

COURSE CATALOG 2022-2023

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ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS

MATHEMATICS

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

SCIENCE

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

ENGLISH

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

SOCIAL STUDIES

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

HIGH SCHOOL CORE ACADEMICS

HS MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA 1 (1 CREDIT)

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

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

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

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

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

GEOMETRY (1 CREDIT)

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

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

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

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

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)

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HS SCIENCES

BIOLOGY (1 CREDIT)

Biology is the scientific study of living organisms and is traditionally 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.

The following topics will be covered: biomolecules, 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. This course focuses on hands-on learning through laboratory activities, classroom discussions and real-world applications.

This course consists as an introduction to the fundamentals of chemistry including: the scientific method, matter and change, measurements and calculations, atoms: building blocks of matter, arrangement of electrons in atoms, the periodic Law and periodic trends, states of matter and phase equilibrium, chemical bonding and nomenclature, gas laws, solutions and concentrations, chemical equations and reactions, stoichiometry, acid and base nomenclature, reactions and equilibrium, reaction rates and catalysts.

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

ADVANCED CHEMISTRY (1 CREDIT)

Advanced chemistry digs deeper into topics introduced in the Chemistry course. This course uses a variety of more in depth laboratory applications of chemistry fundamentals over multiple days. While the introductory course focuses on learning new

concepts and enforcing concepts with labs, this advanced course allows students to apply this knowledge to new concepts and real-world situations.

This course consists as a deeper dive into topics of chemistry including: atomic structure, periodic trends, radioactivity, chemical bonding, molecular geometry, nomenclature, gasses and gas laws, stoichiometry, states of matter and phase equilibrium, chemical reactions and thermochemistry, rates of chemical reactions, chemical equilibrium, acids, bases and salts, oxidation-reduction reactions, carbon and organic chemistry, chemical bonding and nomenclature, gas laws, solutions and concentrations, chemical equations and reactions, stoichiometry, acid and base nomenclature, reactions and equilibrium, reaction rates and catalysts.

Textbook: Barron's SAT Subject Test: Chemistry with Online Tests, by Jason Mascetta, M.S. and Mark Kernion, M.A. ISBN 9781438011134

Prerequisites: Chemistry

PHYSICS (1 CREDIT)

This mathematically rigorous course is equivalent to an introductory college-level physics course. 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.

This course consists as an introduction to the fundamentals of physics including: the language of physics, measurements, calculations and significant figures, kinematics: motion in one dimension, velocity, acceleration, falling objects, motion in two dimensions, projectile motion, resolving vectors, forms of energy, momentum and collisions, circular motion, thermodynamics, heat and work, vibrations and waves, electric energy, force and fields, electric circuits, and magnetism.

This course examines all topics using classroom discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on laboratory activities.

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

Prerequisite: 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

MARINE BIOLOGY (1 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. This course is designed to establish true compassion and understanding of the importance of our planet's oceans.

Textbook: Marine Biology - Function, Biodiversity, Ecology. 5th edition. Author: Jeffrey Levinton

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HS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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

In English I scholars will engage in an in-depth study of English literature and poetry with an emphasis on critical-thinking skills and analyzing and the use of literary techniques (plot, theme, character development, etc.). Students will write five-paragraph expository, persuasive, and analytical essays, in addition to short answer responses incorporating textual evidence. This course also teaches grammar and the fundamentals of Standard American English as they relate to writing, reading, listening and speaking. Students will also read and write classical-to-contemporary poetry. 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. There will be four full-text studies (one each quarter).

Core texts: William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*; Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*; Homer's *The Odyssey*; George Orwell's *Animal Farm*

Vocabulary from *Classical Roots*; *Writers Inc Daily Language Workouts*

ENGLISH II - SURVEY OF WORLD LITERATURE (1 CREDIT)

English II is a survey of world literature. Students will utilize critical thinking skills and persuasive writing strategies to analyze and interpret reading selections from a variety of time periods, diverse cultures, and various genres including fiction, memoir, informational/argumentative texts, short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.

Instruction will cover all major stages of the writing process required to produce convincing 5-paragraph essays, including outlining, drafting, editing, and proofreading. This course also teaches principles of grammar, spelling patterns and strategies, and reading comprehension, with particular emphasis on vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT.

The course will cover the basics of MLA format as they apply to writing literary criticism. We'll also be reviewing best practices for finding and citing peer-reviewed articles in preparation for college-level research.

Prerequisites: English I

Required Texts: *Classical Roots D*; *HMH Into Literature, Grade 10*; *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe; *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse; *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy; additional supplementary readings.

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

ENGLISH III - AMERICAN LITERATURE (1 CREDIT)

English III is a survey of American literature. Students will utilize critical thinking skills and persuasive writing strategies to analyze and interpret reading selections from a variety of time periods, diverse American subcultures, and various genres including fiction, memoir, informational/argumentative texts, short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.

Instruction will cover all major stages of the writing process required to produce convincing 5-6 paragraph essays, including outlining, drafting, editing, and proofreading. This course also teaches principles of grammar, spelling patterns and strategies, and reading comprehension, with particular emphasis on vocabulary skills in preparation for the SAT and ACT.

The course will cover the finer points of MLA format. We'll also be reviewing best practices for finding and citing peer-reviewed articles in preparation for an annotated bibliography and research paper assignment.

Prerequisites: English I + II

Required Texts: Classical Roots E; HMH Into Literature, Grade 11; The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald; Beloved by Toni Morrison; additional supplementary readings.

ENGLISH IV - BRITISH LITERATURE (1 CREDIT)

English IV is a survey of British literature. Students will utilize critical thinking skills and persuasive writing strategies to analyze and interpret reading selections from a variety of time periods, diverse British and colonial subcultures, and various genres including fiction, graphic novels, informational/argumentative texts, short stories, novels, poetry, and drama.

Instruction will cover all major stages of the writing process required to produce 7+ paragraph college-level papers, including outlining, drafting, editing, and proofreading.

The course will cover advanced MLA formatting and citation. We'll also be reviewing best practices for sourcing peer-reviewed articles from scholarly databases in preparation for a college-level research assignment.

Students will leave this class well prepared for college writing and literature courses.

Required Texts: HMH Into Literature, Grade 12; Watchmen by Alan Moore; Hamlet by William Shakespeare; 1984 by George Orwell; additional supplementary readings.

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HS SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD GEOGRAPHY (1 CREDIT)

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

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

WORLD HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

The purpose of this World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in global frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. It emphasizes relevant factual knowledge, leading interpretive issues, and skills in analyzing types of historical evidence. Periodization, explicitly discussed, forms an organizing principle to address change and continuity throughout the course. Specific themes provide further organization to the course, along with consistent attention to contacts among societies that form the core of world history as a field of study. College world history courses vary considerably in the approach used, the chronological framework chosen, the content covered, the themes selected, and the analytical skills emphasized. These choices themselves are compatible with a variety of college level curricular approaches.

Textbook: World History, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-49126-4

Prerequisite: World Geography

U.S. HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

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

Textbook: The Americans, Holt McDougal, Copyright 2012 by Houghton, Mifflin,

Harcourt Publishing Company. Printed in the USA. ISBN: 978-0-547-49115-8

Prerequisites: World Geography and World History

U.S. GOVERNMENT (.5 CREDIT)

U.S. Government will focus on the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute United States politics. Students will gain an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States both by studying the general concepts used to interpret U. S. politics and by analyzing specific examples. Students will learn how to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U. S. government and politics and will write extensively to perfect their essay writing and critical thinking skills.

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

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

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

Prerequisites: World Geography, World History, and US History

PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS (0.5 CREDIT)

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

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HIGH SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGES

HS SPANISH

HS SPANISH 1 (1 CREDIT)

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

HS SPANISH 2 (1 CREDIT)

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

HS SPANISH 3 (1 CREDIT)

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

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

HS SPANISH 4 (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 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 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 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 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 (1 CREDIT)

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

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HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

HS COMMUNICATIONS ELECTIVES

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

Debate is a year-long 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: Philosophical Chairs, 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 as well as self-selected topics upon teacher approval. 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 expository speeches, impromptu speeches, motivational speeches, stand-up comedy routines, informational speeches, and persuasive speeches. The course will conclude with the students giving a speech from a category of their choosing to assembled students and parents. Grades will be based on student participation during class, enthusiasm for the coursework, and on improvement from day one to the final speech.

At the end of the course, students will:

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

Be able to prepare an effective speech for any situation.

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

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

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HS ENGLISH ELECTIVES

HS CREATIVE WRITING (1 CREDIT)

This course is designed as an introduction to imaginative writing. We will explore craft elements of fiction, poetry, spoken word, film, creative nonfiction, and journalism. By digging deeply into the works of accomplished storytellers, we will acquire the tools to integrate sound craft into our own work. Our overall focus is on the development of quality, polished writing.

In order to write well, one must read/listen/watch as much as possible. We'll be studying texts in written, audio, and visual formats to figure out how they create meaning, structure a narrative, and keep a reader enthralled. As William Faulkner said: "Read, read, read. Read everything—trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master." We will be studying a wide variety of texts, ranging from Star Wars to Shakespeare, to live up to Faulkner's mandate.

Quality participation in workshop—providing peers with criticism and commentary on their work—is an enormous part of this class. Drafts will be submitted to the class on a fixed schedule in order to provide adequate time for review. Participation in the workshop is required, essential, and should be beneficial to everyone.

This class is reading and writing intensive and is aimed at high school students. Mature 8th graders may enroll with prior instructor approval.

Required Texts: *Imaginative Writing* by Janet Burroway; additional supplementary readings.

ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING (1 CREDIT)

This course is a continuation of Creative Writing and will expand on the concepts taught in prior semesters. Workshops will be frequent, and students should be prepared to produce polished creative work on a regular basis.

Prerequisites: Creative Writing (exceptions may be made based on instructor approval).
Required Texts: *Imaginative Writing* by Janet Burroway; additional supplementary readings.

MODERN LITERATURE STUDIES (1 CREDIT)

In this course, students will study post-WWII novels and short stories. Students will develop their literary analysis skills and receive detailed individual feedback on papers to improve writing. Students signing up for this course should be avid and self-motivated readers.

This class is reading and writing intensive and is aimed at high school students.

Required Texts: *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro; *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole; *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett; *Henderson the Rain King* by Saul Bellow; *The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter; *Model Home* by Eric Puchner; *Trout Fishing In America* by Richard Brautigan; *The Commitments* by Roddy Doyle; *Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem; full reading list TBD.

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.

SCREENWRITING (1 CREDIT)

We'll be exploring the principles of screenwriting guru Robert McKee, along with work of screenwriters from the 1930's to the present day, with an emphasis on artistic craft. Students will learn the ins-and-outs of screenwriting software as well as standard screenplay formatting techniques. By the end of the semester, each student will produce a pitch and treatment for a feature-length screenplay, as well as several complete scenes.

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HS FINE ARTS ELECTIVE

HS ART ELECTIVES

VISUAL ARTS 1 (1 credit)

Visual Arts 1 is designed for students who are motivated to improve visual art skills while beginning to develop personal ideas through making art. Visual Arts students will learn how to use tools and techniques with 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 register for Visual Arts 2.

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 will continue to develop skills with tools and techniques with a variety of media such as drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will 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 will 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.

Prerequisites: Visual Arts 2

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

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 of 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

HS PHOTOGRAPHY ELECTIVES

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (1 credit)

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

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

ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (1 credit)

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

Advanced Digital Photography 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 may register for Photography Studio or Professional Photography.

Prerequisites: Digital Photography.

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 | Photography Studio is an upper-level HS course.

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 the instructor and Head of School is required.

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

HS ACTING & FILM ELECTIVES

ACTING (1 credit)

Acting 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.

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 storyboards 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 are required; a digital phone or camera is recommended.

MUSIC HISTORY & PRODUCTION (1 credit)

Music History & Production in very simplistic terms will be a dream class for anyone who loves music. It could potentially be an added bonus if you already have a background in music, but the class will serve any music enthusiast. For me, the driving force behind my musical endeavors was simply that I always had music in my head that I considered to be good enough to make so I can then listen to it. So please don't be at all discouraged by any lack of experience, as that often works to your advantage so long as you possess the love and imagination for music.

Now that I have the attention of all music lovers: the class will primarily serve as a way of enhancing your own musical language and production by covering certain fundamentals of music writing; sequenced through a worldly, historical prism. The class curriculum will be chronologically segmented into units highlighting a meaningful compositional theme that is to then be applied to your own production. Interwoven within each unit, students will have the creative gratification and delight of creating their own dream radio station according to the style being studied. We will also leave plenty of time to record and expand on improvisational midi-keyboard sessions.

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HS HEALTH, MEDICAL SCIENCE, & GENERAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES

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.

Textbook: Sanderson, Catherine A., Comprehensive: Health Skills, Tinley Park, Goodheart-Willcox Company Inc., 2021.

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 (1 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. This course is designed to establish true compassion and understanding of the importance of our planet's oceans.

Textbook: Marine Biology - Function, Biodiversity, Ecology. 5th edition. Author: Jeffrey Levinton

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: 978-1 4641 17800

Prerequisites: Biology

CRIMINAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY (.5 CREDIT)

This course compares legal and psychological approaches to criminal behavior and analyzes the roles of lawyers and of psychologists. This course 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 (.5 CREDIT)

A journey through major psychological concepts and approaches, spanning Freud's early writings to modern-day developments in the field. The knowledge gained from this course will allow students to critically evaluate psychological research and have a more in-depth understanding of human thought and behavior. This course surveys the major subdisciplines of the field, including such topics as 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.

Textbook: Rathus, Spencer A., Psychology. Austin, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010.

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HS PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 CREDIT)

In my experience as a coach, I have observed that the determining factors in regards to overall improvement were more due to their level of enjoyment than their talent. Therefore, tapping into the innate joy and stress relief of aerobic exercise will be integral to our learning curriculum. This emphasis on having fun will be key in cultivating and sustaining their interest in physical activity beyond their time at school. Grading will be formally assessed based on a student's participation and behavioral efforts. I am confident that this class will continue to be more special than it already has been.

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.

Students may take up to 3 years of P.E.

YOGA: INTRODUCTION & PRACTICE (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Course Objective: In this course students will move their body slowly and deliberately into different poses that challenge their strength and flexibility, while at the same time focusing on relaxation and mindfulness.

This course will aid in balance, flexibility, breath, core strength and meditation. Each class will conclude with a short time of meditation and mindful reentry into the day, to calm and center the body and mind.

TRACK & FITNESS (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Join your fellow students as this course covers a variety of track events supported by fitness training. Learn the physiology behind running and fitness training. Students will engage in local track events.

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HS SELF AWARENESS ELECTIVES

HS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

This course will teach AESA students how to develop practices of Mindfulness and how to apply them to their everyday life. Students will be given tools to help them fend off negative thoughts and behaviors, build self-confidence, focus, and treat others and themselves with respect and appreciation. In this course, students will engage in identity mapping, exploring goals, creating healthy social and emotional habits along with designing a personal toolbox of stress and pressure safeguards.

As part of the course, students will participate in a passion project that will hopefully cultivate their joy for learning and interest them to follow their true passion and new adventures. Progressing through their years at AESA, students will take their passion project to build upon and mold such that they will become students who will curate a strong driven character, 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.

YOGA: INTRODUCTION & PRACTICE (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Course Objective: In this course students will move their body slowly and deliberately into different poses that challenge their strength and flexibility, while at the same time focusing on relaxation and mindfulness.

This course will aid in balance, flexibility, breath, core strength and meditation. Each class will conclude with a short time of meditation and mindful reentry into the day, to calm and center the body and mind.

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HS PROFESSIONAL CAREER FIELDS ELECTIVES

INTRO TO LAW (1 CREDIT)

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

INTRO TO ENGINEERING (1 CREDIT)

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

INTRO TO BUSINESS (1 CREDIT)

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

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

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)

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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.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1 CREDIT)

Students will explore computer skills and applications needed on a personal, school/college, and career level. The focus of this course is to provide knowledge and skills associated typing, email, internet search strategies, Google Docs, Sheets and Slides, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

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. Students will continue to simultaneously expand programming knowledge while increasing the complexity of robotic builds. Modifications and improvements will be devised and applied as students build more complex robots. Students will move on to programming in Python to improve performance. This course will culminate with students building robots and programming the movement. Teams will then compete to navigate each robot through increasingly difficult tasks.

Prerequisite: High School Computer Science

ESPORTS & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP (1 CREDIT)

This upcoming Fall AESA will be looking to join the PlayVS eSports League for Texas High Schools in Super Smash Bros Ultimate! In addition to participating in Super Smash

Bros, we will also participate in new HS eSport leagues such as competitive Pokemon VGC (New Generation 9 beginning in the Fall 2022). Students will assist in organizing and managing AESA school-wide eSports tournaments for all students.

Students will also learn and have discussions about digital health practices through media balance, well-being, online privacy & security, managing their digital footprint, how to manage online communications & relationships, and understanding online news & media literacy through the Common Sense Education for being a Digital Citizen.

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL PUBLISHING (1 CREDIT)

Have you ever wanted to design postcards, menus, posters, invitations, business cards, brochures, book layouts, ebooks, interactive forms and more? In Digital Publishing you will learn the fundamentals of using digital layout, the basic concepts associated with typography and the elements of page design. We will work with Adobe InDesign for page layout and design for various methods of print and electronic delivery. Our goal will be to produce well-designed pieces with an eye to economy, neatness and faithfulness to the client's layout or written instructions.

Besides our textbook lessons and practice assignments, we will produce:

- A postcard
- A party invitation
- A business flyer
- A simple menu
- A brochure
- An interactive form
- A small magazine for print and online distribution and more!

Student Learning Outcomes for this Course:

- Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
- Apply fundamentals of page layout
- Use typographic terminology and specifications
- Practice importing text and graphics into page layout programs
- Discuss file formats and file management.
- Integrate tools and techniques analyzing elements to produce final product
- Interpret art director's instructions
- Communicate with industry specialists
- Apply real world production skills used by graphic designers and production personnel
- Appraise basic design problems related to advertising art
- Differentiate CMYK and spot color in single and multi-color reproduction
- Develop discipline in neatness, presentation, and accuracy of work
- Define the terms and language of page layout and design.

Course requirements:

- Textbook: Adobe InDesign CC, 2022 release, Classroom in a Book
- Laptop computer capable of running Adobe Creative Suite Software
- Subscription to Adobe Creative Suite.

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ADDITIONAL HS ELECTIVES

ADULTING: LIFE SKILLS & INTERNSHIPS (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Course Objective: To prepare AESA high school students for the transition from living at home to living in a dorm or apartment after graduation as well as a transition into areas they are interested in through internships. AESA has made huge differences in some of our student's lives through high level successful internships.

This class will cover a large variety of topics including, but not limited to:

- Cooking-including grocery, shopping, meal prep and nutrition
- Budgeting-personal finance, understanding of credit and loans, and planning expenses
- Jobs/Internships-were to find student friendly positions, how to apply, and interview (including attire suggestions) and how to handle a student work/life balance
- Health services-finding providers both on/off campus for mental health physical health
- Relationships-developing interpersonal skills, team building skills, and learning how to deal with conflict
- Healthy Lifestyle-covering exercise, sleep, nutrition, safety in new environments.

FASHION DESIGN: SEWING & NEEDLE ARTS (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Course Objective: To learn basic hand sewing and machine sewing technique for practical purposes, fashion design, creativity, and needle arts.

Skills learned will include fashion design elements, needle arts of cross-stitch and embroidery, simple basic sewing skills, such as sewing buttons and hemming. Students will make pillows and learn to follow simple patterns. At the conclusion of the year students will understand the composition of various fabrics and their designated purpose, basic sewing skills and the ability to read and follow a simple pattern.

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL PUBLISHING (1 CREDIT)

Have you ever wanted to design postcards, menus, posters, invitations, business cards, brochures, book layouts, ebooks, interactive forms and more? In Digital Publishing you will learn the fundamentals of using digital layout, the basic concepts associated with typography and the elements of page design. We will work with Adobe InDesign for page layout and design for various methods of print and electronic delivery. Our goal will be to produce well-designed pieces with an eye to economy, neatness and faithfulness to the client's layout or written instructions.

Besides our textbook lessons and practice assignments, we will produce:

- A postcard

- A party invitation
- A business flyer
- A simple menu
- A brochure
- An interactive form
- A small magazine for print and online distribution and more!

Student Learning Outcomes for this Course:

- Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
- Apply fundamentals of page layout
- Use typographic terminology and specifications
- Practice importing text and graphics into page layout programs
- Discuss file formats and file management.
- Integrate tools and techniques analyzing elements to produce final product
- Interpret art director's instructions
- Communicate with industry specialists
- Apply real world production skills used by graphic designers and production personnel
- Appraise basic design problems related to advertising art
- Differentiate CMYK and spot color in single and multi-color reproduction
- Develop discipline in neatness, presentation, and accuracy of work
- Define the terms and language of page layout and design.

Course requirements:

- Textbook: Adobe InDesign CC, 2022 release, Classroom in a Book
- Laptop computer capable of running Adobe Creative Suite Software
- Subscription to Adobe Creative Suite.

CULINARY CRAFTS (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Gather around the kitchen and enjoy culinary team building experiences as you learn to cook different cuisines from around the world; including Central Texas cuisine. This cooking class will also focus on baking, grilling, and using produce from the AESA garden. Guest chefs throughout the course. Supply Fee: \$50.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Course Objective: To develop a sense of citizenship engagement, responsibility, and philanthropy.

This course will include varying community service projects in class with opportunities to learn. Students at AESA are required to graduate with a minimum of 12 community service hours. Students will be guided by our Director of Community Service. Students will strive to achieve the **President's Volunteer Service Award**. The major project of this class will be creating a sustainable service project to benefit younger AESA scholars. Volunteer projects will be conducted in class with partnerships throughout the Dripping

Springs and Austin area. Sample projects would include activities such as writing letters to Veterans, organizing diapers for the Austin Diaper Bank, organizing holiday care packages, and mentoring younger AESA scholars.

BUILDING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS: TABLETOP GAMING (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Course Objective: To give students a fun opportunity to build upon critical thinking, AMP, and analytical skills through tabletop gaming. Students will play a variety of card games and board games, including learning to play the popular Pokémon Trading Card Game and Chess! Tabletop games have been scientifically proven to help communication skills, increase brain function, set goals, have patience, learn new abstract concepts, reduce stress, and practice social skills and higher functioning analytical thinking. Spend time learning new board games, or improving your skills in classic games while having a great time socializing with your classmates and a great way to learn positive social skills.

WORLD RELIGIONS (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

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.

The study of world religions can be 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.

THEATRE (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

This is a workshop class with a performance component. Students will study a variety of plays from Shakespeare to contemporary works. Our focus is on exploring the meaning and impact of these texts through both reading and performance, and as such students will prepare and present scene studies from selected plays throughout the semester.

Additionally, we will explore different philosophies of stage performance through instructional texts such as *Impro: Improvisation and the Theatre* by Keith Johnstone and *The Stanislavski System* by Sonia Moore. Each semester will culminate in a performance featuring the entire class.

DIVE INTO EAST ASIA (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

This course will introduce students to East Asian nations and cultures. We will explore the history, language, food, and cultural heritages of different nations in East Asia. Students will also have opportunities to experience these cultures that exist and thrive in our own city, state, and the United States. Hopefully one day when and if students get to travel to East Asia, students will have a better and deeper understanding of its histories and cultural practices.

EXPLORING ANIME (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

In this course, students will explore the world and history of Anime. Students will engage with some classic and popular anime throughout history such as reading and watching *Atom Boy (Astroboy)*, *Sailor Moon*, *Dragon Ball Z*, *Pokemon*, etc. Students will connect how Anime content relates to major events in history and how it may reflect everyday life. As Anime continues to have major and global influence on diverse demographics, students will learn how to appreciate the culture wherein Anime originates from while finding meaningful ways to express their appreciation.

POP CULTURE (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

This is a discussion-based class where students will explore what is currently trending in movies, music, books, gaming, travel, the news, etc. They will also look back at trends from previous decades of the last 100 years.

SAT MATH PREP (NO CREDIT)

This course will comprehensively equip students with the essential practice, knowledge and skills to achieve a competitive score on both the calculator and no-calculator portions of the SAT, as well as the ACT, in preparation for college admission.

Textbook: Kaplan's SAT PREP PLUS 2022; Kaplan's ACT PREP PLUS 2022

SAT READING/WRITING PREP (NO CREDIT)

This course will comprehensively equip students with the essential practice, knowledge and skills to achieve a competitive score on the Reading and Writing portions of the SAT, as well as the ACT, in preparation for college admission.

Textbook: Kaplan's SAT PREP PLUS 2022; Kaplan's ACT PREP PLUS 2022

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MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE ACADEMICS

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.

Textbook Used: Illustrated Mathematics 6-8

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>

Textbook used: Illustrative Mathematics 6-8

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 relation data.

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

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 black holes; various cycles that occur naturally on the Earth, such as the water cycle and photosynthesis.

Students will prepare a Science Fair project in this course and will do hands on experiments 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 hands-on activities, students will do dissections and several field studies outdoors.

SCIENCE 8 – PHYSICAL SCIENCE (1 CREDIT)

This course is a combined introductory course for both chemistry and physics in preparation for high school level courses. As an interactive science course students will perform a variety of laboratory activities 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 of chemicals such as 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, levers, and putting machines together. Lastly, they will learn about all forms of energy, energy transformation and conservation.

MS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 6 (1 CREDIT)

This course emphasizes clear, coherent writing for a variety of purposes. Students will write three- to five-paragraph expository, persuasive, and analytical essays, in addition to short answer responses incorporating textual evidence. In all of these topics students will learn the writing process, brainstorming, prewriting, outlining, drafting, and revising and editing. This course also teaches grammar and the fundamentals of Standard American English as they relate to writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Students will also read and write classical-to-contemporary poetry.

The required combination of reading and writing for 6th graders in English introduces scholars to a range of essential skills. The course emphasizes clear, coherent writing for a variety of purposes. Students read both silently and aloud, for clarity, comprehension, analysis, and evaluation. They also gain practice in paraphrasing, summarizing, determining main ideas, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, and articulating themes. There will be four novel studies (one each quarter).

Core texts: Gary Paulsen's *Transall Saga*; Lauren DeStefano's *The Girl with the Ghost Machine*; Walter Dean Myers's *Monster*; M.G. Leonard's *Beetle Boy*

Vocabulary from Classical Roots; Grammar from Writers Inc *Daily Language Workouts*

ENGLISH 7 (1 CREDIT)

This 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. Students will write four- to five-paragraph expository, persuasive, and analytical essays, in addition to short answer responses incorporating textual evidence. This course also teaches grammar and the fundamentals of Standard American English as they relate to writing, reading, listening, and speaking. Students will also read and write classical-to-contemporary poetry. There will be four novel studies (one each quarter).

Core texts: Gary Paulsen's *The Hatchet*; John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*; Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*; Kwame Alexander's *The Crossover*

Vocabulary from Classical Roots; Writers Inc *Daily Language Workouts*

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 grammar and the fundamentals of Standard American English. Students will write four- to five-paragraph expository, persuasive, and analytical essays, in addition to short answer responses incorporating textual evidence. Students will also read and write classical-to-contemporary poetry. There will be four novel studies (one each quarter).

Core texts: L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*; Francisco Jimenez's *Breaking Through*; Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*; John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*

Vocabulary from Classical Roots; Writers Inc *Daily Language Workouts*

MS SOCIAL STUDIES

HISTORY 6 – WORLD GEOGRAPHY (1 CREDIT)

This World Geography course will serve as a foundational layout for following World Geography and History courses. Students will develop and build upon skills and knowledge pertaining to the 5-Themes of Geography. This course will cover topics such as use of absolute and relative location; knowledge in different types of landform and bodies of water; identifying movements of migration; and analyzing historical events that would shape different continents and nations as a result of human-environment interaction. Students will be introduced to primary and secondary sources and other impertinent resources in order to help start developing and refining their skills in imagination and creation of their own thoughts and opinions. The content goal by the end of this course is for students to have surveyed the lands, people groups, and history of major continents and the nations that make up each continent.

Textbook: World Geography. Orlando, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. eTextbook.

HISTORY 7 - TEXAS HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

In Texas History, students will learn about various people groups who have lived in Texas and the events that have shaped the Texas we know and live in today. Students will be given the opportunity to observe the rich history indigenous tribes of Texas have left for us to appreciate. As we progress throughout the school year, students will research and analyze changes Texas has undergone as a result of and consequence to European colonialism. Students will learn to apply their critical thinking skills and create for themselves their own analysis on how and why Anglo-American settlements, their fight for Texas Independence, annexation, statehood, and Texas' involvement in the Civil War have shaped the Texas we know of today. By the end of the course, students will produce for themselves a perspective on how Texans can move forward into the future for the betterment of all Texans.

Textbook: Willoughby, Larry. Texas History. Orlando, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016.

HISTORY 8 - AMERICAN HISTORY (1 CREDIT)

This American/U.S. History course will explore the historical timeline of America's earliest beginnings starting with indigenous Indians to the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Topics include theories of where and when indigenous groups may have arrived in the Americas; the push/pull factors for European colonialism; the fight for America's Independence; creation of the U.S. Constitution; expansion westward, which leads to sectionalism and the Civil War; and the Reconstruction period. Students will be given opportunities to refine and sharpen their critical thinking skills as they evaluate, analyze, create, and articulate their historical perspectives on people and events of American History that have and continue to influence today. Students will utilize different primary and secondary sources for their research and engagement on mentioned topics above throughout the course.

Textbook: United States History: Beginnings to 1877. Orlando, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
eTextbook.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGES

MS SPANISH

MS 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. 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 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 SPANISH 3 (1 CREDIT)

Students continue their language-learning adventure by progressing to this next level of middle school Spanish. Students expand their introduction to Spanish 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 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 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 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 2 (1 CREDIT)

In this course, students are expected 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 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 of reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

MS FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

MS VISUAL ARTS 1 (1 credit)

Visual Arts 1 is designed for students who are motivated to improve visual art skills while beginning to develop personal ideas through making art. Visual Arts students will learn how to use tools and techniques with 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 register for Visual Arts 2.

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 will continue to develop skills with tools and techniques with a variety of media such as drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will 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 will 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

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.

Prerequisite: Visual Arts 2

MS ACTING (1 credit each)

Acting 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 storyboards 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 are required; a digital phone or camera is recommended.

MS 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.

MS ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (1 credit)

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

Advanced Digital Photography 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 may register for Photography Studio.

MS PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO (1 credit)

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

Photography Studio 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 may register for Photography Studio.

Prerequisite: Advanced Digital Photography.

MUSIC HISTORY & PRODUCTION (1 credit)

Music History & Production in very simplistic terms will be a dream class for anyone who loves music. It could potentially be an added bonus if you already have a background in music, but the class will serve any music enthusiast. For me, the driving force behind my musical endeavors was simply that I always had music in my head that I considered to be good enough to make so I can then listen to it. So please don't be at all discouraged by any lack of experience, as that often works to your advantage so long as you possess the love and imagination for music.

Now that I have the attention of all music lovers: the class will primarily serve as a way of enhancing your own musical language and production by covering certain fundamentals of music writing; sequenced through a worldly, historical prism. The class curriculum will be chronologically segmented into units highlighting a meaningful compositional theme that is to then be applied to your own production. Interwoven within each unit, students will have the creative gratification and delight of creating their own dream radio station according to the style being studied. We will also leave plenty of time to record and expand on improvisational midi-keyboard sessions.

MS TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

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 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (1 credit)

Students will explore computer skills and applications needed on a personal, school/college, and career level. The focus of this course is to provide knowledge and skills associated typing, email, internet search strategies, Google Docs, Sheets and Slides, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

MS eSPORTS & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP (1 credit)

This upcoming Fall AESA will be looking to join the PlayVS eSports League for Texas High Schools in Super Smash Bros Ultimate! In addition to participating in Super Smash Bros, we will also participate in new HS eSport leagues such as competitive Pokémon VGC (New Generation 9 beginning in the Fall 2022). Students will assist in organizing and managing AESA school-wide eSports tournaments for all students.

Students will also learn and have discussions about digital health practices through media balance, well-being, online privacy & security, managing their digital footprint, how to manage online communications & relationships, and understanding online news & media literacy through the Common Sense Education for being a Digital Citizen.

MS ENGLISH ELECTIVES

MS CREATIVE WRITING 1 & 2 (1 credit)

This course is uniquely designed for the ambitious scholar who loves to write, tell an impressively memorable story, improve their writing skills expertly, and enhance their use of language creatively! Writers from the Austin area will be invited to speak with our students and impart their valuable wisdom. Additionally, students will have input on the types of writing they will do in class. If you have ever thought at all of creating a short story, poetry, or writing a book, this is the class for you. You might enjoy incorporating original artwork as well!

MS JOURNALISM (1 credit)

Did you ever so desire 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. Scholars learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they closely 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 just 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 close reading and class discussions that will be life-changing, life-enriching, and life-affirming.

MS SCREENWRITING (1 credit)

We'll be exploring the principles of screenwriting guru Robert McKee, along with work of screenwriters from the 1930's to the present day, with an emphasis on artistic craft. Students will learn the ins-and-outs of screenwriting software as well as standard screenplay formatting techniques. By the end of the semester, each student will produce a pitch and treatment for a feature-length screenplay, as well as several complete scenes.

MS HEALTH, SELF-AWARENESS & SCIENCE ELECTIVES

MS HEALTH (1 credit)

MS Health will educate 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 different 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 students how to develop practices of Mindfulness and how to apply them to their everyday life. Students will be given tools to help them fend off negative thoughts and behaviors, build self-confidence, focus, and treat others and themselves with respect and appreciation. In this course, students will engage in identity mapping, exploring goals, creating healthy social and emotional habits along with designing a personal toolbox of stress and pressure safeguards.

As part of the course, students will participate in a passion project that will hopefully cultivate their joy for learning and interest them to follow their true passion and new adventures. Progressing through their years at AESA, students will take their passion project to build upon and mold such that they will become students who will curate a strong driven character, 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 YOGA: INTRODUCTION & PRACTICE (.5 CREDIT PER SEMESTER)

Course Objective: In this course students will move their body slowly and deliberately into different poses that challenge their strength and flexibility, while at the same time focusing on relaxation and mindfulness.

This course will aid in balance, flexibility, breath, core strength and meditation. Each class will conclude with a short time of meditation and mindful reentry into the day, to calm and center the body and mind.

MS INTRO TO ZOOLOGY (.5 credit)

Zoology is the study of animal life with particular emphasis on the nine major phyla of the Animal Kingdom. This course will focus on the anatomy, physiology, genetics, and the distributions and habitats of both vertebrates and invertebrates. 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)

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. This course aims to establish compassion and understanding of how important our planet's oceans are.

MS PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

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

In my experience as a coach, I have observed that the determining factors in regards to overall improvement were more due to their level of enjoyment than their talent. Therefore, tapping into the innate joy and stress relief of aerobic exercise will be integral to our learning curriculum. This emphasis on having fun will be key in cultivating and sustaining their interest in physical activity beyond their time at school. Grading will be formally assessed based on a student's participation and behavioral efforts. I am confident that this class will continue to be more special than it already has been.

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.

Students may take up to 3 years of P.E.

TRACK & FITNESS (.5 credit per semester)

Join your fellow students as this course covers a variety of track events supported by fitness training. Learn the physiology behind running and fitness training. Students will engage in local track events.

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

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.

BUILDING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS; TABLETOP GAMING (.5 credit per semester)

Course Objective: To give students a fun opportunity to build upon critical thinking, AMP, and analytical skills through tabletop gaming. Students will play a variety of card games and board games, including learning to play the popular Pokémon Trading Card Game and Chess! Tabletop games have been scientifically proven to help communication skills, increase brain function, set goals, have patience, learn new abstract concepts, reduce stress, and practice social skills and higher functioning analytical thinking. Spend time learning new board games, or improving your skills in classic games while having a great time socializing with your classmates and a great way to learn positive social skills.

FASHION DESIGN: SEWING & NEEDLE ARTS (.5 credit per semester)

Course Objective: To learn basic hand sewing and machine sewing technique for practical purposes, fashion design, creativity, and needle arts.

Skills learned will include fashion design elements, needle arts of cross-stitch and embroidery, simple basic sewing skills, such as sewing buttons and hemming. Students will make pillows and learn to follow simple patterns. At the conclusion of the year students will understand the composition of various fabrics and their designated purpose, basic sewing skills and the ability to read and follow a simple pattern.

COMMUNITY SERVICE (.5 credit per semester)

Course Objective: To develop a sense of citizenship engagement, responsibility, and philanthropy.

This course will include varying community service projects in class with opportunities to learn. Students at AESA are required to graduate with a minimum of 12 community service hours. Students will be guided by our Director of Community Service. Students will strive to achieve the **President's Volunteer Service Award**. The major project of this class will be creating a sustainable service project to benefit younger AESA scholars. Volunteer projects will be conducted in class with partnerships throughout the Dripping Springs and Austin area. Sample projects would include activities such as writing letters to Veterans, organizing diapers for the Austin Diaper Bank, organizing holiday care packages, and mentoring younger AESA scholars.

WORLD RELIGIONS (.5 credit per semester)

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.

The study of world religions can be 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

THEATRE (.5 credit per semester)

This is a workshop class with a performance component. Students will study a variety of plays from Shakespeare to contemporary works. Our focus is on exploring the meaning and impact of these texts through both reading and performance, and as such students will prepare and present scene studies from selected plays throughout the semester. Additionally, we will explore different philosophies of stage performance through instructional texts such as *Impro: Improvisation and the Theatre* by Keith Johnstone and *The Stanislavski System* by Sonia Moore. Each semester will culminate in a performance featuring the entire class.

DIVE INTO EAST ASIA (.5 credit per semester)

This course will introduce students to East Asian nations and cultures. We will explore the

history, language, food, and cultural heritages of different nations in East Asia. Students will also have opportunities to experience these cultures that exist and thrive in our own city, state, and the United States. Hopefully one day when and if students get to travel to East Asia, students will have a better and deeper understanding of its histories and cultural practices.

EXPLORING ANIME (.5 credit per semester)

In this course, students will explore the world and history of Anime. Students will engage with some classic and popular anime throughout history such as reading and watching Atom Boy (Astroboy), Sailor Moon, Dragon Ball Z, Pokemon, etc. Students will connect how Anime content relates to major events in history and how it may reflect everyday life. As Anime continues to have major and global influence on diverse demographics, students will learn how to appreciate the culture wherein Anime originates from while finding meaningful ways to express their appreciation.

POP CULTURE (.5 credit per semester)

This is a discussion-based class where students will explore what is currently trending in movies, music, books, gaming, travel, the news, etc. They will also look back at trends from previous decades of the last 100 years.

CULINARY CRAFTS (.5 credit per semester)

Gather around the kitchen and enjoy culinary team building experiences as you learn to cook different cuisines from around the world; including Central Texas cuisine. This cooking class will also focus on baking, grilling, and using produce from the AESA garden. Guest chefs throughout the course. Supply Fee: \$50.

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