

Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP)
Course Descriptions-Connections Academy

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KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL STUDIES

Students learn the concepts of community, nation, and world in this course. They answer essential questions including: "How do people get what they need?"; "How is culture shared?"; and "How does life change throughout history?" A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises teaches students about personal responsibility, good citizenship, and basic geography. While learning about America's past and important historical figures, students research their personal history and heroes.

KINDERGARTEN LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, students build a foundation for successful reading as they explore topics and apply reading, writing, speaking, and listening practices outlined in national and state standards. Learning activities consist of phonics, listening, comprehension, and vocabulary instruction with daily exposure to books, including literature and informational texts. A combination of interactive and hands-on exercises encourages the development of fine motor skills. Students learn language skills as well as letter formation, and they practice these with drawing, dictating, and writing. By the end of kindergarten, many students will be reading, and all students should be able to recognize consonant as well as long and short vowel sounds.

KINDERGARTEN MATH

Mathematical thinking and problem solving are introduced. Students explore topics and apply mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards and other state standards. The first few units focus on counting and sorting. Then, lessons introduce addition and subtraction. Throughout the course, students engage in hands on and online activities to master basic skills.

KINDERGARTEN SCIENCE

In this course, the student will explore the nature of science and how to solve problems, as well as investigate living and nonliving things. The student will learn how to study the surrounding world by observing, collaborating, and sharing with others. Using illustrations and labels, the student will identify the steps used to solve problems and use these steps to plan, design, and test a solution to a problem. Finally, the student will examine, describe, compare, and analyze the characteristics of living and nonliving things in order to complete portfolio assessments.

KINDERGARTEN ART

In this course, the student will explore color, line, and shape. A combination of interactive and hands-on studio projects encourages the student to create art, sharpen fine motor skills, and explore areas of interest in art. Artistic modes include drawing, painting, assembling, and sculpting.

KINDERGARTEN COMPUTER SCIENCE

In this course, students will explore the features of a draw and paint program as a tool to support emerging reading, writing, and mathematics skills. They will locate letters and numbers on the keyboard. A study skills unit will introduce them to listening and visualization skills that will support learning across the school day. Students will recognize safe and responsible use of technology resources so that they can become model digital citizens.

EXPERIENCING MUSIC I (KINDERGARTEN MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades K–2, this course explores differences between music and everyday sounds, and also how the body hears and responds to music. Aligning to the National Core Arts Standards, the course introduces skills that assist the student in making music individually and with another person. The student will identify instrument characteristics and sounds and begin to consider the way music of the student’s own culture might sound different to a person from another culture. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, this course provides a unique and advanced learning experience.

KINDERGARTEN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In this course, physical education encourages students to develop their fine motor skills, movement, and confidence to enjoy healthy physical activity regularly. A combination of interactive and hands-on activities teaches students essential skills. Students learn how to respect themselves and others while playing.

1ST GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies I, the student will focus on how people in communities work together for the benefit of all. In this course, the student will learn about the various ways individuals contribute to their communities. This course emphasizes good citizenship, economics, and geography skills. The course text is Pearson’s myWorld Social Studies: Making Our Way workbook. The student will build reading, listening, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills through the course activities. To learn more about communities, the student will explore maps, photographs, illustrations, music, and other resources. Multimedia resources, including videos and interactive websites, enhance and support the content.

1ST GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

Throughout this course, the student will master key foundational skills such as phonemic awareness, letter-sound correspondence, basic features of print, and decoding one and two-syllable, frequently-occurring words, both regularly and irregularly spelled. Through frequent practice, including Reading Writing Workshop, Literature Anthology, Leveled Readers, and Decodable Readers, the student will gain fluency in reading connected texts.

1ST GRADE MATH

In Math 1, the student will learn mathematical concepts related to addition and subtraction, measuring lengths, time, and representing and interpreting data. Concepts are developed using mathematical processes of problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections. Building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency supports the student’s development of mathematical thinking and reasoning in solving various problems of authentic contexts.

EXPERIENCING MUSIC II (1ST GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades K–2, this course introduces basic components of music: melody and rhythm. Aligning to the National Core Arts Standards, the course teaches the student to explore an individual voice by creating beats and rhythms. In addition, the student will use critical listening skills to analyze music while participating in interactive experiences. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, this course provides a unique and advanced learning experience.

1ST GRADE ART

In this course the student will develop and use skills in art, building on his knowledge about line, shape, and color. Your student will be introduced to other elements of art as well as to the principles of design. This course will enable your student to develop his creative side through the introduction of art media and the exploration of art themes. The activities in this course include practicing drawing, learning about color, creating designs using balance and patterns, and working with three dimensional forms.

1ST GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

In this course, students build on foundational skills while using software to draw, type, and format text, and create presentations to support academic skills. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

1ST GRADE SCIENCE

Through this course the student will discover the wonders of science through hands-on experiences, virtual labs, and interactive activities. The student will develop science inquiry skills such as planning and conducting investigations, organizing and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. Particular emphasis will be on making observations. Included in the course are the student's first experiences with the engineering design process. The student will have opportunities to brainstorm and design solutions for simple engineering problems. With the support of Pearson Realize videos, digital interactives, and readers, the student will develop content and conceptual knowledge across a number of scientific topics in earth science, physical science, and life science. Crosscutting concepts such as recognizing and understanding patterns will be integrated throughout the course.

1ST GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome to Physical Education 1! Each week, the student will learn a new game or activity. There will be games and activities that may be played inside, while others will be better suited for outdoor play. The games and activities in this course are grouped in thematic units. In each lesson, the student will find a brief description of that week's game. Each week a new game will be added, but the previous lessons' games will still be listed for the student to see. In addition to the activities described in the lessons, students will also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or team sport.

2ND GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies 2, the student continues to be introduced to basic concepts of citizenship, economics, and geography. In this course, the practice of geography, reading, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills accompanies structured instruction and activities. The student will learn about ordinary individuals who showed good citizenship. Through Learning Coach-led discussions, textbook readings, interactive activities, and hands-on projects, the student will continue to explore the world through the lens of social studies. The course text is Pearson's myWorld Social Studies: We Do Our Part workbook. The student will explore maps, photographs, illustrations, music, and other resources. Multimedia resources, including videos and interactive websites, enhance and support the content.

2ND GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, the student will develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills essential for future success. The student will become an accomplished reader by engaging in daily phonics and spelling practice. The student will also expand their vocabulary as they learn to use an array of strategies and skills including main idea, problem and solution, and author's purpose to comprehend complex texts. The texts the student will examine include a variety of fiction and nonfiction stories presented in McGraw Hill's Wonders. The stories are organized into relevant themes such as friends and family, live and learn, and our life, our world. As the student explores each theme, they will discover connections to familiar subjects, including science and social studies. They will also enjoy daily independent reading routines.

EXPERIENCING MUSIC III (2ND GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades K–2, this course deepens the student's understanding of the roles musicians play in today's society. Aligning to the National Core Arts Standards, this course uses dynamic media to help the student discover a musical identity while expanding knowledge of the foundations of music. The student will apply foundational knowledge to different musical styles and literature. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, this course provides a unique and advanced learning experience.

2ND GRADE MATH

In Math 2, the student will learn mathematical concepts related to addition and subtraction, even and odd numbers, time, and money. Concepts are developed using mathematical processes of problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections. Building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency supports the student's development of mathematical thinking and reasoning in solving various problems of authentic contexts.

2ND GRADE ART

In this course, your student will continue to develop and use skills in art, building on his knowledge about line, shape, and color. Your student will be introduced to other art elements as well as to the principles of design. This course will enable your student to develop his creative side through the introduction of art media and through the exploration of art themes. The activities in this course include drawing, learning about color, creating designs using balance and patterns, and working with three-dimensional forms.

2ND GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, and solve problems. Students use software to draw, write, organize, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

2ND GRADE SCIENCE

Through this course the student will explore science topics across disciplines through hands-on experiences, virtual labs, and interactive activities. The student will develop science inquiry skills such as planning and conducting investigations, organizing and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. Particular emphasis will be on creating and following simple procedures for investigations. Included in the course are experiences with the engineering design process. The student will have opportunities to brainstorm and design solutions for engineering problems. With the support of Pearson Realize videos, digital interactives, and readers, the student will develop content and conceptual knowledge across a number of scientific topics in earth science, physical science, and life science. Crosscutting concepts such as understanding cause and effect will be integrated throughout the course.

2ND GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome to Physical Education 2! Each week, the student will learn a new game or activity. There will be games and activities that may be played inside, while others will be better suited for outdoor play. The games and activities in this course are grouped in thematic units. In each lesson, the student will find a brief description of that week's game. Each week a new game will be added, but the previous lessons' games will still be listed for the student to see. In addition to the activities described in the lessons, students will also have the option of participating in yoga or an individual or team sport.

3RD GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, the student will use critical thinking and reading comprehension skills to analyze fiction and nonfiction stories presented in McGraw-Hill's Wonders. Using a multi-draft reading approach, the student will discuss, analyze, and critique stories in order to make connections between readings, other titles and the world. Stories from the Reading/Writing Workshop and Literature Anthology will ask the student to ponder and make connections to the following essential questions, "How can learning help us grow?"; "What does it take to solve a problem?"; and "What are individual qualities important?". The student will use textual evidence from one or more sources to support his ideas.

3RD GRADE MATH

In Math 3, the student will learn mathematical concepts related to multiplication and division, patterns, rounding, and mental math. Concepts are developed using mathematical processes of problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections. Building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency supports the student's development of mathematical thinking and reasoning in solving various problems of authentic contexts.

3RD GRADE SCIENCE

In this course, the student will explore forces and motion, magnets, and several topics related to life science. These topics include plant and animal life cycles, heredity, and animal groups. The student will have many opportunities to test hypotheses, experiment, and make real world connections.

DISCOVERING MUSIC I (3RD GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades 3–5, this course teaches fundamental musicianship skills from a Western-Classical approach, while aligning to the National Core Arts Standards. The course challenges the student to improve listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, this course provides a unique and advanced learning experience.

3RD GRADE ART

This course focuses on arts and crafts inspired by the four seasons. The student will examine and create artwork based on seasonal characteristics or common cultural trends. The student will be exposed to art history, art criticism, and art production activities with a multicultural focus. Creative freedom is experienced as the student uses his imagination and several types of media and processes. These processes include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, bookmaking, and techniques for creating crafts and fiber arts.

3RD GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about Internet safety and appropriate online behavior.

3RD GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In this course, the student will explore maps and geography, the characteristics of a community, and early American communities and settlers. The student will also examine the government of the United States with a focus on each branch.

3RD GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our third grade students are expected to understand and demonstrate clearly-defined combinations of movements. Each week the student will learn one or more new activities. In addition, the student will learn the importance of nutrition as it relates to health and physical fitness. The student will learn life skills throughout the curriculum. In each lesson, the student will find a brief description of that week's activity. Each week a new activity will be added, but the previous activities can always be reviewed.

4TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In this course, the student will explore several historical and geographical themes focused on the United States. The student will build upon their understanding of the first inhabitants and explorers of the United States, as well as its beginnings as a new nation.

4TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, the student will use his critical thinking and reading comprehension skills to analyze fiction and nonfiction stories presented in McGraw-Hill's Wonders. Using a multi-draft reading approach, the student will discuss, analyze, and critique stories in order to make connections between readings, other titles and the world. Stories from the Reading/Writing Workshop and Literature Anthology will ask the student to ponder and make connections to the following essential questions, "How can a challenge bring out our best?"; "What can animals teach us?"; and "How can you show your community spirit?". The student will use textual evidence from one or more sources to support his ideas.

4TH GRADE MATH

In Math 4, the student will learn mathematical concepts related to place value, adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers, strategies for multiplication and division, factors, multiples, algebra, and patterns. Concepts are developed using mathematical processes of problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections. Building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency supports the student's development of mathematical thinking and reasoning in solving various problems of authentic contexts.

DISCOVERING MUSIC II (4TH GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades 3–5, this course builds on fundamental musicianship skills introduced in Discovering Music I. Aligning to the National Core Arts Standards, the course teaches the student to explore new concepts in rhythm and notation, as well as improve listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. The student will use a basic understanding of the orchestra to explore instrumentation and orchestration in more depth, and analyze compositional style from a range of periods. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, this course provides a unique and advanced learning experience. Discovering Music I is a prerequisite for this course.

4TH GRADE ART

This course focuses on arts and crafts inspired by the four seasons. The student will examine and create artwork based on seasonal characteristics or common cultural trends. The student will be exposed to art history, art criticism, and art production activities with a multicultural focus. Creative freedom is experienced as the student uses his imagination and several types of media and processes. These processes include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, bookmaking, and techniques for creating crafts and fiber arts.

4TH GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible users of technology as they learn about internet safety, appropriate online behavior, and effective search and website evaluation strategies.

4TH GRADE SCIENCE

In this course, the student will explore multiple concepts related to energy and the structures of plants and animals. Topics include the transfer and forms of energy such as mechanical energy, speed, sound, light, heat, and electric currents. In addition, the student will study the internal structures of plants and animals. These comprise systems of reproduction and adaptation. Throughout the course, the student will have many opportunities to plan, test hypotheses, experiment, organize and analyze data, and make real world connections.

4TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At the fourth grade level, student's hand-eye coordination has improved, allowing for advanced instruction in individual and partner activities. Fourth grade students are able to understand rules and the importance of following them. The development of a healthy lifestyle requires that the student acquire knowledge to make positive decisions about exercise, and nutrition. The student's participation and progress will be monitored through the Physical Activity Log and periodic performance tests.

5TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In this course, the student will trace United States history from the early exploration to the twenty-first century. Topics include the Civil War, the Depression, and the World Wars I and II. The student will also explore America as a World Leader.

5TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, the student will use his critical thinking and reading comprehension skills to analyze fiction and nonfiction stories presented in McGraw-Hill's Wonders. Using a multi-draft reading approach, the student will discuss, analyze, and critique stories in order to make connections between readings, other titles and the world. Stories from the Reading/Writing Workshop and Literature Anthology will ask the student to ponder and make connections to the following essential questions, "Where can an idea begin?"; "What does it take to put a plan into action?"; and "What kinds of experiences can lead to new discoveries?". The student will use textual evidence from one or more sources to support his ideas.

5TH GRADE MATH

In Math 5, the student will learn mathematical concepts related to place value, adding and subtracting decimals, using models to multiply and divide, the coordinate plane, algebra, patterns, and relationships. Concepts are developed using mathematical processes of problem-solving, reasoning, communicating, representing, and making connections. Building both conceptual knowledge and procedural fluency supports the student's development of mathematical thinking and reasoning in solving various problems of authentic contexts.

DISCOVERING MUSIC III (5TH GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades 3–5, this course enhances the student's knowledge of musical cultures as he or she discovers a musical identity. Aligning to the National Core Arts Standards, this course provides the student with engaging opportunities to combine musical knowledge with an exploration of different art forms to create new personal works. The student will apply foundational knowledge of music to a variety of musical styles and cultures. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, this course provides a unique and advanced learning experience. Discovering Music I and Discovering Music II are prerequisites for this course.

5TH GRADE ART

In this course, the student will be introduced to works of art through time. Throughout history the growth and development of civilizations around the world have been recorded and defined through the works of artists. The student will become familiar with the art elements, the principles of design, and how these elements and principles were applied to create visual art in different time periods and cultures.

5TH GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

In this course, students use appropriate technology tools and resources to complete projects, manage information, and solve problems. Students use software to write, organize, analyze, and present information and data. Students learn listening and organizational skills and set attainable learning goals. Students become responsible communicators and users of technology as they learn about intellectual property, Internet safety, and effective search and evaluation strategies.

5TH GRADE SCIENCE

This course is designed to give the student a strong basis for understanding the world. The course consists of a varied curriculum that provides the student the opportunity to explore, compare, research, reflect, and make real-world connections. The curriculum engages students in problem-solving and scientific investigation and provides opportunities for both hands-on exploration and virtual simulation. During this course, the student will learn about the solar system; the Earth, Sun, and stars; gravity; the properties of matter; and more.

5TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At the fifth grade level students understand the concept of fair play and begin to recognize the varying fitness levels within the appropriate age standards. Playing by the rules and respecting self and others are emphasized as

students participate in cooperative physical education activities. Students see how levels of physical activity and food intake are related to a healthy productive life-style.

ELEMENTARY SIGN LANGUAGE

In this course, the student will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of American Sign Language. The student will explore vocabulary, numbers, grammar, and conversational skills using basic signing and fingerspelling techniques.

ELEMENTARY SPANISH I

Elementary Spanish I is an introductory-level course that will introduce the student to Spanish. The units are designed to introduce the student to Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as family and friends, my home, and food. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world.

ELEMENTARY SPANISH II

Elementary Spanish II enables the student to further develop the communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing of Spanish at a more advanced level. The units are designed to develop the student's knowledge of Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as my school, my clothes, and my community. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world.

GEOGRAPHY (6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES)

This course presents an overview of the study of geography and its associated disciplines, including civics, cultural studies, economics, and history. How do geographers acquire knowledge, and what tools do they use? What do people learn from geography? In this course, you will discover how maps, artifacts, sources, and other data come together to show you who you are, how you live, and where you live.

6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, students will sharpen and strengthen their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The student is exposed to a wide variety of writing styles to create a sense of curiosity and excitement. During this course, the student will learn to make connections between readings, podcasts, radio clips, videos, and the world. The student will also expand an academic vocabulary and build confidence through independent reading, peer model videos, and practice opportunities. The student will write expository and creative compositions and employ test-taking strategies that are effective for different types of learners.

6TH GRADE MATH

"In this course, the student will use the four operations with decimals, fractions, and integers. The student will study patterns and variables as a precursor to solving equations and inequalities. The study of number theory will help the student understand divisibility, prime numbers, factors, and multiples. The student will learn about ratios, proportions, and percents and apply them in scale drawings. Throughout the course, the student will engage in many problem-solving strategies, make real-world connections, and participate in mathematical discussions with peers."

EXPLORING MUSIC I (6TH GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades 6–8, this course teaches fundamental musicianship skills approached from a Western-Classical style, while aligning to National Core Arts Standards. The course challenges the student to improve listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for the student.

6TH GRADE ART

In Art 6, students explore the wide range and variety of visual arts. They learn the basic elements of art and principles of design and apply them in their own creative ways. The course culminates in a study of factors involved in evaluating and critiquing art.

6TH GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students progress to more sophisticated work in this course, including the use of electronic media and software to apply academic concepts in the creation of meaningful organizers, projects and presentations. Students locate, retrieve and evaluate data in order to construct and analyze databases. Students produce presentations on Internet safety, online predators, and cyberbullying. At the end of the course, students become effective communicators and collaborators as they plan, evaluate and synthesize research emphasizing current issues with technology.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Science 6 explores natural objects and phenomenon on our planet, in our Solar System, and beyond. This course uses multiple media sources to foster scientific inquiry and spark curiosity. The student will use models to explore the relationship between the Sun, Moon, and Earth and formulate explanations of lunar phases, eclipses, and seasons. Scientific views and evidence of how the earth and other objects in the universe were formed are presented as the student learns about galaxies, asteroids, and stars. The student will analyze and interpret data from rock layers and fossils giving clues to Earth's age. They will also discover how Earth has changed over time as the student makes connections between earth's energy systems and plate tectonics.

6TH GRADE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Health and Physical Education course will provide the student with the foundation for concepts and skills necessary for lifelong health and physical fitness. In the health portion of the course, the student will be

introduced to and assessed on various topics ranging from body systems to proper nutrition and fitness, as well as understanding what it means to be healthy. The student will also be introduced to skills that can be applied toward healthy behaviors. The physical education portion of the course will offer great freedom as the student will be able to choose a physical education regimen that will fit the student's individual needs. The student will be given a choice of three paths that place emphasis on lifelong activities as well as current fitness trends. Physical education lessons are geared toward a "physically fit" lifestyle that will aid the student in the years to come and ensure a higher quality of life.

WORLD HISTORY (7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES)

In this course, the student will learn about World History from the origins of civilization to feudal Europe. Students will gain understanding of many civilizations as they grew, such as: Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, etc. You will also learn how to take efficient and effective lesson notes in order to be successful in the course, as well as how to format research papers and cite sources.

7TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, the student will focus on reading, writing, and analyzing informational and narrative texts, as well as developing their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge. The student is exposed to a wide variety of writing styles to create a sense of curiosity and excitement.

7TH GRADE MATH

In this course, the student will use the four operations with decimals, fractions, and integers to solve equations and inequalities. The student will simplify expressions with exponents and rational numbers. In the study of number theory, the student will further strengthen his or her skills as he solves problems involving factors and multiples by using divisibility tests and prime factorization. The student will apply ratios, rates, proportions, and scale drawings to solve various problems and then solve percent problems, including percent of change and commission.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

Science 7 uses multiple media sources to foster scientific inquiry and spark curiosity as the student explores topics such as cells, body systems, reproductive strategies, and genetics. The student will investigate cell structure in plants and animals and discover how organisms use cells to perform complex life functions. They will also identify and describe the functions of several body systems including the respiratory, circulatory, digestive, and excretory systems. Additionally, the student will evaluate reproductive strategies and genetics to discover the important roles they play in the survival of organisms.

7TH GRADE ART

In Art 7, students explore the wide range and variety of visual arts. They learn the basic elements of art and principles of design and apply them in their own creative ways. The course culminates in a study of factors involved in evaluating and critiquing art.

7TH GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students progress to more sophisticated work in this course, including the use of electronic media and software to apply academic concepts in the creation of meaningful organizers, projects, and presentations. Students locate, retrieve, and evaluate data to construct and analyze databases. Students produce presentations on Internet safety, online predators, and cyber bullying. At the end of the course, students become effective communicators and collaborators as they plan, evaluate, and synthesize research emphasizing current issues with technology.

EXPLORING MUSIC II (7TH GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades 6–8, this course reviews and expands fundamental musicianship skills approached from a Western-Classical style, while aligning to the National Core Arts Standards. The student will review and expand basic skills and concepts of rhythm and notation that were introduced in Exploring Music I. The student will use classic repertoire to analyze compositional style and improve listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience. Exploring Music I is a prerequisite for this course.

7TH GRADE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Health and Physical Education course will guide the student through material that will promote healthy, active lifestyles. Health topics include issues that are relevant to the age group, such as mental and emotional health, conflict resolution, and bullying. The student will also be immersed in the prevention and avoidance of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. The student will receive the necessary strategies to help avoid the pitfalls of unhealthy and risky behaviors. The physical education portion of the course will offer great freedom as the student will be able to choose a physical education regimen that will fit the student's individual needs. The student will be given a choice of three paths that place emphasis on lifelong activities as well as current fitness trends. Physical education lessons are geared toward a "physically fit" lifestyle that will aid the student in the years to come and ensure a higher quality of life.

AMERICAN HISTORY (8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES)

This course offers a broad survey of United States history from the pre-colonial period to the years before the Civil War. The course examines U.S. political, economic, and social history from a chronological point of view. Throughout the course, the student will make connections between historical events and their impact on the American people and landscape. The student will enhance social studies skills by completing activities that teach understanding primary sources, reading time lines and graphs, comparing and contrasting, recognizing bias, and more. Lessons are designed to develop the student's abilities to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information. The student will also practice geography skills by exploring the evolution of America's geography and its historical impact. Pearson's American History provides the basis for instruction.

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

In this course, the student studies and analyzes explanatory, informational, and argumentative texts. Throughout the course curiosity and critical thinking are encouraged as the student practices reading comprehension through analogy and allusion. The student will learn to make connections between reading and the world around them as they read interesting texts. Their academic vocabulary will be expanded as they explore word choice and meaning to refine communication skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This course presents strategies to strengthen writing skills through grammar, punctuation, and sentence and paragraph structure. The student will refine, reinforce and apply these skills through their own explanatory and persuasive compositions.

8TH GRADE MATH

In this course, the student will be introduced to basic algebraic principles. The student will review properties of expressions and integers. The student will solve one-step equations and inequalities with positive and negative integers, decimals, fractions, and exponents. Then the student will explore problems involving operations of fractions and will apply his knowledge of algebra to solve real-world ratio, proportion, and percent problems. Finally, the student will examine and evaluate two-step and multi-step equations and inequalities.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

Science 8 uses multiple media sources to foster scientific inquiry and spark curiosity as the student explores topics in the physical sciences. Throughout this course, the student will discover ways that scientists use data, models, and technology to gather and apply information. The student will learn about atomic composition and the properties of matter. They will also distinguish between chemical and physical changes in matter and investigate how thermal energy transfer affects particle motion in matter. This course examines the relationship between potential and kinetic energy as the student explores how mass and speed affect energy transfer. Additionally, the student will discover how different types of waves transmit light, sound, and other forms of energy both in the presence and absence of matter.

8TH GRADE ART

In Art 8, students consider the preservation and protection of art. They then explore how international, national, and local art influences ideas, actions, cultures, and environments. Using this information, students build their own ideas of the role art plays in their lives.

8TH GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students progress to more sophisticated work in this course, including the use of electronic media and software to apply academic concepts in the creation of meaningful organizers, projects, and presentations. Students locate, retrieve, and evaluate data in order to construct and analyze databases. Students produce presentations on Internet safety, online predators, and cyberbullying. At the end of the course, students become effective

communicators and collaborators as they plan, evaluate, and synthesize research emphasizing current issues with technology.

EXPLORING MUSIC III (8TH GRADE MUSIC)

Designed for students in grades 6–8, this course enhances the student's knowledge of musical cultures as he or she discovers a musical identity. Aligning to the National Core Arts Standards, this course provides the student with engaging opportunities to combine musical knowledge with an exploration of different art forms to create new personal works. The student will apply foundational knowledge of music to a variety of musical styles and cultures. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, this course provides a unique and advanced learning experience. Exploring Music I and Exploring Music II are prerequisites for this course.

8TH GRADE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Health and Physical Education course will introduce the student to vital health concepts and reinforce health skills that promote healthy behaviors. The student will learn the functions and structures of various body systems as well as the care and prevention of disease to these systems. The student will learn about communicable diseases and how to prevent the spread of such diseases. The student will also be able to demonstrate the importance of proper nutrition by planning and analyzing meals and nutritional values. Proper actions in emergencies and safety procedures will also be included. The physical education portion of the course will offer great freedom as the student will be able to choose a physical education regimen that will fit the student's individual needs. The student will be given a choice of three paths that place emphasis on lifelong activities as well as current fitness trends. Physical education lessons are geared toward a "physically fit" lifestyle that will aid the student in the years to come and ensure a higher quality of life.

MIDDLE CHINESE I

Chinese I is an introductory-level course that will introduce the student to Mandarin Chinese. The units are designed to introduce the student to Chinese language and culture through familiar topics such as my family, my week, and food. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Mandarin-speaking world.

MIDDLE CHINESE II

Middle Chinese II enables the student to further develop his communication skills as studies Mandarin Chinese at a more advanced level. The student will continue to learn about Chinese culture as the student studies about historic places in China and other Mandarin-speaking countries and learns of the holidays and special traditions celebrated there. The student will practice his acquisition of Mandarin Chinese skills by continuing to converse with a native Mandarin speaker.

MIDDLE SIGN LANGUAGE

In this course, the student will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of American Sign Language. The student will explore vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills using basic signing and fingerspelling techniques, and will begin to learn about Deaf culture and the Deaf community. A webcam and recording device are required for this course.

MIDDLE SPANISH I

Middle Spanish I is an introductory-level course that will introduce the student to Spanish. The units are designed to introduce the student to Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as my family, my week, and food. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world.

MIDDLE SPANISH II

Middle Spanish II enables the student to further develop the communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing of Spanish at a more advanced level. The units are designed to develop the student's knowledge of Spanish language and culture through familiar topics such as my school, my family, and my neighborhood. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student make connections between his culture and the culture of people in the Spanish-speaking world.

3-D COMPUTER MODELING

3-D Computer Modeling is a great place to start as it is the foundation for all these career paths. The student will gain a deeper understanding of graphic design and illustration as he uses 3-D animation software to create virtual three-dimensional design projects. Hone in on drawing, photography, and 3-D construction techniques and develop the skills needed to navigate within a 3-D digital modeling workspace. This course is an excellent introduction to careers in the fast-growing field of technology and design.

ALGEBRA I

In this course, the student will gain a foundational understanding of the real number system, expressions, equations, and inequalities. The student will be taught to solve simple and multi-step equations and inequalities and represent those solutions graphically. In addition, students will explore linear or nonlinear functions and represent those functions on the coordinate plane. Finally, the student will solve systems of equations and inequalities and represent those solutions graphically.

ALGEBRA II

The student will review and expand on her learning from previous algebra courses. The beginning units will focus mostly on the equation and the inequality. The student will write, solve, and graph these in a variety of real-world scenarios. The last few units will focus on types of functions. The student will continue her study of quadratic functions from previous algebra courses, but will expand this to include exponential and logarithmic functions. As before, the student will write, solve, and graph these functions. Use of a graphing calculator is encouraged.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

In this course, the student will explore the foundations of American government and its fundamental principles and organization. The student will examine government concepts such as the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances. The branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial—are studied in depth. This course promotes understanding and participation in government by presenting information in a context that is relevant to the student. Activities in this course are designed to develop the student's abilities to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information, as well as to communicate ideas to others.

AP ART HISTORY

This course is designed to provide college-level instruction in art history and prepares the student for the AP exam. The student will examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and present and from a variety of cultures. The student will learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what he sees or experiences.

AP BIOLOGY

AP Biology is taught at the same level as a first-year college biology class. In this course, the student will develop a framework for biology and gain a deeper understanding of science as a process. Some of the major themes throughout this course include organic molecules and free energy changes, prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, cellular energetics, heredity, and molecular genetics.

AP CALCULUS AB

In this course, the student will complete the first semester of coursework similar to a first-year college-level calculus course. This course covers the framework, mathematical practices, and learning objectives for an AP[®] Calculus AB course as recommended by the College Board. This course provides experience with the methods and applications of calculus and effectively prepares the student to take the AP Calculus AB exam in the spring. The overarching topics in this course are limits, continuity, derivatives, methods of finding derivatives, and applications of derivatives. The student will interact with lesson content, multimedia presentations, an online textbook, and a graphing utility to meet learning goals throughout the course. Featured learning strategies in this course include direct instruction, regular checks and practices, discussions, portfolios, and a practice assessment for the AP Calculus AB exam.

AP CALCULUS BC

AP Calculus BC is an extension of Calculus AB. Comparable to college and university calculus, this course will help prepare students for the Calculus BC Advanced Placement exam. The course emphasizes broad concepts and applicable methods. The student will describe and analyze functions, limits, and graphs, calculate and apply

derivatives, and interpret and apply integrals. The course provides opportunities for the student to apply concepts to real-world situations.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

The AP[®] Computer Science A course is equivalent to the first semester of a college level computer science course. The course involves developing the skills to write programs or part of programs to correctly solve specific problems. AP Computer Science A also emphasizes the design issues that make programs understandable, adaptable, and when appropriate, reusable. At the same time, the development of useful computer programs and classes is used as a context for introducing other important concepts in computer science, including the development and analysis of algorithms, the development and use of fundamental data structures, and the study of standard algorithms and typical applications. In addition, an understanding of the basic hardware and software components of computer systems and the responsible use of these systems are integral parts of the course.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

The AP[®] English Language and Composition course provides high school students with college-level instruction in reading and writing. The student will respond critically and analytically to diverse texts, including expository and argumentative prose, letters and speeches, multimedia texts, and narratives. The student will learn critical thinking strategies, evaluate rhetoric, compose a rhetorical analysis, and analyze the relationship between rhetoric and style in various media. Reading and writing tasks also make the student aware of the interactions among a text's formal qualities, a writer's purposes, and an audience's expectations, as well as the ways that writing conventions and language usage contribute to effectiveness in writing. This course effectively prepares the student for success on the AP English Language and Composition exam.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

The AP[®] English Literature and Composition course provides high school students with college-level instruction in reading, interpreting, and analyzing a range of imaginative texts. The student will become a skilled reader of literature written in various periods, disciplines, and styles. The student will learn about elements of poetry and the novel such as language, style, and tone, as well as become immersed in a study of drama involving William Shakespeare's *King Lear*. In addition, the student will deepen understanding of language, structure, and style by composing a variety of written texts—both formal and informal—that use literary tools and structures to analyze, argue, and inform. This course effectively prepares the student for the AP English Literature and Composition exam by enabling reading, writing, and comprehension of complex texts, while developing further communication skills on a college level.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

The goal of AP Environmental Science is to provide the student with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world and to identify and analyze environmental problems that are natural and made my humans. The student will evaluate the relative risks

associated with these problems and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing problems. Laboratory experiments support student content mastery in both hands-on and virtual experiences.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

The AP[®] Human Geography course provides high school students with college-level instruction in using a spatial perspective to study how humans understand and use Earth's surface. The student will become skilled in interpreting maps and geospatial data in order to draw conclusions about what is revealed and hidden. The student will hone analysis skills by learning to recognize, interpret, and assess patterns related to population, migration, folk and popular culture, language and religion, and politics. This course effectively prepares the student for the AP Human Geography exam by providing practice in the skills necessary to apply geographic concepts, interpret data, and synthesize information in both multiple-choice and constructed-response formats.

AP MACROECONOMICS

AP Macroeconomics presents the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Students will distinguish between absolute and comparative advantage, explore the way the tools of supply and demand are used to analyze how a free-market economy works, and study the concept of a business cycle. In addition, students will study and analyze economic fluctuations, the dynamics of unemployment, and inflation.

AP MICROECONOMICS

Microeconomics emphasizes how individuals make choices with limited resources. The student will examine concepts such as supply and demand, factors of production, roles of labor and management, the relationship between the environment and the economy, and the impact of the government on individual decision making processes. The student studies the stock market as an investment option and trace various stocks through the semester using the Wall Street Journal and the Internet as resources.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE

The main objective of the AP Spanish Language course is to develop the student's interpersonal communication skills in Spanish and to prepare the student for the AP Language examination. In this course, the student will develop a strong command of the Spanish language with proficiency in integrating language skills and synthesizing written and aural materials, the formal writing process, extensive interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing practice, and aural comprehension skills through quality, authentic, and level-appropriate audio and video recordings. This objective is achieved through highly engaging course content and interactive simulations, which gives the student ample opportunities throughout the course to integrate reading, writing, and speaking. The student will be exposed to literature, historical, and current events of Spanish-speaking countries through authentic newspapers and magazines, music, movie, radio and television productions, literary texts, and virtual visits online.

AP STATISTICS

"In this course, the student will become familiar with the vocabulary, method, and meaning in the statistics that exist in the world. This is an applied course in which the student will actively construct his own understanding of the methods, interpretation, communication, and application of statistics. All topics, including univariate and bivariate data, studies and experiments, probability, and distributions, are framed by enduring understandings and essential questions designed to allow the student a deep understanding of the concepts at hand rather than memorization and emulation. The student will also complete several performance tasks throughout the first semester of AP Statistics consisting of relevant, open-ended tasks requiring the student to connect multiple statistical topics together. The TI-83+/84 OR 89 calculator and computers will be used to explore the world of data and the patterns which can be found by analyzing this information as well as statistical relationships. General topics of study include exploring data, planning and design of a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference."

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

The AP® United States Government and Politics course provides high school students with college-level instruction in using disciplinary practices to examine key ideas, institutions, and behaviors in American government. The student will look critically at the fundamental beliefs and philosophies that shaped American government and how those ideas have been interpreted and applied throughout history. The student will develop a deep understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the American political system—both its formal and informal processes and procedures. In addition, the student will examine specific governmental institutions, policies, interactions, and behaviors within the political system. Through study of each of these areas, the student will hone reasoning skills by developing evidence-based arguments, interpreting various types of data, and analyzing key documents, including foundational documents and Supreme Court decisions. This course effectively prepares the student for the AP United States Government and Politics exam by providing practice in the skills necessary to draw reasoned conclusions in both multiple-choice and constructed-response formats.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

The AP® United States History course provides high school students with college-level instruction in using disciplinary practices and historical reasoning to examine the history of the United States from approximately 1491 to the present. The student will look critically at how the American identity has developed over the course of American history and how it has been informed by the changing nature of American culture and societal structures and norms. Students will recognize and interpret patterns of migration and settlement—both to and within the United States—and how those patterns impacted and were impacted by aspects of regional geography and environment. The student will also consider political and economic patterns and relationships in American history, both within the nation and with the global community at large. Through their study of each of these areas, the student will hone reasoning skills to contextualize patterns and events, identify causation and continuity, and analyze change over time. The course is presented both chronologically with content divided into nine time periods, as well as thematically to reinforce that key themes form connections between different regions and time periods in American history. This course effectively prepares students for the AP United States History exam by providing practice in the skills necessary to analyze primary and secondary sources, construct evidence-based arguments, and draw reasoned conclusions in both multiple-choice and constructed-response formats.

ART AND WORLD CULTURES

Who is the greatest artist of all time? Is it Leonardo daVinci? Claude Monet? Michelangelo? Pablo Picasso? Is the greatest artist of all time someone whose name has been lost to history? The student will learn about some of the greatest artists while also creating art, including digital art. The student will explore the basic principles and elements of art, learn how to critique art, and examine some of the traditional art of the Americas, Africa, and Oceania in addition to the development of Western art.

BIOLOGY

During this course, the student will study the science of life. The student will explore the idea that living things are extremely diverse in form, yet are unified by certain core characteristics that they all share. In learning about these core characteristics, the student will be able to critically evaluate data and information related to biological problems, connect many ideas to the student's own life, and see the world in a new way.

CALCULUS

Calculus A introduces limits, differentiation, and applications of differentiation. The student will find and evaluate finite and infinite limits graphically, numerically, and analytically. The student will find derivatives using a variety of methods including the chain rule and implicit differentiation. Then the student will use the first derivative test and the second derivative test to analyze and sketch functions. Finally, the student will find derivatives using a variety of methods including substitution. The use of a graphing calculator is considered an integral part of the course and the student will use a graphing calculator throughout this course.

CHEMISTRY

In this first of two courses that comprise Chemistry, the student will explore the fundamental concepts of chemistry, while engaging in hands-on and virtual lab experiments, and interdisciplinary problem-solving activities. The student will build on prior knowledge to learn how to model the structure of an atom, analyze the periodic table of elements, identify simple chemical reactions and investigate particulate electrical forces. The course provides many opportunities for the student to apply these concepts to real-world situations.

CHINESE I

This is a beginning level course that will introduce the student to a variety of areas of Mandarin Chinese. In this course, the student will learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities. Throughout the four units, or themes, of material (introduction to Chinese, greetings, calendar, weather, and time), the student will learn to express himself using an ever-increasing vocabulary. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the learner focus on the Chinese-speaking world, people, geographical locations, and histories.

CHINESE II

Chinese II enables the students to further develop the communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing of Mandarin Chinese at a more advanced level. Students are immersed in Chinese culture as virtual exchange students in China. Virtual excursions from one Chinese city to another expand their vocabulary helping them learn to interact with others and use appropriate terms to communicate in various everyday situations.

CHINESE III

In Chinese III, the student will continue to expand his abilities in various aspects of Chinese Mandarin learning. The student will continue to build his knowledge in vocabulary, sentence patterns, and grammar points in communicative contexts. He will also enhance his Chinese Mandarin listening and speaking skills such as pronunciations and intonations. The student will learn more in-depth Chinese reading and writing strategies and skills. His Chinese reading abilities and efficiency will be greatly improved and will be able to write in Chinese in various formats such as a journal, letter, invitation, and an essay. The student's knowledge and skills in writing simplified Chinese characters will also be enriched and fortified.

COLLEGE PREP WITH ACT

This course is intended to prepare the student to take the ACT test. As the student works through the course, he will focus on learning more about his strengths and weaknesses as well as learn test-taking strategies that are specific to the ACT test. That way, when the student takes the actual test, the scores will be a good representation of the student's abilities.

COMPUTER SCIENCE II: PROGRAMMING

Have you ever wanted to create your own web page or wondered how your favorite websites were built? Maybe you want to know more about how computers and technology are affecting the world around us. In Coding 1a: Introduction to Programming, you will explore the role technology plays in our lives as well as study the fundamentals of computer science, review hardware and software, and learn how the internet functions. You will also discover how to create and build your own website and learn basic and complex commands and sequences as you become familiar with programming languages like Python. This course also covers data collection methods, access rights, protocols, and security.

CONSUMER MATH

In this course, the student will learn that money is lost or gained depending upon the information a consumer has to help him make informed decisions. Retailers, banks, and credit card companies may not provide consumers with all the information they need to make good decisions. By the end of this course, the student will understand the history of money, define fixed costs and discretionary spending, understand the importance of savings, and recognize the dangers of debt. This course will ask the student to look hard at his financial choices including spending patterns, purchasing motivations, and how to make some difficult decisions.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I

Have you ever wondered how professional photographers manage to take such sensational pictures? How are they able to find just the right way to capture an image or moment in time? Perhaps you've even wondered why your own pictures don't meet that standard. Digital Photography I will answer these questions and help the student understand more about the basics of photography. Learning about aperture, shutter speed, lighting, and composition is key for any serious photographer and will help the student gain the confidence and knowledge he needs to become one. The student will not only follow photography through its history but also gain a basic understanding of camera functions, techniques, and what it takes to shoot quality portraits, close-ups, action shots, and landscapes.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY II

In today's world, photographs are all around us, including in advertisements, on websites, and hung on our walls as art. Many of the images that we see have been created by professional photographers. In this course, the student will examine various aspects of professional photography including the ethics of the profession. The student will also learn more about some of the most respected professional photographers in history and will learn how to critique photographs in order to better understand what creates an eye catching photograph.

EARTH SCIENCE

During this course, the student will learn about natural resources and explore issues surrounding human management of resources. Topics of study include water resources, energy resources, and rock, mineral, and land resources. The student will investigate the impact of resource consumption on humans and the environment. The student will also explore Earth's processes of rock and mineral formation and plate tectonics.

ENGLISH I

In this course, the student will take an in-depth look at a variety of literature selections. In reading and responding to these diverse selections, the student will gain a thorough understanding of fiction and nonfiction genres, including short stories, essays, poetry, and drama. The student will also read Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*. This selection enables the student to explore universal themes and make connections between the characters' experiences and his own. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* may be read instead of *The Call of the Wild*. Writing instruction focuses on analytical and expository writing but also provides opportunities for the student to write creatively.

ENGLISH II

In this course, the student will explore the timeless themes of world literature, including works from the Americas, Europe, and Africa. In reading these diverse selections, the student will gain a thorough understanding of fiction genres, including classics, contemporary fiction, poetry, and drama. The student will also read Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men* may be read instead of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In reading these American literature selections and creating a multimedia presentation, the student will understand longer works of literature in their historical and literary context. Writing instruction guides

the student through the process of composing expository and analytical essays. It also provides opportunities for the student to write creatively; the student will compose a short story and poem.

ENGLISH III

In this course, the student will focus on literary movements from American literature, and trace the chronology of national literature from the early American and colonial period through the periods of realism and regionalism. In reading these diverse selections, the student will gain a thorough understanding of fiction, including short stories, poetry and drama, as well as nonfiction genres, including the oral tradition, seminal historical documents, and speeches. The student will also read Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun*. Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's play *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* may be read instead of *A Raisin in the Sun*. In reading these American plays and composing a dramatic scene, the student will understand drama in its historical and literary context.

ENGLISH IV

In this course, the student continues to explore a variety of literature selections from British literature, including well-known works. The student will learn strategies for reading lyric poetry and study the characteristics of reflective essays. The student will analyze poetry, short stories, and essays from the Romantic Period, Victorian Age, and Modern Era and will determine how the historical context affected the thematic material and writing style from each era. Writing instruction focuses on literary analysis, including in-depth instruction in the process of writing a research paper. This project teaches the student to critically analyze primary and secondary sources and to effectively support his ideas with information gathered from outside sources.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course offers the student an opportunity to gain an understanding of the concepts fundamental to environmental science. These concepts are keys that will help unlock our abilities to safeguard resources, manage waste, reduce pollution, protect the food chain, adapt to changing fuel needs, and champion our planet on all levels – from the conscientious management of the smallest household to the protection of the largest biospheres.

FRENCH I

The goal of this course is to give the student basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through interesting and engaging activities. This course is organized into five topics including greetings, calendar, weather, time, and colors. The student will learn to talk about himself and other people, describe his surroundings, and use numbers for dates and times. The student will be introduced to regular verbs in the present tense and will practice simple grammatical structures in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the student understand the context of the language and the perspectives of the French-speaking world.

FRENCH II

This course builds on the skills the student learned in French I. In this course, the student will be introduced to a variety of areas of language learning. The student will learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a

variety of activities. This course is organized into five topics: daily routine, animals, hobbies, the body, and descriptions. Throughout this course, the student will learn to express himself using an ever increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Elements of the French-speaking world and culture appear throughout the course, including people, geographical locations, and histories.

GEOMETRY

Throughout the course, the student will use virtual manipulatives and tools to explore the principles of logic, proofs, and constructions. The student will use the midpoint and distance formulas to solve a variety of problems involving the coordinate plane. The student will also study parallel and perpendicular lines, including special angle pairs. The student will explore transformations in the coordinate plane and apply them to other geometrical concepts. This course will conclude with the use of triangle concepts to find angle measures, prove triangles congruent, and discover relationships within one and two triangles. Throughout the course, the student will learn concepts through a variety of instructional strategies, solve real-world applications, and complete an assortment of activities.

GERMAN I

In this course, the student will learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities. Throughout the five units, or themes, of material (greetings, the date, weather, time, and colors), the student will learn to express himself using an ever-increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the learner focus on the German-speaking world, people, geographical locations, and histories.

GERMAN II

In this course, the student will continue to learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities. Throughout the five units, or themes, of material (daily routine, animals, pastimes, the body, and descriptions), the student will learn to express himself using an ever-increasing vocabulary, past-tense verbs, demonstrative articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is presented throughout the course to help the learner focus on the German-speaking world, people, geographical locations, and histories.

HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH

This course provides the student with the opportunities to consider many influences on social, emotional, and physical health and well-being. The course covers information on healthy decisions, communication, goal setting and decision making, family dynamics, food and nutrition, substance abuse prevention, and prevention of STIs and HIV/AIDS. The student will also learn how to be a savvy consumer by being aware of consumer rights, techniques in advertising, and how to use checking and credit accounts responsibly.

HONORS ALGEBRA I

In this course, the student will be exposed to higher-level mathematics. The student will begin by reviewing basic real number operations and properties before learning how to translate between verbal descriptions of real-life situations and data presented in tables, graphs, and equations. Next the student will solve multi-step equations and inequalities. The student will write and graph linear equations in various forms. Other topics in the course include sequences and series, absolute value, rate of change, and set notation. By the end of the course, the student will solve linear systems of equations and inequalities. Throughout the course, the student will solve real-world problems and model real-world scenarios. Throughout the course, the student will be introduced to multiple problem-solving strategies and will be exposed to various technologies that can be utilized when solving algebra problems.

HONORS ALGEBRA II

This honors-level course will challenge the student to work at an accelerated pace and to take learning beyond what is required in the standard-level course. The beginning units will focus mostly on the equation and the inequality, which the student will write, solve, and graph in a variety of real-world scenarios. The last few units will focus on types of functions. The student will continue their study of quadratic functions from Algebra 1, but will expand this to include exponential and logarithmic functions. As before, the student will write, solve, and graph these functions. Use of a graphing calculator is encouraged.

HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

In this rigorous course, the student will explore the foundations of American government and its fundamental principles and organization. The student will examine government concepts such as the growth of democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances. The branches of government—legislative, executive, and judicial—are studied in depth. This course promotes understanding and participation in government by presenting information in a context that is relevant to the student. The challenging activities in this course are designed to develop the student's abilities to question, read, analyze, interpret, and evaluate different forms of information, as well as to communicate ideas to others.

HONORS BIOLOGY

During this course, the student will study the science of life. The student will explore the idea that living things are extremely diverse in form, yet are unified by certain core characteristics that they all share. In learning about these core characteristics, the student will be able to critically evaluate data and information related to biological problems, connect many ideas to the student's own life, and see the world in a new way. Throughout the course, the student will engage in activities to encourage critical thinking, including using multiple examples to generate broader generalizations, exploring an increased complexity of conceptual relationships, and studying content appropriate for college preparation studies.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

In this Honors Chemistry, the student will explore the fundamental concepts of chemistry, while engaging in hands-on and virtual lab experiments, and interdisciplinary problem-solving activities. The student will build on prior knowledge to learn how to model the structure of an atom, analyze the periodic table of elements, identify simple chemical reactions and investigate particulate electrical forces. The course provides many opportunities for the student to apply these concepts to real-world situations.

HONORS EARTH SCIENCE

During this course, the student will learn about natural resources and explore issues surrounding human management of resources. Topics of study include water resources, energy resources, and rock, mineral, and land resources. The student will investigate the impact of resource consumption on humans and the environment. The student will also explore Earth's processes of rock and mineral formation and plate tectonics. In the honors-level course, the student will have opportunities to delve further into some topics and engage with enhanced assessments.

HONORS ENGLISH I

In this course, the student will take an in-depth look at a variety of literature selections. In reading these diverse selections, the student will gain a thorough understanding of fiction and nonfiction genres, including short stories, essays, poetry, and drama. The student will also read Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*. This selection enables the student to explore universal themes and make connections between the characters' experiences and his own. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* may be read instead of *The Red Badge of Courage*. Writing instruction focuses on analytical and expository writing but also provides opportunities for the student to write creatively. The Honors course includes more rigorous curriculum and provides greater opportunities for students to explore concepts, engage in independent research, and demonstrate critical thinking skills.

HONORS ENGLISH II

In this course, the student will study the literature of the Americas, Europe, and Africa. In reading and responding to these selections, the student will gain an understanding of and appreciation for both the unique experiences of people from other cultures and the common themes that run through the human experience regardless of culture. Writing instruction focuses on analysis, exposition, and narrative writing with expanded opportunities for creative and fiction writing. An increased focus on higher-order thinking, literary analysis, and vocabulary studies differentiates this course from its standard-level equivalent.

HONORS ENGLISH III

In this course, the student will focus on literary movements from American literature, and trace the chronology of national literature from the early American and colonial period through the periods of realism and regionalism. In reading these diverse selections, the student will gain a thorough understanding of fiction, including short stories, poetry and drama, as well as nonfiction genres, including the oral tradition, seminal historical documents, and speeches. The student will also read Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun*. Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's play *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* may be read instead of *A Raisin in the Sun*. In reading these American

plays and composing a dramatic scene, the student will understand drama in its historical and literary context. Writing instruction guides the student through the process of composing a descriptive essay and modeling the style of an American author. Throughout the course, the student expands his vocabulary in context. The mastery of both critical vocabulary and grammar skills helps the student become a more thoughtful and effective reader and writer. The Honors course includes more rigorous curriculum and provides greater opportunities for the student to explore concepts, engage in independent research, and demonstrate critical thinking skills.

HONORS ENGLISH IV

In this course, the student will take an in-depth look at a variety of types of English Literature that span from the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Periods through the Restoration and the Enlightenment. In reading and responding to these selections, the student will gain an understanding of fiction and nonfiction genres including poetry, short stories, essays, and drama through examining their historical and cultural contexts, as well as specific literary elements. The student will also read Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, exploring elements of drama and common themes of the Renaissance. Writing instruction will focus on expository and creative writing, but also provides opportunities for the student to write personal responses to literature. Grammar instruction will focus on verbs and pronouns, as well as clauses and sentence structure.

HONORS GEOMETRY

In this course, the student will explore geometry concepts and apply them to real-world problems. The student will begin by defining basic geometric terms, postulates, and theorems before learning how to apply them to parallel and perpendicular lines. Next, the student will learn about the different types of transformations and apply them to geometry. Finally, the student will explore relationships in triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons. Throughout the course, the student will be introduced to many higher mathematical concepts and applications.

HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY

This course examines social, economic, historical, and political change in the United States from the Civil War and Reconstruction to recent events. Through interactive activities, discussions, charts, timelines, primary sources, and maps, students will explore key events, patterns, and figures that shaped American history and culture. Students will evaluate important foundational documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The course will also investigate the changing relationship of the United States to the rest of the world. In-depth study of the cause and effect of important events will help students better understand the historical context of key developments. Students will receive instruction in analyzing essential historical documents through portfolio items and lesson activities. Readings and activities will assist students in comparing time periods and in developing historical reasoning and critical thinking skills. Through this course, students will gain a broader understanding of the relevance of American history to their lives as well as develop a better understanding of the impact of key events on American culture and society.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

This rigorous course provides the student with a comprehensive examination of world history from ancient times through the Global Age. The student will begin by exploring prehistory and early civilizations, focusing on the ancient civilizations of the Americas, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. The student will then study Medieval Christian Europe from the early to the late Middle Ages, followed by regional civilizations with a focus on the Muslim world, Africa, and Asia. Finally, the student will explore early modern times with a focus on the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Global Age. Portfolios, comprehension questions, and unit tests are differentiated from the standard World History course to provide a higher level of rigor for Honors students.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

In this course, the student will explore business in global society, learning terminology, concepts, systems, strategies, and current issues. Topics include the business environment, ethics, entrepreneurship and global business, management, marketing, production, information systems, and financial elements.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION

The student will examine the communication process, including elements of listening and verbal and nonverbal communication. The course also explores how these communication elements operate between self, individuals, and groups. Communication concepts and skills are explored through a variety of methods and activities.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Students progress to more sophisticated work in this course, including the use of electronic media and software to apply academic concepts in the creation of meaningful organizers, projects, and presentations. Students locate, retrieve, and evaluate data in order to construct and analyze databases. Students produce presentations on Internet safety, online predators, and cyberbullying. At the end of the course, students become effective communicators and collaborators as they plan, evaluate, and synthesize research emphasizing current issues with technology.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING

Learning to draw is like learning any new skill: it takes practice, practice, practice. Introduction to Drawing is a one-semester course for beginning and intermediate artists that provides training in the application of artistic processes and skills. In this course, you will learn the basics of line, contour, shading, texture, perspective, composition, and action drawing. You will examine artwork and demonstrate your newly learned skills by creating several original works of art and compiling a portfolio of your artwork.

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

This course provides the historical, theoretical, and developmental foundations for educating young children, with emphasis on creating inclusive environments and curricula for diverse children and their families. Topics include historical influences, program types, guidance strategies, professionalism, current trends and issues, and advocacy.

INTRODUCTION TO GRAPHIC DESIGN

Can people communicate without using words? Do different colors invoke different emotions? Can artists use various textures to communicate a range of ideas? Absolutely! Designed to develop an understanding and appreciation for design, the Introduction to Graphic Design A course teaches the student to interpret visual representations and to communicate his or her own ideas and information graphically. By raising the student's awareness of design, this intermediate-level course establishes a strong foundation in the basic principles of graphic design. This course, the first in a two-semester series, introduces the student to scenarios that can be solved by applying creative techniques that yield innovative and effective design solutions. Though the course is structured around computer-assisted graphic design, the student will examine other types of design as well. The student will also learn to use Inkscape, an image-editing program that is provided, and will create several design compositions using this program.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

In this course, the student will gain an understanding of human behavior, including biological foundations and the brain, sensation, motivation, and perception. The relationship between learning and memory; various personality theories; emotions; states of consciousness; cognition; life-span development; and applied psychology will be explored.

INTRODUCTORY ASTRONOMY

In this course the student will explore a broad range of astronomy topics, including the planetary system, stars, galaxies, and the universe. The student will also apply the scientific method and examine the evolution of scientific ideas.

JAPANESE I

Japanese I is a beginning-level course that will introduce the student to a variety of areas of the Japanese language. In this course, the student will learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities. This course is organized into five topics: greetings, the date, time, colors, and places. The student will learn to express himself using an ever-increasing vocabulary, present-form verbs, particles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. The student will also learn about the Japanese people, their culture, society, and history.

JAPANESE II

This course builds on the skills the student learned in Japanese I. In this course, the student will learn listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities. This course is organized into five topics: daily life, animals, activities, the body, and descriptions. The student will learn to express himself using an ever-increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and

interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Throughout the course, the student will explore the Japanese people, their culture, lifestyle, geographical locations, and histories.

JAVA PROGRAMMING I

The student explores programming fundamentals, variables and assignments, conditional expressions, selection statements, loops, arrays, methods, string manipulation, program troubleshooting, and the basics of class design, object creation, and object interaction. The student will use Oracle's Java programming language throughout this course.

LATIN I

The student will be building a Roman Information Highway—the Via Latina. The student will be the builder, or aedificator. The building blocks for this Roman road will include the following: 1) laying the foundation of bedrock comprised of Latin grammatical structures; 2) cementing the layers of rock together with the mortar—new Latin vocabulary; 3) fitting the top layer of cobblestones together for a smooth translation into English of Latin stories and sentences; 4) connecting your new road to other paths through words and customs derived from Latin and the Romans; and finally, 5) stopping at the rest stops along the road to learn more about Roman culture and daily life.

LATIN II

The student will continue his journey to the time of the ancient Romans, but this time, the student will be a film student in the Roman movie, *An Epic of Great Proportion*. The student will be the director, and his script will include visits with some of the men who made Rome great. The student will learn about the Roman government and how Rome grew to rule most of the known world. This epic movie will also take the student back to the Trojan War where he will accompany the Greeks on a great adventure.

LATIN III

The design of Latin III is the Library of Celsus at Ephesus, Turkey. Since this is a survey course of Latin literature, each unit is a Caesar reading room, a Cicero reading room, etc. The student will check in at the reading room when he finds the "ask the librarian" on the oral assessments and discussions regarding content and style of each author. There is also a *liber mensis*, or book of the month, where the student will read additional works by the author or learn other information connected with the chosen author. The *ex bibliotheca* assignments will take the student away from the computer, and the interlibrary loan assignments will require the student to study something connected to the author (e.g., the region of Provence, France, in the Caesar unit) or to exchange thoughts with classmates in the discussion area.

LIVING MUSIC I

Designed for students in grades 9–12, this course teaches fundamental musicianship skills from a Western-Classical approach, while aligning to National Core Arts Standards. The course challenges the student to improve listening,

notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for the student.

LIVING MUSIC II

Designed for students in grades 9–12, this course enhances the student’s fundamental musicianship skills from a Western-Classical approach, while aligning to National Core Arts Standards. The student will review and deepen skills and concepts of rhythm and notation learned and practiced in Living Music I. Through the use of virtual tools and analysis of classic repertoire, the student will work to improve listening, notation, analysis, performance, and composition skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience for the student. Living Music I is a prerequisite for this course.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Personal Finance prepares students for making sound financial decisions through real-world applications. Topics include financial and career planning, banking, credit, and debt. Students will also learn about savings and investments programs and will begin to evaluate stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate. Personal Finance provides students with the basics to protecting finances, exploring concepts such as tax strategies, insurance, retirement, and estate planning. Finally, students receive an overview of business ownership, planning, and business finance basics.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In this course, the student will use previously acquired skills in a wide range of elective activities. The course places priority on self-motivated physical activities that the student can participate in now and later in life, and incorporates skill competencies, written assignments, and class evaluations into some of the units. The student will be expected to show proficiency in the activities that are important for his personal development at the appropriate age. The student's physical fitness level will be assessed and recorded. As an online learner, the student will utilize relevant Web sites and streaming videos provided in the lessons.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

"Throughout the course, the student will be introduced to a variety of basic concepts in the field of chemistry. The student will also be introduced to the forces and motion, including topics of Newton’s laws and the conservation of momentum.

This course consists of varied curriculum that provides the student the opportunity to use a scientific approach to problem-solving and making real-world connections. The student will investigate how matter is classified, explore the structure of an atom, identify groups within the periodic table, compare and contrast chemical reactions, study the properties of acids and bases and identify how to apply forces and motion to objects."

PHYSICS

Physics is designed to describe the physical world using a small number of basic assumptions, concepts, and equations. The course emphasizes relating physics to the everyday world. Physics A focuses on understanding motion. The student will explore the concepts involved with motion in one- and two-dimensions, forces, work and energy, momentum and collisions, circular motion and gravitation. The students will recognize the importance of the laws of thermodynamics.

PRECALCULUS

In this course, the student will continue to study higher-level mathematics. The student will begin by reviewing the fundamental concepts in algebra that serve as building blocks for an in-depth study of functions and graphs. Next, the student will explore and analyze polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and piecewise functions. The student will further delve into quadratics with a unit on the conic sections. Finally, the student will explore sequences and series. A content thread throughout the course focuses on ways mathematics is applied in the real world and is essential to everyday life. These real-world connections, combined with an emphasis on mathematical reasoning and critical thinking skills, prepare the student for future college and career opportunities.

SIGN LANGUAGE I

In this course, the student will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of American Sign Language. The student will explore vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills using basic signing and fingerspelling techniques, and will begin to learn about Deaf culture and the Deaf community. A webcam and recording device are required for this course.

SIGN LANGUAGE II

In this course, the student will continue his study of American Sign Language. The student will expand his ASL vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills. In addition, the student will complete activities and exercises that help him understand the culture of deaf and hard-of-hearing community. A webcam and recording device are required for this course.

SPANISH I

Students cover basic vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation to build a solid foundation for further study. Assignments include engaging in simple conversation, writing paragraphs, and listening to Spanish dialogue. Students also study the history and culture of Spanish-speaking peoples.

SPANISH II

As they engage in more advanced conversations, write paragraphs and stories, and translate to and from Spanish, students improve their vocabulary and grammar. Intense listening comprehension exercises aid in understanding more complex thoughts and subjects.

SPANISH III

Spanish III is a continuation of the first two years of Spanish instruction. The student will continue to sharpen his listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a variety of activities. This course is organized into five topics: feelings, transportation, work, countries, and the future. The student will learn to express himself using an ever-increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, past-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Elements of the Spanish-speaking world and culture appear throughout the course, including people, geographical locations, and histories.

SPORTS MANAGEMENT

This course will introduce you to the fast-growing field of sports management. You will explore topics such as sports marketing, branding, ticket sales, public relations, broadcasting, and breaking into the business of sports management. This course will also discuss the role of sports in society and the importance of an ethical approach to sports management.

STATISTICS

In this course, the student will be introduced to the major concepts of collecting, organizing, and drawing conclusions from data. The student will also have the opportunity to observe patterns and departures from patterns, plan a study, produce models using probability and simulation, and use statistical inference to confirm models.

UNITED STATES HISTORY

This course examines social, economic, historical, and political change in the United States from the Civil War and Reconstruction to recent events. Through interactive activities, discussions, charts, timelines, primary sources, and maps, students will explore key events, patterns, and figures that shaped American history and culture. Students will evaluate important foundational documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The course will also investigate the changing relationship of the United States to the rest of the world. In-depth study of the cause and effect of important events will help students better understand the historical context of key developments. Students will receive instruction in analyzing essential historical documents through portfolio items and lesson activities. Readings and activities will assist students in comparing time periods and in developing historical reasoning and critical thinking skills. Through this course, students will gain a broader understanding of the relevance of American history to their lives as well as develop a better understanding of the impact of key events on American culture and society.

WEB DESIGN I

The student is introduced to website design and development by learning the basic website design principles. Topics include networking, audience analysis, internet security, project management, and website navigation. Students will apply the principles to design and evaluate their own websites and the sites of others. Students will learn development languages such as HTML and CSS. Throughout the course, students will complete practice activities, homework assignments and projects that allow them to apply the skills they have learned.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Geography develops students' comprehension of the geographical concepts and skills needed to acquire information and systematically apply decision-making processes to real-life situations. Students will acquire an understanding of multiculturalism and the relationships between people and their environment. Geography explores the world's cultural regions by examining location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, economic activity, and land use.

WORLD HISTORY

This course provides the student with a comprehensive examination of world history from ancient times through the Global Age. The student will begin by exploring prehistory and early civilizations, focusing on the ancient civilizations of the Americas, Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. The student will then study Medieval Christian Europe from the early to the late Middle Ages, followed by regional civilizations with a focus on the Muslim world, Africa, and Asia. Finally, the student will explore early modern times with a focus on the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Global Age.