samurai by Mary Preus

HISTORY 7 - TEXAS HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

In this two-semester one credit course Students learn to see history through the eyes of the people who lived it because, when we understand how people shared the past, we better understand how we can shape the future. Students will learn about Texas History; how the past affects the future. They will learn about Anglo American settlements, the fight for Texas Independence, annexation, statehood, and the involvement of Texas in the Civil War. This course will also encompass the men and women who helped shape Texas.

This class has three books: The Boy in the Alamo by Margaret Cousins; Davy Crockett: Ever Westward (Heroes of History) by Janet and Geoff Benge; My Antonia by Willa Cather

HISTORY 8 - U.S. HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

This course provides an in-depth study of American history from 1530 to 1877, beginning with the Colonial Period and continuing through the American Revolution, the creation of the Republic through the writing and ratification of the Constitution, the Jefferson and Jackson eras, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Also covered are colonization, relationships between ethnic and cultural groups, cause and effect, significant individuals and events, nineteenth century reformation efforts, Supreme Court decisions, and geographical factors.

This class has three books Carry on Mr. Bowditch by Jean Lee Latham; Good Brother Bad Brother (John Wilkes Booth) by James Cross Giblin; Chains by Laurie Anderson

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MIDDLE SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGES

MS SPANISH

MS SPANISH 1 (1 CREDIT)

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices that reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

MS SPANISH 2 (1 CREDIT)

Students continue their language learning adventure by progressing to the next level of middle school Spanish. Throughout the course students focus on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish- speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

MS FRENCH

MS FRENCH 1 (1 CREDIT)

This fun, interactive course for middle school students is filled with diverse, multimedia language activities. Students begin their introduction to French by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various French-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

MS FRENCH 2 (1 CREDIT)

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

MS FRENCH LEVEL 3 (1 CREDIT)

Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school French. Students expand their introduction to French through focus on four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning.

Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of various French speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

MS MANDARIN CHINESE

MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 1 (1 CREDIT)

This course is designed for students with no knowledge of, or with a weak background in Chinese. An introduction to basic pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and development of communication skills in Chinese. Students will use a variety of authentic text and media resources to acquire and enhance linguistic skills.

MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 2 (1 CREDIT)

In this course, students are expected to be about to engage in basic daily conversation, read simple texts as well as write for daily needs in Pinyin. Accurate pronunciation, tones and grammatical expression are the main focus. The introduction of more advanced grammatical structures and a variety of authentic text and multimedia resources will enhance the students' linguistic skills and sociocultural awareness of the Chinese speaking world.

MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 3 (1 CREDIT)

This course is focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning and ready for HS Mandarin Chinese Level 2. It consists a lot of reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

MS FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

MS VISUAL STUDIES 1 (1 credit)

Visual Studies 1 is designed for students who have completed the Art Exploration course and are motivated to improve visual art skills while beginning to develop personal ideas through making art. Visual Studies students are expected to have a basic understanding of how to use tools and materials in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media projects. Students will explore how and why artists throughout history continue to push the boundaries of artmaking. For each project, students will be given different themes to consider and will be guided to create artworks that respond to those themes. Students who complete Visual Studies 1 may take two additional semesters by completing Visual Studies 2 and Visual Studies 3.

Prerequisite: Art Exploration (or record of basic middle school level art course from another school)

MS VISUAL STUDIES 2 (1 credit)

Visual Studies 2 is designed for students who have completed the Visual Studies 1 course and are working toward further exploration of personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Studies 2 students are expected to have a thorough understanding of how to use tools and materials in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media projects. Students will continue to develop their own ideas in order to explore and respond to how and why artists throughout history continue to push the boundaries of artmaking. For each project, students choose different themes to consider and will be guided to create artworks that respond to those themes. Students who complete Visual Studies 2 may register for Visual Studies 3.

Prerequisite: Visual Studies 1

MS VISUAL STUDIES 3 (1 credit)

Visual Studies 3 is designed for students who have completed the Visual Studies 2 course and have developed their own strategies for portraying personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Studies 3 students are expected to have a thorough understanding of how to use tools and materials in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media projects. Visual Studies 3 students are expected to have their own topics and ideas ready to research as part of creating visual art. For each project, students choose different topics or ideas to research, and will be guided to create artworks that respond to their research. Students who complete Visual Studies 3 may register for Art Studio.

Prerequisite: Visual Studies 2

MS DRAMA 1, 2, & 3 (1 credit each)

Drama is an immersive daily program that will be administered in a workshop format with an emphasis on acting, writing and directing for the stage. Out of class assignments will be to watch and come to class prepared to discuss a variety of performances, accessible on YouTube or Netflix. Improv will be a large part of the class, to encourage students to try different “voices” and become comfortable with thinking on their feet in a fast-moving stage setting.

There will be two main performances: The Improv Showcase; and A Series of Short Plays and Performances

PARTICIPATION IN BOTH SHOWCASES IS MANDATORY

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS FOR THE SECOND PRODUCTION ARE MANDATORY

Performance in front of a live audience is a key component to this class. Participation and effort in preparing, attending rehearsals and performing on the day of the showcase will be treated as final exam grades for each semester, 20% of final grade. If you are unable to attend rehearsals or a showcase performance, you need to inform your instructor right away. Inability to participate in showcase performances (i.e. out of town trips, etc. that are planned in advance) may preclude you from being in the class).

MS FILM HISTORY (1 credit)

Cinema has become the most powerful and influential art form of our time, but it is still very new. This course will trace the history of film from its beginnings in the silent era to modern day classics, will examine many of your favorite genres of film, and will inspire you!! If you love movies and talking about them, please join this class.

We will watch a film in each class and afterward discuss, among other things, its themes, the cinematography and the contribution it made to the evolution of the art. Grading will be based on participation in class discussion, 4 essays per semester that analyzes either one particular film, or a particular era or genre.

Let's go to the movies!!!

MS INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (1 credit)

***Students MUST own a basic point and shoot digital camera, charger and memory card to join this class.

Intro to Digital Photography is a course designed for beginning students who are interested in learning about photography. You will learn how to use your basic digital camera settings, how to shoot and upload photographs to your computer, and how to get creative when taking photographs. This is a basic class with no prior experience required.

No prerequisite. May be taken in Middle School or High School

MS ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 1 (1 credit)

***Students MUST own a DSLR camera, tripod, charger and memory card to join this class.

Advanced Digital Photography 1 is a course designed for students who own DSLR cameras and are interested in exploring photographic techniques. Students will learn and practice both the manual and automatic camera settings and understand ways to manipulate the camera in order to achieve desired effects in photographs. Students are required to bring their cameras, laptops and accessories to class every day and will be given theme-based projects to complete throughout the semester. Students who complete Advanced Digital Photography 1 may register for Advanced Digital Photography 2.

Prerequisite: Intro to Digital Photography. This course can be taken in Middle School or High School.

ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 2 (1 credit)

***Students MUST own a DSLR camera, tripod, charger and memory card to join this class.

Advanced Digital Photography 2 is a course designed for students who own DSLR cameras and are interested in creating photographs as self-expression. Students will research historical and contemporary topics and photographers during this class, and will use this research to build a portfolio of personal projects. Students are expected to work independently at times, with the guidance of the instructor. Students who complete Advanced Digital Photography 2 may register for Photography Studio.

Prerequisite: Advanced Digital Photography 1. This course can be taken in Middle School or High School.

MS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

MS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 1 & 2 (1 credit each)

Students will learn the basics of computer usage and the basic computer applications that involve almost every software tool on the network, such as PowerPoint. Students will begin to learn what MLA formatting is and will work on their typing skills. Students will also learn how to evaluate research materials.

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE 1 & 2 (1 credit each)

Computer Science I will foster students' creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present meaningful programs through a variety of media. Students will collaborate with one another, their instructor, and various electronic communities to solve the problems presented throughout the course. Through data analysis, students will identify task requirements, plan search strategies, and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. By using computer science knowledge and skills that support the work of

individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of computer science through the study of technology operations, systems, and concepts.

MS ENGLISH ELECTIVES

MS CREATIVE WRITING 1 & 2 (1 credit)

This course is designed for the student that loves to write, tell a great story, wants to improve their writing skills and make their writing sing!! Writers from the Austin area will be invited to speak with our students and impart their wisdom. Students will have input on the types of writing they will do in class.

So, if you have ever thought about being a writer, join this class, and enjoy being creative!! If you have ever thought of creating a book, this is the class for you, and you might enjoy including the artwork as well.

MS JOURNALISM (1 credit)

Did you ever want to write a newspaper article? Well, here is your chance! Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

MS LITERATURE STUDIES (1 credit)

MS Literature Studies is code for book club! Do you love to read? If you are an avid reader, and if you have been caught reading your favorite book in class, then this is probably a class that you would love!!! Students with the guidance of their teacher get to vote on books that they would like to read in class and then discuss the book as the class is reading it. There will be some written summaries of books and other thought-provoking assignments in this class, but it mainly involves reading.

MS NOVEL WRITING (1 credit)

Do you want to write a novel but you're not sure where to begin? Have you started a novel, only to find yourself feeling lost? Has your story hit a brick wall? Do you feel that you're missing some of the tools you need to write or finish a novel? Then this class is for you!

In this course, you'll learn:

-how to write an opening chapter that hooks the reader and establishes the novel's ground rules

- how to create characters who live and breathe on the page
- how to choose the best point of view for your novel
- how to vividly depict the physical world of the story
- how to make every chapter buzz with suspense, no matter the genre

MS HEALTH & SCIENCE ELECTIVES

MS HEALTH (1 credit)

MS Health will education students on how to shape their behavior in ways that will keep them healthy and happy. Students will learn appropriate and positive social and behavioral skills that will enhance their lives in a positive way. Students will be introduced to the body systems, first aid, CPR, family dynamics, social issues, and age appropriate issues. Students will also watch various documentaries that involve emotional, physical, and nutrition wellness. By the end of this course, students will understand basic health principles. The goal of this course is for students to develop the skills necessary to manage stress healthfully and enhance the quality of their personal, family, and community life.

MS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (1 credit)

This course will teach children how to cultivate Mindfulness practices and apply them to their everyday life. Giving our AESA students the tools to help them fend off negative thoughts and behaviors, build self-confidence, focus, and treat others and themselves with respect and appreciation, this is a gift they will have for the rest of their lives. In this course we will be identity mapping, exploring goals, creating healthy social and emotional habits along with designing a personal toolbox of stress and pressure safeguards. A passion project will be a strong cornerstone of this course in which the joy of learning will be sparked when the students embark on an adventure of following their true passion. During this project, students will really take time to explore who they are and what they stand for, then transition that identity into an outreaching community serving concept. Their passion project will be something that they work on throughout their years at AESA slowly curating a strong drive, an intense work ethic, self-satisfaction, and the realization of their impact on this world. This class will conclude daily with a yoga flow designed to activate brain function, intensify focus, and relieve stress and body alignments.

MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE (.5 credit)

Science Sleuths: Wherever he steps, whatever he touches, whatever he leaves, even unconsciously, will serve as a silent witness against him. Not only his fingerprints or his footprints, but his hair, the fibers from his clothes, the glass he breaks, the tool mark he leaves, the paint he scratches, the blood he sheds or collects. A basic principle of forensic science is that every contact leaves a trace. The goal of this course, as well as that of a forensic chemist, is to isolate microscopic trace materials to identify their chemical make-up and origin. This lab-heavy, mystery-driven course explores the techniques and topics of forensic science. We characterize the "evidence" left behind at

mock crime scenes, which includes fingerprints, hair fiber, fabrics, skin cells, blood, fire accelerants, drugs, food, poisons, and much more. Organic macromolecules (DNA, fats, proteins, and sugars) extracted from biological specimens (blood, urine, saliva, bacterial cadavers) are subjected to molecular analysis. Contemporary and historical crimes, dating back to 1900, illustrate the advances of forensic science and keep us amused with their intrigue, insights, and ethics.

Above is an example of some of the interesting units we will study in this class. There are many scientific mysteries and in this class, you will be exploring many of them.

MARINE BIOLOGY (.5 credit)

This is a HS class, but 8th grade students may participate.

Students will learn about the physical structure and chemistry of the ocean, the diversity of ocean life, marine ecology, and the scope and impact of human interactions with the oceans. This course will focus on subjects like:

The Chemistry of Water; Marine Reptiles and Birds; Marine Algae and Plant Life; Marine Fishes; The Microbial Ocean; Fishing and Fisheries; Marine Invertebrates; The World Ocean; Marine Mammals; Human Impact of the Ocean

MS PHYSICS EDUCATION ELECTIVES

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, & 3 (1 credit each)

Middle School students learn lifetime-activities skills, knowledge & values. Including but not limited to outdoor pursuits, selected-performance activities, net/wall and target games. In addition, upper level physical education classes will focus on physical fitness, cardio endurance, muscular endurance.

The goal of physical education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual has:

1. Learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities.
2. Knows the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities.
3. Participates regularly in physical activity.
4. Is physically fit.
5. Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

HILL COUNTRY INDOOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, & 3 (1 credit each)

AESA travels to Hill Country Indoor off of Bee Caves Parkway in Bee Cave, Monday and Wednesday afternoons the last two periods of the day. Hill Country Indoor is the best family athletic facility in Austin and for an extra fee our students are able to enjoy playing a variety of sports, rock climbing and training in a state-of-the-art facility.

MS COMMUNICATION ELECTIVES

MS SPEECH 1 & 2 (1 credit each)

Students will examine the communication process, interpersonal communication, group communication, and public speaking. Students will identify, analyze, develop and evaluate communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and personal and service component to this course. Students will be required to give oral presentations.

MS DEBATE 1 & 2 (1 credit each)

These courses provide instruction and practice in the art of public speaking, with an emphasis on debate. Most of the course focuses on the in-class debating of major political and ethical issues. Students are taught case-writing, rebuttals, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy. Students will utilize instruction by their teacher, in-class notes, handouts, and websites as well as conduct their own independent research in libraries and on the internet to advance their study of debate.

ADDITIONAL MS ELECTIVES

MS PROJECT LEARNING

Are you ever interested in something but you just don't have the time to get into it? This is the class for you. In this class with the guidance of your teacher, you will select areas of study and projects that you will be able to research, explore and create aspects of.

Picture creating a project that you are truly interested in. This could be amazing for you!

You will work on short term and long-term projects throughout this course.

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