

COURSE CATALOG 2020-2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Alignment with National Standards.....	3
Mathematics.....	3
Science.....	3
English.....	3
Social Studies.....	3
High School Core Academics.....	4
HS Mathematics.....	4
ALGEBRA 1 (1 credit).....	4
GEOMETRY (1 credit).....	4
ALGEBRA 2 (1 credit).....	5
PRE-CALCULUS (1 credit).....	6
CALCULUS 1 (1 credit).....	6
CALCULUS 2 (1 credit).....	6
STATISTICS (1 credit).....	7
HS Sciences.....	8
BIOLOGY (1 credit).....	8
CHEMISTRY (1 credit).....	8
PHYSICS (1 credit).....	9
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (1 credit).....	9
HS English Language Arts.....	11
ENGLISH I - Analysis of Literature Genres and Elements (1 credit).....	11
ENGLISH II - SURVEY OF WORLD LITERATURE (1 credit).....	11
ENGLISH III - AMERICAN LITERATURE (1 credit).....	12
ENGLISH IV - BRITISH LITERATURE (1 credit).....	12
HS Social Studies.....	14
WORLD GEOGRAPHY (1 credit).....	14
WORLD HISTORY (1 credit).....	14
U.S. HISTORY (1 credit).....	14
U.S. GOVERNMENT (.5 credit).....	14
PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (0.5 credit).....	15
High School Foreign Languages.....	16
HS Spanish.....	16
HS SPANISH 1 (1 credit).....	16
HS SPANISH 2 (1 credit).....	16
HS SPANISH 3 (1 credit).....	16
HS SPANISH 4 (ADVANCED) (1 credit).....	17
HS Mandarin Chinese.....	17
HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 1 (1 credit).....	17
HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 2 (1 credit).....	17
HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 3 (1 credit).....	18
HS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 4 (1 credit).....	18

HS French	18
HS FRENCH 1 (1 credit)	18
HS FRENCH 2 (1 credit)	18
HS FRENCH 3 (1 credit)	19
HS FRENCH 4 (ADVANCED) (1 credit).....	19
High School Electives	21
HS Communications Electives	21
HS DEBATE 1, HS DEBATE 2, & DEBATE TEAM (1 credit each)	21
HS SPEECH 1 & HS SPEECH 2 (1 credit each)	21
HS English Electives	23
HS CREATIVE WRITING (1 credit).....	23
LITERATURE STUDIES (1 credit).....	23
NOVEL WRITING (1 credit).....	23
JOURNALISM (1 credit)	23
HS Fine Arts Electives	24
HS ART Electives.....	24
hs PHOTOGRAPHY electives.....	25
hs ACTING & FILM electives.....	26
HS Health, Medical Science, & General Science electives	28
HS HEALTH (1 credit).....	28
MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY (1 credit).....	28
INTRODUCTORY ZOOLOGY (.5 credit)	28
MARINE BIOLOGY (.5 credit)	28
ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (1 Credit).....	29
BOTANY (1 credit).....	29
CRIMINAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (1 credit).....	29
PSYCHOLOGY (1 credit).....	30
HS Physical Education Electives	31
HILL COUNTRY INDOOR FITNESS 1, 2, 3, & 4 (1 credit)	31
HS PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1, 2, & 3 (1 credit each).....	31
HS Self Awareness Electives	32
Minds UP: Mindfulness and You (EVERY OTHER YEAR).....	32
HS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (1 credit & .5 credit).....	32
LIFE SKILLS (1 credit & .5 credit)	32
HS Professional Career Fields Electives	34
INTRO TO LAW (1 credit) (EVERY OTHER YEAR)	34
INTRO TO ENGINEERING (1 credit) (EVERY OTHER YEAR)	34
INTRO TO BUSINESS (1 credit).....	34
STATISTICS (1 credit).....	35
HS Technology Electives	36
COMPUTER SCIENCE (1 credit)	36
INTRO INTO ROBOTICS (1 credit).....	36
GAME DESIGN & e-SPORTS (1 credit).....	36
Additional HS Electives	38
STATISTICS (1 credit).....	38
WORLD RELIGIONS (1 credit).....	38
HISTORY OF THEATRE (1 credit)	38
SAT MATH PREP (No credit).....	39
SAT READING/WRITING PREP (No credit).....	39
Middle School Core Academics	40
MS Mathematics	40

MATH 6 (1 credit).....	40
MATH 7 (1 credit).....	41
MATH 8 (1 credit).....	41
8th Grade ALGEBRA I for High School Credit (1 credit).....	42
MS Sciences	42
SCIENCE 6 - Earth Science (1 credit).....	42
SCIENCE 7 - Life Science (1 credit).....	43
SCIENCE 8 (1 credit).....	43
MS English Language Arts	43
ENGLISH 6 (1 credit).....	43
ENGLISH 7 (1 credit).....	44
ENGLISH 8 (1 credit).....	44
MS Social Studies	45
HISTORY 6 - ANCIENT & MODERN WORLD CIVILIZATIONS (1 credit).....	45
HISTORY 7 - TEXAS HISTORY (1 credit).....	45
HISTORY 8 - U.S. HISTORY (1 credit).....	46
<i>Middle School Foreign Languages.....</i>	47
MS SPANISH	47
MS SPANISH 1 (1 credit).....	47
MS SPANISH 2 (1 credit).....	47
MS FRENCH	48
MS FRENCH 1 (1 credit).....	48
MS FRENCH 2 (1 credit).....	48
MS FRENCH LEVEL 3 (1 credit).....	48
MS MANDARIN CHINESE.....	49
MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 1 (1 credit).....	49
MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 2 (1 credit).....	49
MS MANDARIN CHINESE LEVEL 3 (1 credit).....	49
<i>Middle School Electives.....</i>	50
MS FINE ARTS ELECTIVES	50
MS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES.....	52
MS ENGLISH ELECTIVES	53
MS HEALTH & SCIENCE ELECTIVES.....	54
MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES	55
MS COMMUNICATION ELECTIVES	56
ADDITIONAL MS ELECTIVES	56

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.

STATISTICS (1 CREDIT)

Statistics includes problem solving, statistical thinking, data collection, and obtaining numerical results. Statistics is used to describe and explain patterns, to quantify ideas, and reduce information to a numerical format. Statistics describes the world around us.

Topics will include exploring and modeling data, distributions, designing studies, probability, sampling, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing. Each student will perform their own statistical study.

Can act as an alternative to Pre-Calculus

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 (or concurrent)

[Back up to the top of this section](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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

[Back up to the top of this section](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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

[Back up to the top of this section](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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.

[Back up to the top of this section](#)

[Back up to HS Core Academics section](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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).

[Back up to HS Language section](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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!

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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.

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

HS FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

HS ART ELECTIVES

VISUAL ARTS 1 (1 credit)

Visual Arts 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 Arts 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 Arts 1 may take two additional semesters by completing Visual Arts 2 and Visual Arts 3.

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

VISUAL ARTS 2 (1 credit)

Visual Arts 2 is designed for students who have completed the Visual Arts 1 course and are working toward further exploration of personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Arts 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 Arts 2 may register for Visual Arts 3.

Prerequisites: Visual Arts 1

VISUAL ARTS 3 (1 credit)

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

have developed their own strategies for portraying personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Arts 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 Arts 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 Arts 3 may register for Art Studio.

Prerequisites: Visual Arts 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: Visual Arts 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 ACTING & FILM ELECTIVES

HS ACTING I (1 credit)

Acting I is designed around competition with other schools in regional One Act Play festivals, Duet Acting, Oral Interpretation, and Monologue Workshops. Many competitions offer scholarships or other incentives for students and schools.

We will also attend several off-campus theatrical presentations throughout the year. The goal is to have fun while crafting performance artists.

HS FILM PRODUCTION I (1 credit)

In this fun and hands-on film class, students will follow the script-to-screen path to create short, digital films. For inspiration, they will watch movies and short films that define styles and challenge filmmakers. In the collaborative planning stage, students will share scripts and story boards with their peers and revise their work based on feedback. They will then move into production, learning location scouting, production design, casting, camera movement, lighting and sound recording. Finally, they will embark on the picture editing process. The goal is to take a completed short film to submission at student film festivals. This class is perfect for those who wish to learn about filmmaking and produce real short films at school!

This class will offer off-campus trips to film festivals and tours of local studios. No prerequisites required; a digital phone or camera is recommended.

About the instructor: Virginia Woodruff has an MFA in Film Directing and Production from UCLA, where she won awards for distinguished student directing and best thesis script. Her short films have screenings at festivals across the country; including SXSW.

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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

BOTANY (1 CREDIT)

Botany is the study of members of Kingdom Plantae. In this one-year elective, students will study plant form, function and reproduction, and an overview of plant diversity, including bryophytes, ferns, seed plants, and flowering plants. Students will furthermore study plant cells, tissues, tissue systems and development of seed plant, stems, roots, and leaves through light microscopy and interactive labs.

Topics taught in class are the following: plant physiology, plant reproduction, photosynthesis, plant biochemistry, bryophyte diversity, fern diversity, gymnosperm diversity, angiosperm diversity, fruit formation, pollination, plant tissues and function, plant genetics, plant adaptations for mesomorphic, xeromorphic, and hydromorphic environments, plant ecology, plant phylogenetic analysis, plant genetics & evolution, plant biotechnology, Hardy-Weinberg equation, plant tissue systems and plant cell types.

Textbook: Biology of Plants 8th edition, Copyright March 9, 2012 by Evert, Ray & Eichhorn, Susan
W. H. Freeman. ISBN: 978-1464117800

Prerequisites: Biology

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.

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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.

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

HS SELF AWARENESS ELECTIVES

MINDS UP: MINDFULNESS AND YOU (EVERY OTHER YEAR)

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 (1 CREDIT & .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.

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

HS PROFESSIONAL CAREER FIELDS ELECTIVES

INTRO TO LAW (1 CREDIT) (EVERY OTHER YEAR)

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) (EVERY OTHER YEAR)

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.

STATISTICS (1 CREDIT)

Statistics includes problem solving, statistical thinking, data collection, and obtaining numerical results. Statistics is used to describe and explain patterns, to quantify ideas, and reduce information to a numerical format. Statistics describes the world around us.

Topics will include exploring and modeling data, distributions, designing studies, probability, sampling, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing. Each student will perform their own statistical study.

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 (or concurrent)

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

HS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

COMPUTER SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

High School Computer Science uses the curriculum developed and provided by Code.org. The curriculum includes daily lesson plans made up of inquiry-based activities, videos, assessments, and computing tools to guide students as they discover core computing concepts.

Computer Science Principles introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. More than a traditional introduction to programming, it is a rigorous, engaging, and approachable course that explores many of the foundational ideas of computing so all students understand how these concepts are transforming the world we live in.

Students focus on programming in HTML and JavaScript.

INTRO INTO ROBOTICS (1 CREDIT)

Intro to Robotics uses engineering processes and problem-solving principles to expand their knowledge of programming through hands on activities. Students will begin the year using organizational skills and teamwork skills to build a variety of robot kits. Teams will then compete to navigate each robot through increasingly difficult tasks. Modifications and improvements will be devised and applied. Students will move on to programming in Python to improve performance. This course will culminate with students building robots from scratch and programming the movement.

Prerequisite: High School Computer Science

GAME DESIGN & E-SPORTS (1 CREDIT)

Similar to an "Art History", "Film History" or "Literature Studies" class, students will begin the year by investigating game design from popular video games through the 1980s to the present day. The aim of the class is for students to gain a deep appreciation and understanding of the iterative and creative process that goes into their favorite video games, before undertaking the process of designing their own levels and games. Students will first learn principles of level design in Super Mario Maker 2 for the Nintendo Switch through the [A.D.D.I.E. Model](#) of instructional design. Students will engage in not just game study but also book study by reading through stories and narratives of popular game development studios. Students will also be responsible for organizing school eSports tournaments, learning about the career opportunities in eSports, scholarship opportunities in eSports, and preparation and training for competitive gaming.

A course fee of \$110 is required for purchasing:

1-year license (\$30) to [Game Maker Studio 2](#). Students must have a required laptop with the following specifications: Windows 10 or Mac OS Catalina, Quad-Core CPU, 8GB Ram, Dedicated Graphics Card, 3GB disk space, SSD harddrive.

Permanent license (\$80) to [RPG Maker MV](#). Students must have a required laptop with the following specifications: Windows 10 or Mac OS X 10.10 or better, Intel Core Duo 2 or better, 2GB Ram, 2GB disc space, DirectX 9/Open GL 4.

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

ADDITIONAL HS ELECTIVES

STATISTICS (1 CREDIT)

Statistics includes problem solving, statistical thinking, data collection, and obtaining numerical results. Statistics is used to describe and explain patterns, to quantify ideas, and reduce information to a numerical format. Statistics describes the world around us.

Topics will include exploring and modeling data, distributions, designing studies, probability, sampling, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing. Each student will perform their own statistical study.

Can act as an alternative to Pre-Calculus

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 (or concurrent)

WORLD RELIGIONS (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.

HISTORY OF THEATRE (1 CREDIT)

Is an introduction to the earliest roots of Theatre Ritual and the growth of performance up to the era of Shakespeare. Field trips include tours of Austin and surrounding theatre spaces, and speakers from the Austin theatre scene.

SAT MATH PREP (NO CREDIT)

SAT READING/WRITING PREP (NO CREDIT)

[Back up to HS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE ACADEMICS

MS MATHEMATICS

Middle School 6-8 Mathematics Curriculum Overview:

In a problem-based curriculum, students spend most of their time in class working on carefully crafted and sequenced problems. Teachers help students understand the problems, ask questions to push their thinking, and orchestrate discussions to be sure that the mathematical takeaways are clear. Learners gain a rich and lasting understanding of mathematical concepts and procedures and experience applying this knowledge to new situations. Students frequently collaborate with their classmates—they talk about math, listen to each other's ideas, justify their thinking, and critique the reasoning of others. They gain experience communicating their ideas both verbally and in writing, developing skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

This kind of instruction may look different from what you experienced in your own math education. Current research says that students need to be able to think flexibly in order to use mathematical skills in their lives (and also on the types of tests they will encounter throughout their schooling). Flexible thinking relies on understanding concepts and making connections between them. Over time, students gain the skills and the confidence to independently solve problems that they've never seen before.

More Information: https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS/teachers/family_info.html

MATH 6 (1 CREDIT)

Grade 6 begins with a unit on reasoning about area and understanding and applying concepts of surface area. It is common to begin the year by reviewing the arithmetic learned in previous grades, but starting instead with a mathematical idea that students haven't seen before sets up opportunities for students to surprise the teacher and themselves with the connections they make. Instead of front-loading review and practice from prior grades, these materials incorporate opportunities to practice elementary arithmetic concepts and skills through warm-ups, in the context of instructional tasks, and in practice problems as they are reinforcing the concepts they are learning in the unit.

One of the design principles of these materials is that students should encounter plenty of examples of a mathematical or statistical idea in various contexts before that idea is named and studied as an object in its own right. For example, in the first unit, students will generalize arithmetic by writing simple expressions like $\frac{1}{2}bh$ and $6s^2$ before they study algebraic expressions as a class of objects in the sixth unit. Sometimes this principle is put into play several units before a concept is developed more fully, and sometimes in the first several lessons of a unit, where students have a chance to explore ideas informally and concretely, building toward a more formal and abstract understanding later in the unit.

More information: <https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS/teachers/1/narrative.html>

MATH 7 (1 CREDIT)

As in grade 6, students start grade 7 by studying scale drawings, an engaging geometric topic that supports the subsequent work on proportional relationships in the second and fourth units. It also makes use of grade 6 arithmetic understanding and skill, without arithmetic becoming the major focus of attention at this point. Geometry and proportional relationships are also interwoven in the third unit on circles, where the important proportional relationship between a circle's circumference and its diameter is studied. By the time students reach the fifth unit on operations with rational numbers, both positive and negative, students have had time to brush up on and solidify their understanding and skill in grade 6 arithmetic. The work on operations on rational numbers, with its emphasis on the role of the properties of operations in determining the rules for operating with negative numbers, is a natural lead-in to the work on expressions and equations in the next unit. Students then put their arithmetical and algebraic skills to work in the last two units, on angles, triangles, and prisms, and on probability and sampling.

More information: <https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS/teachers/2/narrative.html>

MATH 8 (1 CREDIT)

Students begin grade 8 with transformational geometry. They study rigid transformations and congruence, then dilations and similarity (this provides background for understanding the slope of a line in the coordinate plane). Next, they build on their understanding of proportional relationships from grade 7 to study linear relationships. They express linear relationships using equations, tables, and graphs, and make connections across these representations. They expand their ability to work with linear equations in one and two variables. Building on their understanding of a solution to an equation in one or two variables, they understand what is meant by a solution to a system of equations in two variables. They learn that linear relationships are an example of a special kind of relationship called a function. They apply their understanding of linear relationships and functions to contexts involving data with variability. They extend the definition of exponents to include all integers, and in the process codify the properties of exponents. They learn about orders of magnitude and scientific notation in order to represent and compute with very large and very small quantities. They encounter irrational numbers for the first time and informally extend the rational number system to the real number system, motivated by their work with the Pythagorean Theorem.

More information: <https://im.kendallhunt.com/MS/teachers/3/narrative.html>

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 I 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

[Go back up to the MS Core Academics](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

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.

[Go back to the MS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

MS FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

MS VISUAL ARTS 1 (1 credit)

Visual Arts 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 Arts 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 Arts 1 may take two additional semesters by completing Visual Arts 2 and Visual Arts 3.

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

MS VISUAL ARTS 2 (1 credit)

Visual Arts 2 is designed for students who have completed the Visual Arts 1 course and are working toward further exploration of personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Arts 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 Arts 2 may register for Visual Arts 3.

Prerequisite: Visual Arts 1

MS VISUAL ARTS 3 (1 credit)

Visual Arts 3 is designed for students who have completed the Visual Arts 2 course and have developed their own strategies for portraying personal expression through creating visual art. Visual Arts 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 Arts 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 Arts 3 may register for Art Studio.

Prerequisite: Visual Arts 2

MS ACTING 1(1 credit each)

Acting I is designed around competition with other schools in regional One Act Play festivals, Duet Acting, Oral Interpretation, and Monologue Workshops. Many competitions offer scholarships or other incentives for students and schools.

We will also attend several off-campus theatrical presentations throughout the year. The goal is to have fun while crafting performance artists.

MS FILM PRODUCTION (1 credit)

In this fun and hands-on film class, students will follow the script-to-screen path to create short, digital films. For inspiration, they will watch movies and short films that define styles and challenge filmmakers. In the collaborative planning stage, students will share scripts and story boards with their peers and revise their work based on feedback. They will then move into production, learning location scouting, production design, casting, camera movement, lighting and sound recording. Finally, they will embark on the picture editing process. The goal is to take a completed short film to submission at student film festivals. This class is perfect for those who wish to learn about filmmaking and produce real short films at school!

This class will offer off-campus trips to film festivals and tours of local studios. No prerequisites required; a digital phone or camera is recommended.

About the instructor: Virginia Woodruff has an MFA in Film Directing and Production from UCLA, where she won awards for distinguished student directing and best thesis script. Her short films have screenings at festivals across the country; including SXSW.

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 GAME DESIGN & eSPORTS (1 credit each)

Similar to an "Art History", "Film History" or "Literature Studies" class, students will begin the year by investigating game design from popular video games through the 1980s to the present day. The aim of the class is for students to gain a deep appreciation and understanding of the iterative and creative process that goes into their favorite video games, before undertaking the process of designing their own levels and games. Students will first learn principles of level design in Super Mario Maker 2 for the Nintendo Switch through the [A.D.D.I.E. Model](#) of instructional design. Students will engage in not just game study but also book study by reading through stories and narratives of popular game development studios. Students will also be responsible for organizing school eSports tournaments, learning about the career opportunities in eSports, scholarship opportunities in eSports, and preparation and training for competitive gaming.

A course fee of \$110 is required for purchasing:

1-year license (\$30) to [Game Maker Studio 2](#). Students must have a required laptop with the following specifications: Windows 10 or Mac OS Catalina, Quad-Core CPU, 8GB Ram, Dedicated Graphics Card, 3GB disk space, SSD harddrive.

Permanent license (\$80) to [RPG Maker MV](#). Students must have a required laptop with the following specifications: Windows 10 or Mac OS X 10.10 or better, Intel Core Duo 2 or better, 2GB Ram, 2GB disc space, DirectX 9/Open GL 4.

MS COMPUTER SCIENCE 1 & 2 (1 credit each)

Middle School Computer Science introduces students to computer science through problem solving, hands-on activities, videos and an interactive computer environment.

This course follows the Code.org curriculum developed and provided by industry leading professionals. Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course for 6 - 8th grade students. Mapped to CTSA standards, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

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.

MS INTRO TO 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.

MS 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 PHYSICAL 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.

[Go back to the MS Electives](#)

[Go back to the Table of Contents](#)