HIGH SCHOOL
COURSE CATALOG
2023-24

PA VIRTUAL
CHARTER SCHOOL

A COMMUNITY OF PARTNERSHIP, LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT

Table of Contents

Welcome

Dear Students and Learning Coaches,

I am pleased to present the Course Catalog for the 2023-2024 School Year on behalf of the Teachers and Staff of PA Virtual High School. This catalog contains information about earning credits to meet PA Virtual's local graduation requirements and Act 158 graduation requirements set forth by the PA Department of Education. It also includes information on scheduling, special programs, credit recovery, and course descriptions. Please use it to plan your essential high school years carefully.

Should you have any questions about this document or the processes explained within, please do not hesitate to contact your School Counselor:

- Maddie Liberatore, 9th-Grade School Counselor mliberatore@pavcs.us
- Janae Johnson, 10th-Grade School Counselor jjohnson@pavcs.us
- Jessica Keys, 11th-Grade School Counselor jkeys@pavcs.us
- Crystal Widmann, 12th-Grade School Counselor cwidmann@pavcs.us

Welcome to the new school year!

Laura Afshari, *HS Principal*

Mission & Vision

Mission: To provide Pennsylvania public K-12 students a superior cyber charter option, continuously improving by using innovative technologies, well-rounded curricula, and individualized educational delivery in safe learning environments. PA Virtual seeks to equip our students with excellent academic education, social skills, and character development for their lives as productive 21st-century citizens.

Vision: PA Virtual strives to be a recognized leader nationwide for strategic thinking, innovation, and quality in all areas of K-12 cyber education, serving as a respected exemplar for other cyber schools.

Credits & Graduation Requirements

Local Graduation Requirements

Graduation candidates must earn 21 credits minimum within the required subjects to be eligible to receive a diploma from PA Virtual Charter School. The Pennsylvania Department of Education governs these graduation requirements. Additional requirements sanctioned by the state of PA appear on page 7.

English
Four Credits (4) Minimum
**Must take English every year*

Mathematics
Four Credits (4) Minimum

Social Studies
Three Credits (3) Minimum

Science
Three Credits (3) Minimum

Humanities
(World Language and/or Fine Art)
Two Credit (2) Minimum
**Strongly recommend 2 years of the same World Language*

Physical Education
One Credit (1)
**Must take 0.25 credit PE every year*

Health
0.5 Credit

Career
0.5 Credit

Capstone Graduation Project
0.5 Credit

Electives
2.5 Credits Minimum

Total Minimum Credits Required for Graduation
21 Credits

Meet Act 158 Pathway Requirements

Grade Level Determination

Students must earn at least 5.25 credits per year to promote to the next grade. Credits earned determine a student's grade level designation:

- 10th Grade: Minimum of 5.25 credits earned
- 11th Grade: Minimum of 10.5 credits earned
- 12th Grade: Minimum of 15.75 credits earned
- Graduate Candidates: Minimum of 21 credits earned in required subjects

Minimum/Maximum Enrollment Per Year

- Students in grades 9,10, & 11: Must take a minimum of 5.25 credits per school year
- Students in grade 12: Must take a minimum of 5 credits per school year
- All students 9-12: May take a maximum of 8 credits per school year

4-Year College Admissions Requirements

The Pennsylvania System of Higher Education dictates minimum admission requirements. These are typical of most universities; however, students should check with colleges directly to learn their specific or alternate requirements.

Minimum Admissions Requirements	Years/Credits
Social Studies	3
English	4
Mathematics (at least Algebra I, Geometry, & Algebra II)	4
Laboratory Science	3
World Language	2 (Strongly Encouraged)
Visual and/or Performing Arts	1
Additional College-Prep Electives (Choice of an additional year of Science, World Language, Social Studies, Math, English, and Visual/Performing Arts)	3 (Strongly Encouraged)

Grading Scale & GPA

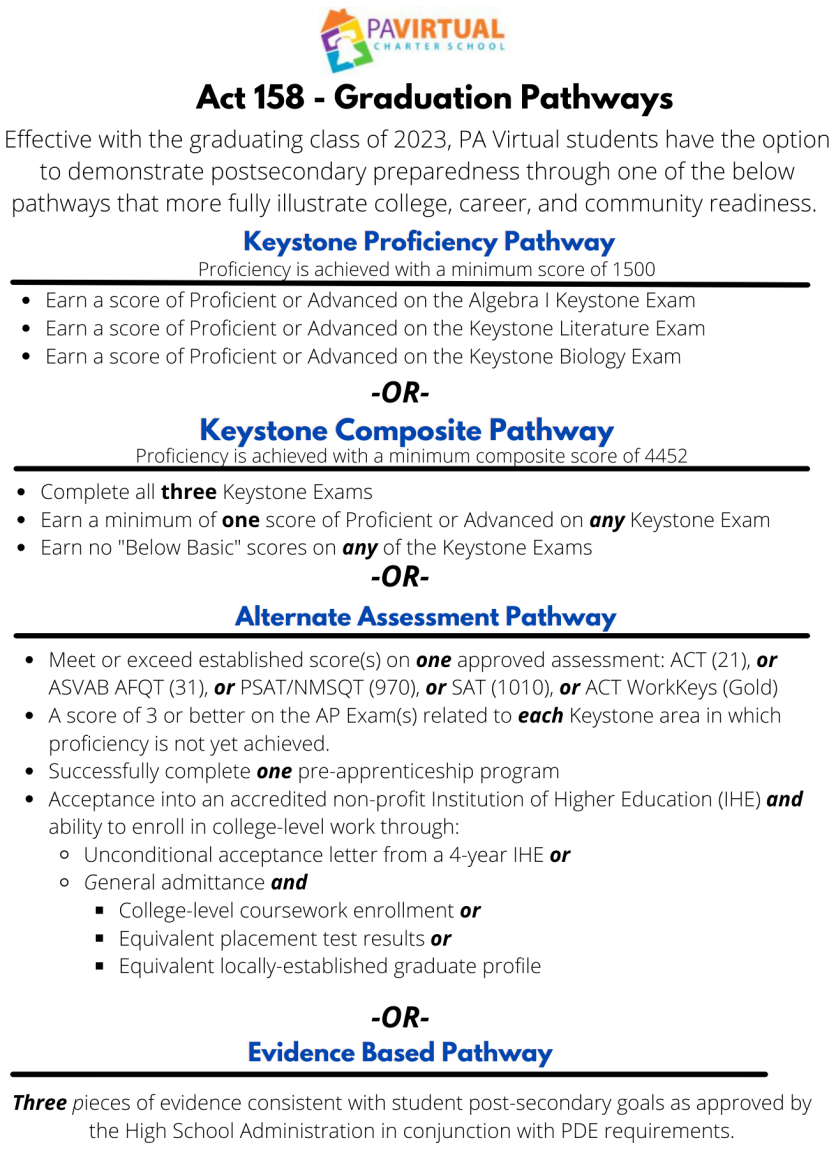
GPAs appear on the unofficial transcript in the Sapphire Community Portal. Grade points for each course are determined by multiplying two factors: the numerical weight of the final grade, as reflected in the chart below, and the credit value. Dividing total course grade points by the total of attempted credits calculates the GPA.

Grade	Number Range	Standard Courses (4.0 scale)	AP/Honors Courses (5.0 scale)
A	100-95	4	5
A-	94-90	3.67	4.67
B+	89-87	3.33	4.33
B	86-83	3	4
B-	82-80	2.67	3.67
C+	79-77	2.33	3.33
C	76-73	2	3
C-	72-70	1.67	2.67
D	69-65	1	2
F	64-0	0	0

PA Virtual does not engage in class ranking.

ACT 158 State Mandated Requirements for Graduation

In addition to PA Virtual's local grade-based requirements, students wishing to graduate from a PA public school like PA Virtual must also meet the criteria mandated through Act 158. Act 158 provides students with options to meet statewide high school graduation requirements through one of four pathways that fully illustrate their college, career, and community readiness. The statewide graduation requirement took effect with the graduating *Class of 2023* and remains a requirement for all future graduating classes.
Below are the Graduation Pathways. Click HERE to go to our website's Act 158 informational page.



For more information, refer to the Pathways to Graduation PDE Guide.

The score ranges for each Keystone exam are listed below:

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Algebra I	1200–1438	1439–1499	1500–1545	1546–1800
Biology	1200–1459	1460–1499	1500–1548	1549–1800
Literature	1200– 1443	1444–1499	1500–1583	1584–1800

Please Note

- **CTE (Career & Technical Education) Concentrator Pathway *(transfers only)***: Students must attain an Industry-Based Competency Certification related to the program of study *or* demonstrate either 1) readiness for continued meaningful engagement in the program of study or 2) a high likelihood of success on an approved industry-based assessment. Students must also pass courses associated with each Keystone Exam and pass the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) or the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) assessment in an approved CTE concentration. **PA Virtual will accept industry-based credentials from a previous high school if a student completed them before transferring to PA Virtual; however, *PA Virtual does not offer the CTE Concentrator Pathway*.**

Course Selection Planning

Students should select courses that provide an appropriate level of rigor that will offer a challenging yet manageable program of study. Proper planning during high school is essential to prepare students for their future endeavors. While planning, students should consider their academic abilities (strengths and weaknesses), interests, and goals.

Educational planning is a collaborative effort between students, counselors, teachers, and learning coaches. Counselors ensure students take the appropriate courses/credits to fulfill graduation requirements, reviewing teacher input and recommendations to inform core course placement. All students are placed in the proper core courses unless multiple choices are available and appropriate. Each year as students progress in high school, they will have more courses (electives) from which to choose.

Course sequence maps are at the end of this course catalog. The maps show the general order in which students take courses. Many courses have prerequisites that mandate specific sequencing.

Use the credit audit form on page 14 to chart completed and future courses required for meeting graduation requirements. Unofficial transcripts appear in the Sapphire Community Portal, which provides a student's entire academic history.

If too few students elect to enroll in a course listed within the catalog, HS Administration may strike the course. It also may not be possible to schedule all the courses the student requests.

Synchronous and Asynchronous Classes

Most courses offered at PA Virtual are offered both synchronously and asynchronously, except for elective courses, which are only provided asynchronously.

- **Synchronous:** Courses are live “zoom-like” sessions through our safe Blackboard platform that meet at a specific time and place Monday through Thursday. Lessons are teacher-directed with expected student attendance and participation. Teachers offer Office Hours on Fridays.
- **Asynchronous:** Courses do not have live sessions Monday through Thursday, and the student is responsible for independently following along with the syllabus, the Blackboard lesson plans, and the assigned course (whether in Edgenuity or elsewhere) to complete course requirements. There are required live check-ins during Office Hours with asynchronous teachers regularly.

For some students, asynchronous courses are an option, meaning they will learn independently at the direction of teachers’ lesson plans and by attending office hours. Asynchronous students must demonstrate proficient to advanced academic achievement in their prior courses, be self-starters, and be independent learners. **Most core classes are scheduled synchronously**, and students greatly benefit from daily live instruction with highly qualified teachers.

If a student meets the requirements of asynchronous learning, it can be requested; however, we will review prior academic transcripts, and students will be scheduled with the best opportunity for academic success in mind.

Course Durations

Most 1.0 credit courses are yearlong, most 0.5 credit courses are one semester, and most 0.25 credit courses are one quarter.

The high school day divides into six (6) 55-minute academic class periods. There is a 45-minute period in the middle of the school day for lunch.

Time	Period
8:10 AM - 9:05 AM	Period 1
9:10 AM - 10:05 AM	Period 2
10:10 AM - 11:05 AM	Period 3
11:05 AM - 11:50 AM	Lunch
11:55 AM - 12:50 PM	Period 4
12:55 PM - 1:50 PM	Period 5
1:55 PM - 2:50 PM	Period 6

Mid-Year Enrollment

Students who enroll after the start of the school year work directly with their grade-level school counselor to determine course placement. Counselors align the student's schedule closely with the previous school schedule. Students must enroll with a copy of their current transcripts to ensure accuracy. Course offerings may be limited for students who enroll mid-year.

Schedule Change Requests

Schedule change requests are only accepted and reviewed during the add/drop periods and are announced through Blackboard and email. Students must submit schedule change requests through the designated form. Not all requests will be honored, especially if students submit them beyond the posted deadlines.
Counselors will notify students who enroll mid-year of the add/drop window based on their enrollment date.

Advanced Course Levels

Teachers deliver instruction with varying difficulty levels, including Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses. Students wishing to take Advanced Placement and/or Honors course(s) need to fulfill prerequisite(s) and acquire teacher recommendation(s).

- **Advanced Placement (AP):** AP courses follow the college-board curriculum, challenge students with college-level work in both rigor and expectations and prepare all students for the AP exam. Students enrolled in an AP course undertake a rigorous workload that involves extensive reading, writing, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Learning independently outside the classroom is essential to success in these courses. Students should research whether colleges/universities they are interested in attending accepts HS AP credit as college credit. Please visit www.collegeboard.org for additional information on the expectations of AP courses.
- **Honors:** Honors courses follow a challenging curriculum with an accelerated pace and enriched content. Honors courses prepare students for their progress toward meeting the challenges of highly competitive college work. Students enrolled in Honors courses undertake a rigorous workload that involves extensive reading, writing, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Independent learning outside the classroom is essential to finding success in honors courses.

Capstone Graduation Project

Completing the Capstone Graduation Project, linked to post-secondary goals, is a requirement for graduation. The project may include community service, job shadow/internship, pre-apprenticeships, earning industry-based credentials, a research project/paper, and more. All projects require supervision by a mentor with experience, qualifications, and expertise in the chosen area. Students will develop a research question, written paper, and presentation. Students must also meet with their school counselor for a Senior Review Meeting as part of the Capstone Project.

Special Academic Programs

Honor Roll

Students are recognized at the end of each school year for strong academic performance in all scheduled courses.

- **Distinguished Honor Roll:** To be recognized for the Distinguished Honor Roll, a student must have a GPA of or above 4.0 or higher.
- **Principal Honors Roll:** To be recognized for the Principal Honors Roll, a student must have a GPA of 3.5 or above.
- **Honor Roll:** To be recognized for the Honor Roll, a student must have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

PA Virtual Honors Program

PA Virtual's Honors and AP Courses are augmented by subject-specific, local chapters of National Honors Societies within various disciplines to compose the PA Virtual Honors Program. These honor societies all require students to be enrolled in an accelerated course within a specific subject, maintain a certain average, and maintain a minimum overall GPA. Teacher advisors are responsible for maintaining and renewing PA Virtual's local charters and monitoring student compliance with national and charter/chapter bylaws.

Qualifying students in honors courses are invited to apply to the local chapters of the subject-specific national honor societies based on each society's specific standards. Accepted members attend chapter meetings, hold elections for student leadership teams, discuss national bylaws and create original bylaws of the local chapter, set goals for implementation of upcoming service and enrichment opportunities, and engage in various school and community-based initiatives.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS acknowledges students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. NHS promotes scholarship and volunteerism.

Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 will be eligible to apply. Students eligible to apply will receive an introductory email inviting them to join NHS. All applicants are required to complete an application that consists of basic biographical information, leadership, and volunteer work. Applicants must also write an essay about themselves and submit three recommendations (two teachers and one community member). A faculty committee will review each application. Accepted students will be inducted during a virtual ceremony held each Fall.

Early Graduation Program

PA Virtual's Early Graduation Program allows high-achieving students the opportunity to graduate in three years. Students must apply for the program in the Spring of their Sophomore year and meet strict conditions for acceptance, including credit, Act 158, and GPA requirements. Students in the Early Graduation program still complete all state and school graduation requirements while working at a faster, more condensed pace than their peers. If you are interested in the Early Graduation Program, please contact your school counselor. Incoming 11th and 12th-grade students are ***not*** eligible for the Early Graduation Program.

Independent Study Program

The Independent Study Program is designed for seniors or other graduation candidates who have exhausted available course offerings or demonstrate a specific need for Independent Study. The ideal applicant is a self-directed learner who expects to meet all stated outcomes with limited supervision. If you are interested in the Independent Study Program, please contact your school counselor.

Dual Enrollment (coming soon)

PA Virtual Charter School will partner with the Temple University College of Education and Human Development department to offer dual enrollment program opportunities for eligible high school students. The program allows students to earn college credits while still in high school, with courses taught by Temple University's College of Education and Human Development department instructors.

Dual enrollment courses will be delivered online, allowing students from all areas of the Commonwealth to participate from anywhere with an internet connection.

Students who complete dual enrollment courses will receive college credits from Temple University **and** high school credits from PA Virtual Charter School. The credits earned through the program will be transferable to other colleges and universities, providing students with a head start on their college education and potentially saving them time and money in the long run.

Credit Recovery

Credit Recovery is designed to allow eligible students to earn credit for up to **two failed classes** to recoup credit(s) needed for grade-level promotion or graduation. Credit Recovery consists of taking and completing the approved course(s) made available through our partnership with Educere. Courses are delivered virtually and primarily asynchronously. An instructor teaches each class, and an Educere Personal Learning Coach supports the student throughout the virtual education experience.

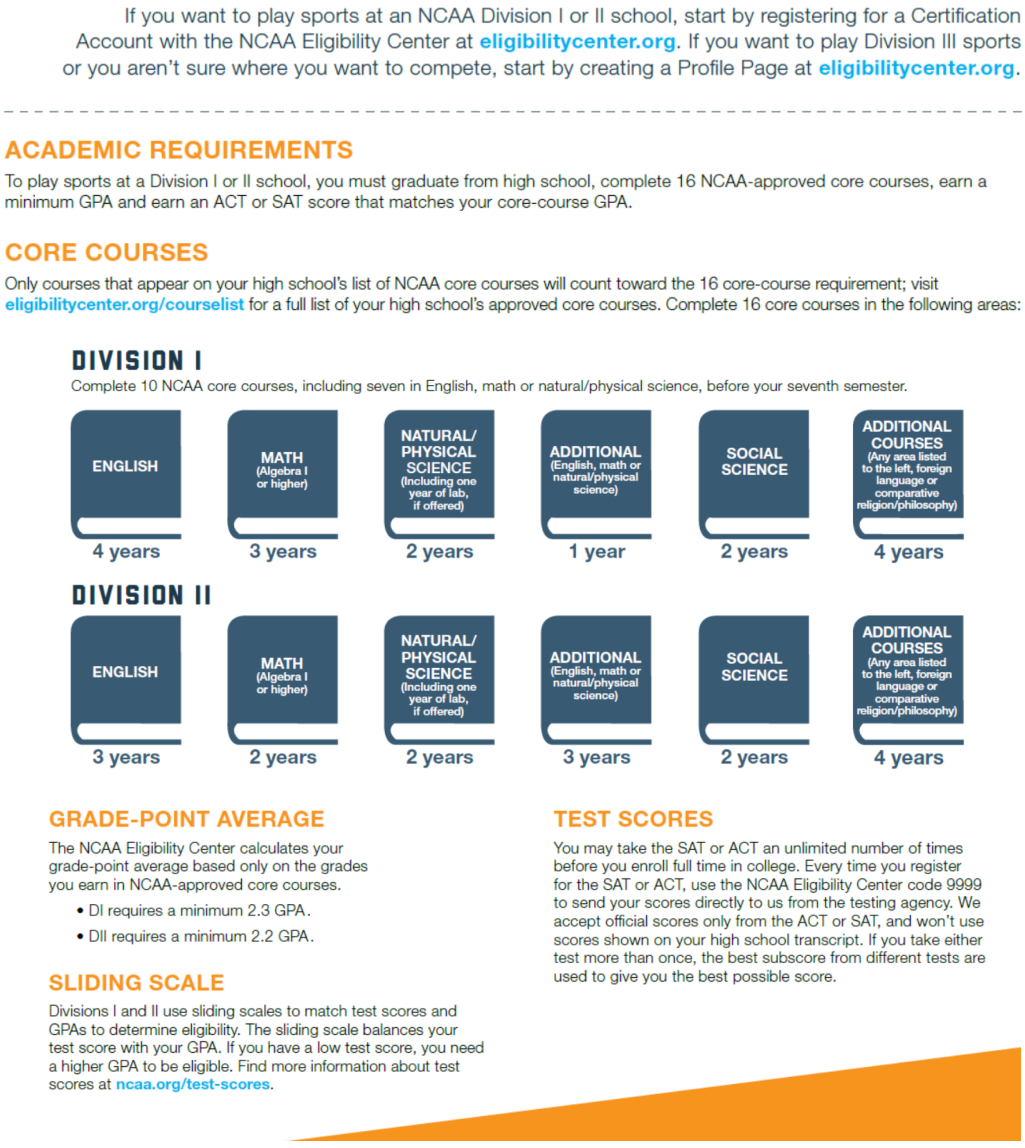
Once Educere provides PA Virtual Charter School with documentation of successful completion of the coursework, the credit is added to the PA Virtual transcript. *Course tuition is the responsibility of the student/family. PA Virtual does not receive any money due to students taking Educere courses and is*

not associated with the delivery of the course(s) other than to approve the completed course for PA Virtual credit.

Failing to take advantage of Credit Recovery options will result in the need to repeat full courses during subsequent academic years and could result in insufficient credits for graduation. Students needing to register for Credit Recovery should contact their school counselor for registration information.

College-Level Athletics / NCAA-Approved Courses

Athletes wishing to play a Division I or II sport in college must adhere to the NCAA guidelines to ensure eligibility. PA Virtual Charter School courses that are NCAA approved are marked with an asterisk (*) after the course title. For the most up-to-date information on the NCAA requirements, please visit www.ncaa.org.



Credit Audit Form

SUBJECT AREA	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS EARNED
ENGLISH	4 CREDITS NEEDED	
MATH	4 CREDITS NEEDED	
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 CREDITS NEEDED	
SCIENCE	3 CREDITS NEEDED	
HUMANITIES (WORLD LANGUAGE AND/OR FINE ART)	2 CREDITS NEEDED	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 CREDIT NEEDED	
HEALTH	0.5 CREDIT NEEDED	
CAREER	0.5 CREDIT NEEDED	
Capstone GRADUATION PROJECT	0.5 CREDIT NEEDED	
ELECTIVES	2..5 CREDITS NEEDED	
ACT 158 PATHWAY	Review the Pathways to Graduation PDE Guide (choose 1)	
	Keystone Proficiency Pathway	❑
	Keystone Composite Pathway	❑
	Alternative Assessment and/or Evidence-based Pathway	❑
	21 TOTAL CREDITS NEEDED GRAND TOTAL =	

Course Offerings & Descriptions

English Courses

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9 * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Grade 8 English

This yearlong course engages students in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts, both classic and contemporary. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction, students master comprehension and literary analysis strategies. Interwoven in the lessons across two semesters are activities encouraging students to strengthen their oral language skills and produce clear, coherent writing. Students read classic texts, including Homer's The Odyssey, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, and Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game." They will also study short but complex texts, including influential speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan. Contemporary texts by Richard Preston, Julia Alvarez, and Maya Angelou round out the course.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 9 HONORS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Grade 8 English (90% or Higher) or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course invites students to explore a variety of diverse and complex texts organized into thematic units. Students engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of classic and contemporary great texts. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction, honors students master comprehension, use evidence to conduct in-depth literary analysis, and examine and critique how authors develop ideas in various genres. Interwoven throughout the lessons are activities that encourage students to strengthen oral language skills, research and critically analyze sources of information, and produce clear, coherent writing. Honors students engage in additional opportunities to create and participate in project-based learning activities, including writing a Shakespearian sonnet and creating an original interpretation of a Shakespearian play. Honors students read classic texts, including Homer's The Odyssey, Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, Jack London's "To Build a Fire" and Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game." Students also read Sue Macy's full-length nonfiction work Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way) and study a variety of short but complex texts, including influential speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan. Contemporary texts by Richard Preston, Julia Alvarez, and Maya Angelou round out the course.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 10 * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 9

This yearlong course reinforces literary analysis and twenty-first-century skills with superb pieces of literature and literary nonfiction, application e-resources, and educational interactives. Each thematic unit focuses on specific literary analysis skills and allows students to apply them to various genres and text structures. As these units meld modeling and application, they also include training in media literacy, twenty-first-century career skills, and the essentials of grammar and vocabulary. Under the guidance of the eWriting software, students compose descriptive, persuasive, expository, literary analysis, research, narrative, and compare-contrast essays. **This course culminates in students taking the required state Keystone exam in English Language Arts.**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 10 HONORS * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 9 (90% or Higher) or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course provides engaging and rigorous lessons focusing on academic inquiry to strengthen language arts knowledge. Reading lessons require analyzing complex texts, while concise mini-lessons advance writing and research skills to craft solid and compelling essays and projects. Students write argumentative and analytical essays based on literary texts and an informative research paper using MLA style. Students read various classic and contemporary literary texts, including Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House, George Orwell's Animal Farm, and Marjane Satrapi's Persepolis. Students read and analyze complex informational and argumentative texts, including Sonia Sotomayor's "A Latina Judge's Voice," Niccolò Machiavelli's The Prince, and the contemporary informational text Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science. **This course culminates in students taking the required state Keystone exam in English Language Arts.**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 11 * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 10

This yearlong course invites students to delve into American literature from early American Indian voices through contemporary works. Students engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts as the centerpieces of this course. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, students master comprehension and literary analysis strategies. Interwoven in the lessons across two semesters are tasks that encourage students to strengthen their oral language skills and produce creative, coherent writing. Students read a range of short but complex texts, including works by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Emily Dickinson, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Martin Luther King, Jr., F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sandra Cisneros, Amy Tan, and Dave Eggers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 11 HONORS * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 10 (90% or Higher) or English Language Arts 10 Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course invites students to delve into American literature from early American Indian voices through contemporary works. Students engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts, including the full-length novel The Awakening by Kate Chopin. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, honors students master comprehension, use evidence to conduct in-depth literary analysis, and examine and critique how authors develop ideas in various genres. Interwoven throughout the lessons are activities that encourage students to strengthen oral language skills, research and critically analyze sources of information, and produce clear, coherent writing. Students read a range of short but complex texts by Henry David Thoreau, Floyd Dell, Emily Dickinson, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Martin Luther King, Jr., F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sandra Cisneros, Amy Tan, and Dave Eggers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 12 * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 11

This yearlong course offers a fascinating insight into British literary traditions spanning from Anglo-Saxon writing to the modern period. With interactive introductions and historical contexts, this full-year course connects philosophical, political, religious, ethical, and social influences of each time period to the works of many notable authors, including Chaucer, William Shakespeare, Queen Elizabeth I, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Virginia Woolf. Adding an extra dimension to the British literary experience, this course also exposes students to world literature, including works from India, Europe, China, and Spain.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATIONS AND SPEECH * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 12

This yearlong course offers a fascinating insight into verbal and nonverbal messages and cultural and gender differences in the areas of listening and responding, beginning with an introduction that builds student understanding of the elements, principles, and characteristics of human communication. Students enrolled in this full-year course are guided through engaging lectures and interactive activities, exploring themes of self-awareness and perception in communication. The course concludes with units on informative and persuasive speeches, and students analyze speeches in the course.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 12 HONORS * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 11 (90% or Higher) or English Language Arts 11 Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course invites students to delve into British literature from ancient texts such as the epic of Beowulf through contemporary works. Students engage in rigorous lessons focusing on academic inquiry, literary analysis, and inferential evaluation. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, honors students master comprehension, use evidence to conduct in-depth literary analysis, examine and critique how authors develop ideas in various genres, and synthesize ideas across multiple texts. In addition to activities offered to students in core courses, honors students have additional opportunities to create and participate in project-based learning activities, including creating a time travel brochure and an original interpretation of William Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Hamlet. Honors students read classic texts, including Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, "Politics and the English Language" by George Orwell, and William Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Hamlet. In addition to full-length works, students read a variety of excerpts, including readings from Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects, and Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, as well as a variety of short fiction, speeches, and poetry.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 11 (90% or Higher) or English Language Arts 11 Honors, and Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong college-level course prepares students for the AP English Language and Composition Exam while exploring and analyzing a variety of rhetorical contexts. AP English Language and Composition is a fast-paced, upper-level course for highly motivated students. Students enhance test-taking skills through critical reading, writing, classroom assignments, and discussion activities. AP practice assessments and essays are assigned throughout. Students increase their prose knowledge of many styles and genres, including essays, journalistic writing, political writing, science writing, nature writing, autobiographies/biographies, diaries, speeches, history writing, and critical writing. There is an intense focus on writing and revising expository, analytical, and argumentative essays to prepare students for various writing purposes.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 12 (90% or Higher), or English Language Arts 12 Honors, or AP English Language & Composition, and Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong college-level course equips students to critically analyze all forms of literature to comment insightfully about an author's or genre's use of style or literary device. Students interpret meaning based on

form; examine the trademark characteristics of literary genres and periods; and critique literary works through expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. As students consider styles and devices, they apply them to their creative writing. In addition to exposing students to college-level English coursework, this course prepares them for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam.

Mathematics Courses

Algebra 1A **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Grade 8 Math, benchmarking test

This yearlong course is for students who have completed the middle school mathematics sequence and are ready to begin learning high school Algebraic concepts. This course reviews key Algebra readiness skills from the middle grades and deepens students' understanding of basic Algebra I topics. Topics include numbers and operations, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, and basic functions. This course begins to prepare students for the Algebra Keystone exam they will take after completing the Algebra 1B course.

ALGEBRA 1B* **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Grade 8 Honors Math or Algebra 1A, benchmarking test, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course focuses on five critical areas: relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations, linear and exponential relationships, descriptive statistics, expressions and equations, and quadratic functions and modeling. This course builds on the foundation set in middle grades/Algebra 1A by deepening students' understanding of linear and exponential functions and developing fluency in writing and solving one-variable equations and inequalities. Students interpret, analyze, compare, and contrast functions represented numerically, tabularly, graphically, and algebraically. Quantitative reasoning is a common thread throughout the course, as students use algebra to represent quantities and the relationships among those quantities in various ways. Mathematical practice and process standards are embedded throughout the course, as students make sense of problem situations, solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically. **This course culminates in students taking the required state Keystone exam in Algebra.**

ALGEBRA I HONORS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Grade 8 Honors Math (90% or Higher), benchmarking test, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course introduces students to linear, exponential, and quadratic functions by interpreting, analyzing, comparing, and contrasting functions represented numerically, tabularly, graphically, and algebraically. Technology is utilized within some lessons to further support students in identifying key features and displaying images of the functions. The course builds upon the basic concepts of functions to include transformations of linear and nonlinear functions. Students deepen their understanding of quantitative reasoning, piecewise, and quadratic functions through performance tasks. The additional performance-based skills allow honors students to apply more of the concepts taught in the course. The course concludes with students analyzing data through displays and statistical analysis. **This course culminates in students taking the required state Keystone exam in Algebra.**

GEOMETRY * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Algebra I

This yearlong course formalizes what students learned about geometry in the middle grades, focusing on reasoning and making mathematical arguments. Mathematical reasoning is introduced by studying triangle

congruence, including exposure to formal proofs and geometric constructions. Then students extend what they have learned to other essential triangle concepts, including similarity, right triangle trigonometry, and the laws of sines and cosines. Moving on to other shapes, students justify and derive various formulas for circumference, area, volume, and cross-sections of solids and rotations of two-dimensional objects. Students then make important connections between geometry and algebra, including special triangles, slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines, and parabolas in the coordinate plane, before delving into an in-depth investigation of the geometry of circles. The course closes with a study of set theory and probability, as students apply theoretical and experimental probability to make decisions informed by data analysis.

GEOMETRY HONORS * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Algebra I (90% or Higher) or Algebra I Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course begins by exploring the foundational concepts of Euclidean Geometry in which students learn the terminology of geometry, measuring, proving theorems, and constructing figures. Students expand on their knowledge of transformations, complete an assignment on identifying point symmetry, and complete a performance task on tessellations. The course continues with an in-depth look at triangles, where students prove theorems, relating congruence and similarity in transformations and connecting right triangle relationships to trigonometry. Students study set theory and apply probability through theoretical and experimental probability, two-way tables, and combinations and permutations. With lessons on quadrilaterals, students identify the various figures based on their key features. Within the circle units, students identify angles, radii, and chords, perform a performance-based task on tangents, and then compute the circumference and area of various circles. Then students study parabolas, ellipses, and hyperbolas before modeling and computing two- and three-dimensional figures.

ALGEBRA II * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Geometry or Geometry Honors

This yearlong course focuses on functions, polynomials, periodic phenomena, and collecting and analyzing data. The course begins with a review of linear and quadratic functions to solidify a foundation for learning these new functions. Students make connections between verbal, numeric, algebraic, and graphical representations of functions and apply this knowledge as they create equations and inequalities used to model and solve mathematical and real-world problems. As students refine and expand their algebraic skills, they draw analogies between operations and field properties of real numbers and those of complex numbers and algebraic expressions. Mathematical practices and habits of mind are embedded throughout the course as students solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically.

ALGEBRA II HONORS * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Geometry (90% or Higher) or Geometry Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

The yearlong course begins with a review of concepts that assists students throughout the course, such as literal equations, problem-solving, and word problems. Students progress to a unit on functions, computing operations of functions, composing of functions, and studying inverses of functions. Students learn about complex numbers and apply them to quadratic functions by completing the square and quadratic formula methods to build on their algebraic skills. Next, students solve linear systems and apply their knowledge of the concept to three-by-three systems. An in-depth study of polynomial operations and functions allows students to build their knowledge of polynomials algebraically and graphically. In the second semester, students study nonlinear functions. Students solve and graph rational and radical functions, whereas the exponential and logarithmic functions focus on the key features and transformations of the functions. Expected value and normal distribution concepts expand and deepen students' knowledge of probability and statistics. Students also cover trigonometric functions and periodic phenomena.

PRECALCULUS * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Algebra II or Algebra II Honors

This yearlong course emphasizes function families and their representations. Precalculus is a thoughtful introduction to advanced studies leading to calculus. The course briefly reviews linear equations, inequalities, and systems and moves purposefully into studying functions. Students then discover the nature of graphs and deepen their understanding of polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Scaffolding rigorous content with clear instruction, the course leads students through an advanced study of trigonometric functions, matrices, and vectors. The course concludes with a short study of probability and statistics.

PRECALCULUS HONORS * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Algebra II (90% or Higher) or Algebra II Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong advanced math course starts with a unit on the nature of functions and complex numbers before moving into matrices, systems, and linear programming. Students return to functions focusing on graphing various function types and completing a performance task on production schemes. Students explore rational functions in-depth and conclude the first semester with right triangle and circular trigonometry. In the second half of the course, students synthesize what they have learned to graph and solve trigonometric functions. They also study vectors, conics and analytic geometry, statistics and probability, mathematical modeling, and sequences and series.

STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY * — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Geometry or Geometry Honors

This yearlong course provides an alternative math credit for students who may not wish to pursue more advanced mathematics courses such as Algebra II and Pre-Calculus. The first half of the course begins with an in-depth study of probability and an exploration of sampling and comparing populations. It closes with units on data distribution and data analysis. In the second half of the course, students create and analyze scatter plots and study two-way tables and normal distributions. Finally, students apply probability to conditional probability, combinations, permutations, and sets.

FINANCIAL MATH — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course connects practical mathematical concepts to personal and business settings, offering informative and beneficial lessons that challenge students to gain a deeper understanding of financial math. Relevant, project-based learning activities cover stimulating topics such as personal financial planning, budgeting and wise spending, banking, paying taxes, the importance of insurance, long-term investing, buying a house, consumer loans, economic principles, traveling abroad, starting a business, and analyzing business data. This course encourages mastery of math skill sets, including percentages, proportions, data analysis, linear systems, and exponential functions.

AP CALCULUS AB — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Precalculus (90% or Higher) or Precalculus Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong, college-level course prepares students for the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB Exam.

Major topics of study include a review of pre-calculus, limits, derivatives, definite integrals, mathematical modeling of differential equations, and the applications of these concepts. There is an emphasis on using technology to solve problems and draw conclusions. The course utilizes a multi-representative approach to calculus with concepts and problems expressed numerically, graphically, verbally, and analytically.

AP STATISTICS **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Algebra II (90% or higher) or Algebra II Honors, Statistics and Probability, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong, college-level course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem-solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.

Social Studies Courses

GEOGRAPHY * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course studies current global issues that impact the current world using a thematic approach to understanding the development of human systems, human understanding of the world, and human social organization. This course challenges students to develop geographic skills, including learning to interpret maps, analyze data, and compare theories. This course encourages students to analyze economic trends and compare global markets and urban environments by offering interactive content that grows students' understanding of the development of modern civilization and human systems—from the agricultural revolution to the technological revolution.

GEOGRAPHY HONORS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Grade 8 History (90% or Higher) or Teacher Recommendation

In this advanced yearlong course, students examine current global issues and their impact on today's world. Using a thematic approach, students examine the development of human systems, human understanding of the world, and human social organization. Throughout the course, students expand their geographic skills, including learning to interpret maps, analyze data, and compare theories. Geography Honors includes interactive content that facilitates the growth of students' understanding of the development of modern civilization and human systems, framed by analyzing economic trends and comparing global markets and urban environments.

U.S. HISTORY * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Geography

U.S. History is a yearlong course that dynamically explores the people, places, and events that shaped early United States history. This course stretches from the Era of Exploration through the Industrial Revolution, leading students to examine the defining moments that shaped today's nation. Students begin by exploring the colonization of the New World and examining the foundations of colonial society. As they study the early history of the United States, students learn critical-thinking skills by examining the constitutional foundations of the U.S. government. In the context of how these issues contributed to the Civil War and Reconstruction, students will

examine recurring themes such as territorial expansion, the rise of industrialization, and the significance of slavery.

U.S. HISTORY HONORS * **1 CREDIT**

Prerequisite:
Geography (90% or Higher) or Geography Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course explores the first colonial settlements through the Gilded Age and industrialization. Students embark on a rigorous study of US beginnings and investigate the political, social, cultural, intellectual, and technological revolutions of the United States that have helped to lay its foundation. Units start with an in-depth look at the first settlements and European explorations that eventually led to colonization. Students study the events and outcomes of the American Revolution, the Constitution's creation, and the government's beginnings. Students examine manifest destiny and slavery, leading to the Civil War, and its implications. Students continuously analyze primary and secondary sources relating to the period of study. Incorporating activities from other disciplines allows students to connect history to other subjects. Students read selections like “Your People Live Only Upon Cod” and poetry like “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus. Activities such as writing a personal narrative as either an enslaved person or a newly freed person and analyzing a report on child labor encourage students to perform at a higher level throughout the course.

WORLD HISTORY * **1 CREDIT**

Prerequisite:
U.S. History or Teacher Recommendation

In this comprehensive yearlong course, students follow the history of the world from 1450 to modern times. Many eras and events are studied, considering them through examinations of geography and both political and social history. Looking at history chronologically, regionally, and thematically, major class topics include imperialism, colonialism, the Industrial Revolutions, the World Wars, the Cold War, and the contemporary world. Students examine the historical record using maps, primary sources, and through developing historical thinking and writing skills.

WORLD HISTORY HONORS * **1 CREDIT**

Prerequisite:
U.S. History (90% or Higher) or U.S. History Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

In this advanced yearlong course, students track the history of the world from 1450 to the present, examining several different eras and events, considering geography and both political and social history. Looking at history chronologically, regionally, and thematically, major class topics include imperialism, colonialism, the Industrial Revolutions, the World Wars, the Cold War, and the contemporary world. Students analyze themes of human history by investigating the historical record using maps, primary sources, and by developing complex historical thinking and writing skills.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY * **1 CREDIT**

Prerequisite:
World History (90% or Higher) or World History Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong, college-level course surveys the history of the United States from the settlement of the New World to modern times and prepares students for the AP United States History Exam. The course emphasizes national identity, economic transformation, immigration, politics, international relations, geography, and social and cultural change. Students learn to assess historical materials, weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship, and analyze and express historical understanding in writing.

Science Courses

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course explains phenomena central to the earth and space sciences and students' daily lives. Students understand the universe and explore Earth's history, structure, weather, biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, resources, and humans' impact on Earth's resources. The course includes interactive real-world examples throughout the lessons and application projects, interactive lab simulations, and hands-on lab options. Earth and Space Science provides a solid foundation for understanding the physical characteristics that make Earth unique and examines how these characteristics differ among the planets of our solar system.

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE HONORS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Grade 8 Science (90% or Higher) or Teacher Recommendation

This rigorous yearlong course explains more in-depth phenomena central to the earth and space sciences and students' daily lives. Students gain an extensive understanding of the universe and explore Earth's history, structure, weather, biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, resources, and humans' impact on Earth's resources. The course includes interactive real-world examples throughout the lessons and application projects, interactive lab simulations, and hands-on lab options. Earth and Space Science provides a solid foundation for understanding the physical characteristics that make Earth unique and examines how these characteristics differ among the planets of our solar system.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: benchmarking test

This yearlong course surveys key topic areas, including applying scientific process to environmental analysis; ecology; energy flow; ecological structures; biochemistry; biogeochemical cycles and other topics in science. Students will explore and conduct hands-on, unit-long research projects. Students will accurately apply the scientific method and process, including the creation of hypotheses, experimentation, proper data collection, visualization of data, and drawing reliable conclusions.

BIOLOGY * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course engages students in studying life and living organisms and examines biology and biochemistry in the real world. The course encompasses traditional concepts in biology and encourages the exploration of discoveries in this field of science. The components include biochemistry, cell biology, cell processes, heredity and reproduction, the evolution of life, taxonomy, human body systems, and ecology. This course includes both hands-on wet labs and virtual lab options. **This course culminates in students taking the required state Keystone exam in Biology.**

BIOLOGY HONORS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Earth & Space Science (90% or Higher) or Earth & Space Science Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong course engages students in a rigorous honors-level curriculum that emphasizes the study of life and its real-world applications. This course examines biological concepts in more depth than general biology and provides a solid foundation for college-level coursework. Course components include biochemistry, cellular structures and functions, genetics and heredity, bioengineering, evolution, structures and functions of the

human body, and ecology. Throughout the course, students participate in various interactive and hands-on laboratory activities that enhance concept knowledge and develop scientific process skills, including scientific research and technical writing. **This course culminates in students taking the required state Keystone exam in Biology.**

PHYSICAL SCIENCE * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Biology

This yearlong course focuses on basic concepts in chemistry and physics and encourages the exploration of discoveries in the field of physical science. The course includes an overview of scientific principles and procedures and has students examine the chemical building blocks of our physical world and the composition of matter. Additionally, students explore the properties that affect motion, forces, and energy on Earth. Building on these concepts, the course covers the properties of electricity and magnetism and the effects of these phenomena. As students refine and expand their understanding of physical science, they apply their knowledge to complete interactive virtual labs that require them to ask questions and create hypotheses. Hands-on wet lab options are also available.

CHEMISTRY * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Biology or Honors Biology

This rigorous yearlong course engages students in studying the composition, properties, changes, and interactions of matter. The course covers basic chemistry concepts and includes eighteen virtual laboratory experiments that encourage higher-order thinking applications, with wet lab options if preferred. The components of this course include chemistry and its methods, the composition and properties of matter, changes and interactions of matter, factors affecting the interactions of matter, electrochemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, nuclear chemistry, mathematical applications, and applications of chemistry in the real world.

CHEMISTRY HONORS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Biology (90% or Higher) ***OR*** *Biology Honors*
2. Teacher Recommendation

This rigorous course provides students with an engaging honors-level curriculum emphasizing mathematical problem-solving and practical applications of chemistry. Topics are examined in greater detail than general chemistry to prepare students for college-level coursework. Course components include atomic theory and structure, chemical bonding, states and changes of matter, chemical and redox reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, solutions, acids and bases, and nuclear and organic chemistry. Throughout the course, students participate in various interactive and hands-on laboratory activities that enhance concept knowledge and develop scientific process skills, including scientific research and technical writing.

PHYSICS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Chemistry or Honors Chemistry, Precalculus (Can be Taken Concurrently)

This course acquaints students with topics in classical and modern physics. The course emphasizes a conceptual understanding of basic physics principles, including Newtonian mechanics, energy, thermodynamics, waves, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear and modern physics. Throughout the course, students solve mathematical problems, reason abstractly, and learn to think critically about the physical world. The course also includes interactive virtual labs and hands-on lab options in which students ask questions and

create hypotheses.

PHYSICS HONORS * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Chemistry (90% or Higher) or Chemistry Honors, Precalculus (Can be Taken Concurrently), or Teacher Recommendation

This rigorous yearlong course provides students with an engaging honors-level curriculum that emphasizes abstract reasoning and applications of physics concepts to real-world scenarios. Topics are examined more thoroughly than general physics, providing a solid foundation for college-level coursework. Course components include one- and two-dimensional motion, momentum, energy and thermodynamics, harmonic motion, waves, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear and modern physics. Throughout the course, students participate in various interactive and hands-on laboratory activities that enhance concept knowledge and develop scientific process skills, including scientific research and technical writing.

AP BIOLOGY * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Biology (90% or Higher) or Biology Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

This yearlong college-level course prepares students for the Advanced Placement (AP) Biology exam. Units of study include Biochemistry, Cells, Enzymes and Metabolism, Cell Communication and Cell Cycle, Gene Expression, Evolution and Genetic Diversity, and Ecology. This course includes an additional 0.5 credit AP Biology Lab course that meets synchronously twice per week. The lab section focuses on virtual lab activities, simulations, and data analysis related to the course content.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Chemistry (90% or Higher) or Chemistry Honors, or Teacher Recommendation

Environmental Science is a laboratory and field-based course that provides students with content and skills needed to understand the various interrelationships in the natural world to identify and analyze environmental problems, and to propose and examine solutions to these problems. Since this is an online course, the laboratory- and field-based activities will be completed virtually and via experiments that students can easily perform at home with common materials. The course is equivalent to a one-semester, college-level ecology course taught over a full year in high school. The course encompasses human population dynamics, interrelationships in nature, energy flow, resources, environmental quality, human impact on environmental systems, and environmental law.

Humanities Courses: World Language

SPANISH I * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course introduces students to high school Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

SPANISH II * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Spanish I

This yearlong course continues introducing Spanish with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas, and assessments.

SPANISH III * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
Spanish II

In this yearlong course of expanding engagement with Spanish, students deepen their focus on four key skills in foreign language acquisition: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, students read significant works of literature in Spanish and respond orally or in writing to these works. Continuing the pattern and building on what students encountered in the first two years, each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major Spanish-speaking areas in Europe and the Americas.

FRENCH I * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

In this yearlong course, students begin their introduction to French with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and multimedia cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas in Europe and across the globe.

FRENCH II * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
French I

In this yearlong course, students continue their introduction to French by reviewing fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, cultural presentations covering major French-speaking areas across the globe, and assessments.

GERMAN I * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

In this yearlong course, students begin their introduction to German with fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas in Europe.

GERMAN II * **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite:
German I

In this yearlong course, students continue their introduction to German by reviewing fundamental building blocks in four key areas of foreign language study: listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of an ongoing adventure story, a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, numerous interactive games reinforcing vocabulary and grammar, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, and cultural presentations covering major German-speaking areas in Europe.

Humanities Courses: Fine Art

ART HISTORY I **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course offers high school students an in-depth overview of art throughout history, with lessons organized by chronological and historical order and world regions. Students enrolled in this course cover topics including early medieval and Romanesque art; art in the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries; fifteenth-century art in Europe; sixteenth-century art in Italy; the master artists; High Renaissance and baroque art; world art, which includes the art of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and the Pacific cultures; eighteenth-and nineteenth-century art in Europe and the Americas; and modern art in Europe and the Americas.

MUSIC APPRECIATION **1 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course introduces students to the history, theory, and genres of music. The course explores the history of music, from the surviving examples of rudimentary musical forms to contemporary pieces from around the world. The first section covers early musical forms, classical music, and American jazz. The second section presents modern traditions, including gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip hop. The course explores the relationship between music and social movements and reveals how the emergent global society and the prominence of the Internet are making musical forms more accessible worldwide.

Required Physical Education Courses

LIFETIME FITNESS I **.25 CREDIT**
Required for all 9th-grade Students

This quarter-long course explores safe exercise and injury prevention, nutrition and weight management, consumer product evaluation, and stress management. Lifetime Fitness I equips high school students with the skills they need to achieve lifetime fitness. Students assess individual fitness levels according to the five components of physical fitness: cardiovascular health, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Personal fitness assessments encourage students to design fitness programs to meet their individual fitness goals.

LIFETIME FITNESS II .25 CREDIT

Required for all 10th-grade Students

This quarter-long course explores safe exercise and injury prevention, nutrition and weight management, consumer product evaluation, and stress management. Lifetime Fitness II equips high school students with the skills to achieve lifetime fitness. Students assess individual fitness levels according to the five components of physical fitness: cardiovascular health, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Personal fitness assessments encourage students to design fitness programs to meet their individual fitness goals.

LIFETIME FITNESS III .25 CREDIT

Required for all 11th-grade Students

This quarter-long course explores safe exercise and injury prevention, nutrition and weight management, consumer product evaluation, and stress management. Lifetime Fitness III equips high school students with the skills to achieve lifetime fitness. Students assess individual fitness levels according to the five components of physical fitness: cardiovascular health, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Personal fitness assessments encourage students to design fitness programs to meet their individual fitness goals.

LIFETIME FITNESS IV .25 CREDIT

Required for all 12th-grade Students

This quarter-long course explores safe exercise and injury prevention, nutrition and weight management, consumer product evaluation, and stress management. Lifetime Fitness IV equips high school students with the skills to achieve lifetime fitness. Students assess individual fitness levels according to the five components of physical fitness: cardiovascular health, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition. Personal fitness assessments encourage students to design fitness programs to meet their individual fitness goals.

Health Courses

HEALTHY LIVING .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This 1-semester course invites students to make responsible, respectful, informed, and capable decisions about topics that affect the well-being of themselves and others, Healthy Living provides students with the comprehensive information they can use to develop healthy attitudes and behavior patterns. This informative and engaging course encourages students to recognize that they have the power to choose healthy behaviors to reduce risks.

CONTEMPORARY HEALTH .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This 1-semester course examines and analyzes various health topics. It places alcohol use, drug use, physical fitness, healthy relationships, disease prevention, relationships, and mental health in the context of creating a healthy lifestyle. Throughout the course, students examine practices and plans they can implement to carry out a healthy lifestyle and the consequences they can face if they do not follow safe practices. In addition, students

conduct in-depth studies to create mentally and emotionally healthy relationships with peers and family, as well as nutrition, sleeping, and physical fitness plans. Students also examine and analyze harassment and bullying laws. This course covers sex and gender identity, same-sex relationships, contraception, and other sensitive topics.

Required Career Courses

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND CAREER EXPLORATION **.25 CREDIT**
Required for all 9th-grade Students
Prerequisite: NONE

This 1-quarter, pass/fail course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic projects, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

REACHING YOUR ACADEMIC POTENTIAL **.25 CREDIT**
Required for all 10th-grade Students

In this 1-quarter course, pass/fail course, students learn essential academic skills within the context of their learning style, unique learning environment and long-term goals. This course helps students develop habits for more successful reading, writing, studying, communication, collaboration, time management, and concentration. It also provides insights into how the brain works when learning and how to maximize its potential.

COLLEGE AND CAREER GOALS **.25 CREDIT**
Required for all 11th-grade Students

In this 1-quarter, pass/fail course, students explore their options for life after high school and implement plans to achieve their goals. They identify their aptitudes, skills, and preferences and explore potential careers. They investigate the training and education required for the career of their choice and create a plan to be sure that their work in high school is preparing them for the next step. They also receive practical experience in essential skills such as searching and applying for college, securing financial aid, writing a resume and cover letter, and interviewing for a job.

CAPSTONE GRADUATION PROJECT **.5 CREDIT**
Required for all 12th-grade students

In this yearlong course, students apply classroom lessons in real-world settings through the Graduation Project. Under the supervision of a staff member, the Graduation Project is student-driven and based on the student's career and academic interests. Students learn and utilize the skills of planning, conducting research, developing a research paper, and presenting their graduation project to a staff committee.

Elective Courses

ACCOUNTING 1 — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: 11th/12th-grade students

This semester-long course introduces students to concepts employed in various careers in law, business, nonprofit groups, etc. The history of accounting and corresponding regulations establishes a basis for understanding. Students learn the accounting cycle and prepare actual financial statements, which all businesses must complete. Since the focus is on careers directly linked to accounting, students completing this course have an advantage when taking accounting in college and gaining the necessary skills for numerous entry-level jobs.

ASTRONOMY: EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course introduces students to astronomy, including its history and development, basic scientific laws of motion and gravity, the concepts of modern astronomy, and the methods used by astronomers to learn more about the universe. Additional topics include the origin of the universe, the Milky Way, and other galaxies and stars.

CIVICS & GOVERNMENT * — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course provides students with a practical understanding of the principles and procedures of government. The course begins by establishing the origins and founding principles of the American government. After a rigorous review of the Constitution and its amendments, students investigate the development and extension of civil rights and liberties. Lessons also introduce significant Supreme Court decisions to demonstrate the impact and importance of constitutional rights. The course builds on this foundation by guiding students through the function of government today and the role of citizens in the civic process and culminates in an examination of public policy and the roles of citizens and organizations in promoting policy changes. Throughout the course, students examine primary and secondary sources, including political cartoons, essays, and judicial opinions. Students also sharpen their writing skills in shorter tasks and assignments and practice outlining and drafting skills by writing full informative and argumentative essays.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

In this semester-long course, students use curiosity to explore the fundamentals of childcare, like nutrition and safety, and the complex relationships caregivers have with parents and their children. They examine the various life stages of child development and the best educational practices to enrich children's minds while thinking about possible career paths. There is a focus on children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth and development. Emphasis is placed on helping students acquire knowledge and skills essential to the care and guidance of children. Students learn to create environments that promote optimal development and explore factors influencing a child's development from conception through childhood.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS: OFFICE 2016 — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This full-year course introduces students to the features and functionality of the most widely used productivity software in the world: Microsoft® Office®. Through video instruction, interactive skill demonstrations, and numerous hands-on practice assignments, students learn to develop, edit and share Office 2016 documents

for personal and professional use. By the end of this course, students will have developed basic proficiency in the most common tools and features of the Microsoft Office suite of applications: Word®, Excel®, PowerPoint®, and Outlook®.

CREATIVE WRITING * **.5 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

CULINARY ARTS 1 **.5 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course is for students considering a career in the food service industry or looking to develop culinary skills. Students explore basic cooking and knife skills while preparing to enter the culinary world. Students discover the history of food culture, food service, and global cuisines while learning about food science principles and preservation. Students prepare for the future by building professional, communication, leadership, and teamwork skills essential for a culinary arts career and independent living.

DRAWING & DESIGN **.5 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This is a semester-long introductory art course. Students learn about basic design, observation and perspective, form and tone, and composition. Students create actual art pieces that demonstrate mastery of these skills.

ECONOMICS **.5 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course invites students to broaden their understanding of how economic concepts apply to their everyday lives—including microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and the characteristics of mixed-market economies, the role of government in a free-enterprise system and the global economy, and personal finance strategies. Throughout the course, students apply critical-thinking skills while making practical economic choices. Students also master literacy skills through rigorous reading and writing activities. Students analyze data displays and write routinely and responsively in tasks and assignments based on scenarios, texts, activities, and examples. In more extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write full-length essays in informative and argumentative formats.

FORENSIC SCIENCE I: SECRETS OF THE DEAD **.5 CREDIT**
Prerequisite: Biology

This semester-long course introduces students to fingerprints, blood spatter, DNA analysis, and more. The world of law enforcement increasingly uses the techniques and knowledge from the sciences to understand better the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. This course focuses on techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, the student follows evidence trails until the CSI goes to trial, examining how various crime scene elements are analyzed and processed.

INTRODUCTION TO CODING .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course covers a basic introduction to programming principles, including algorithms and logic. Students engage in hands-on programming tasks in the Python programming language as they write and test their code using real programmers' approaches in the field. Students program with variables, functions and arguments, and lists and loops, providing a solid foundation for more advanced study and practical skills they can use immediately.

INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course prepares students with various skills for independence and family living. Topics include child care, home maintenance, food preparation, money management, medical management, clothing care, and more. They also focus on household, personal, and consumer health and safety. In addition, students learn goal-setting and decision-making skills and explore possible career options. The course supports the development of knowledge and skills that students need as family members, now and in the future.

KEYSTONE ALGEBRA I PREP .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: Algebra I, benchmarking test, and Administrative Approval

This semester-long, pass/fail course is a preparatory course for taking the Algebra Keystone Exam. It provides students with ongoing Math support and increases their understanding of topics and concepts within the course. Instructors review concepts and skills taught in Algebra 1 while providing time for practice, modeling, and practical application of skills. Students who previously took Algebra 1 are enrolled in the course based on prior academic achievement, as demonstrated by course grades and diagnostic/benchmarking tests. The course focuses on PA-tested eligible content, using various resources, including Study Island, Plato, the Standards Aligned System, and Keystone-released Items on the PA Department of Education website.

KEYSTONE BIOLOGY PREP .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
Biology, benchmarking test, and Administrative Approval

This semester-long, pass/fail course is a preparatory course for taking the Biology Keystone Exam. It provides students with ongoing Biology support and increases their understanding of topics and concepts within the course. Instructors review concepts and skills taught in Biology while providing time for practice, modeling, and practical application of skills. Students who previously took Biology are enrolled in the course based on prior academic achievement, as demonstrated by course grades and diagnostic/benchmarking tests. The course focuses on PA-tested eligible content, using various resources, including Study Island, Plato, the Standards Aligned System, and Keystone-released Items on the PA Department of Education website

KEYSTONE LITERATURE PREP .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
English Language Arts 10, benchmarking test, and Administrative Approval

This semester-long, pass/fail course is a preparatory course for taking the Literature Keystone Exam. It provides students with ongoing Literature support and increases their understanding of topics and concepts within the course. Instructors review concepts and skills taught in English Language Arts (ELA 10) while providing time for practice, modeling, and practical application of skills. Students who previously took ELA 10 are enrolled in the course based on prior academic achievement, as demonstrated by course grades and

diagnostic/benchmarking tests. The course focuses on PA-tested eligible content, using various resources, including Study Island, Plato, the Standards Aligned System, and Keystone-released Items on the PA Department of Education website

LITERACY SKILLS — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite:
8th-grade English, benchmarking test, Administrative Approval

This yearlong freshman-year course is taken concurrently with English Language Arts 9 and focuses on the foundational skills of writing, vocabulary, and analysis. The course leads students to improved literacy comprehension, text handling and analysis, and written expression through reading and writing skills instruction, vocabulary practice, graduated reading levels, and helpful strategy tips.

PERSONAL FINANCE — 0.5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long finance course teaches what it takes to understand the world of finance and make informed decisions about managing finances. Students learn more about economics and become more confident in setting and researching financial goals as they develop the core skills needed to be successful. Students learn to open bank accounts, invest money, apply for loans, apply for insurance, explore careers, manage business finances, make decisions about major purchases, and more. Stories from finance professionals and individuals who have reached their financial goals aim to inspire students.

PSYCHOLOGY — 1 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This yearlong course introduces high school students to psychology and helps them master fundamental concepts in research, theory, and human behavior. Students analyze human growth, learning, personality, and behavior from the perspective of major theories within psychology, including the biological, psychosocial, and cognitive perspectives. From a psychological point of view, students investigate the nature of being human as they build a comprehensive understanding of traditional psychological concepts and contemporary perspectives in the field. Course components include an introduction to the history, perspectives, and research of psychology; an understanding of topics such as the biological aspects of psychology, learning, and cognitive development; the stages of human development; aspects of personality and intelligence; the classification and treatment of psychological disorders; and psychological aspects of social interactions.

PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS, MARKETING, AND FINANCE — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course hits on "real-life" topics for students in the realms of general business, marketing, and financial concepts. This course prepares students for life after high school and covers various topics including, but not limited to, money management, taxes, sales, visual merchandising, the marketing process, and more.

PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course introduces students to essential technical and professional skills required in Information Technology (IT). Through hands-on projects and written assignments, students understand the operation of computers, computer networks, Internet fundamentals, programming, and computer support. Students also learn about the social impact of technological change and the ethical issues related to

technology. Throughout the course, instructional activities emphasize safety, professionalism, accountability, and efficiency for workers within the field of IT.

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course dives into basic marketing concepts, target markets, market segmentation, sports marketing, supply and demand, entrepreneurship, and more. This class is for students who want to know the why and how behind sports and entertainment branding and foundational marketing concepts.

VETERINARY SCIENCE: THE CARE OF ANIMALS — .5 CREDIT

Prerequisite: NONE

This semester-long course explores the roles animals play in our lives and how scientists have sought to learn more about their health and well-being. Students examine domestic, farming, zoo, and wildlife sanctuary animals and their common diseases and treatments. Toxins, parasites, and infectious diseases impact not only animals but humans as well. Students learn that through veterinary medicine and science, the prevention and treatment of diseases and health issues are studied and applied.

Course Schedule Examples

9th-Grade Course Schedule Examples

Course Subjects	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	Electives	Required	Humanities (Choose 1)
Example Schedule 1	English 9	Algebra 1A	Earth and Space Science	Geography	Literacy Skills*	Lifetime Fitness 1 Digital Citizenship & Career Exploration	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1 (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 2	English 9	Algebra 1B **	Earth and Space Science Honors Earth and Space ** **(choose 1)**	Geography	Literacy Skills*	Lifetime Fitness 1 Digital Citizenship & Career Exploration	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1 (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 3	English 9 Honors English 9 ** **(choose 1)**	Algebra 1B ** Honors Algebra 1 ** Geometry ** Honors Geometry ** **(choose 1)**	Honors Earth and Space ** Honors Biology ** **(choose 1)**	Honors Geography **		Lifetime Fitness 1 Digital Citizenship & Career Exploration	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1 (Spanish, French or German)

* course scheduled based on benchmarking reuslts

** students must meet prerequisite requirements for all core courses (refer to the course catalog)

10th-Grade Course Schedule Examples

Course Subjects	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	Electives	Required	Humanities (Choose 1)
Example Schedule 1	English 10	Algebra 1B	Environmental Science *	US HIstory	Keystone Algebra 1 *	Lifetime Fitness 2 Reaching Your Academic Potential	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1 or Level 2 ** (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 2	English 10	Geometry **	Biology Honors Biology ** **(choose 1)**	US History	Keystone Algebra 1 * Healthy Living **OR** Contemporary Health	Lifetime Fitness 2 Reaching Your Academic Potential	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1 or Level 2 ** (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 3	English 10 Honors English 10 ** **(choose 1)**	Geometry ** Honors Geometry ** Algebra 2 ** Honors Algebra 2 ** **(choose 1)**	Honors Biology ** Chemistry ** Honors Chemistry ** **(choose 1)**	Honors US History **	Healthy Living **OR** Contemporary Health	Lifetime Fitness 2 Reaching Your Academic Potential	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1 or Level 2 ** (Spanish, French or German)

* course scheduled based on the benchmarking results

** students must meet prerequisite requirements for all core courses (refer to the course catalog)

11th-Grade Course Schedule Examples

Course Subjects	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	Electives	Required	Humanities (Choose 1 if Needed)
Example Schedule 1	English 11	Geometry	Biology	World History	Keystone English *	Lifetime Fitness 3 College & Career Goals	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1, 2, or 3 ** (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 2	English 11	Algebra 2 Statistics & Probability **(choose 1)**	Physical Science Chemistry **(choose 1)**	World History	Keystone English * Keystone Biology * Healthy Living **OR** Contemporary Health	Lifetime Fitness 3 College & Career Goals	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1, 2, or 3 ** (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 3	English 11 Honors English 11 ** AP English Language & Comp ** **(choose 1)**	Algebra 2 Honors Algebra 2 ** Statistics & Probability ** PreCalculus ** Honors PreCalculus ** **(choose 1)**	Honors Chemistry ** Physics ** Honors Physics ** **(choose 1)**	Honors World History **		Lifetime Fitness 3 College & Career Goals	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1, 2, or 3 ** (Spanish, French or German)

* course scheduled based on benchmarking results

** students must meet prerequisite requirements for all core courses (refer to the course catalog)

12th-Grade Course Schedule Examples

Course Subjects	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	Electives	Required	Humanities (Choose 1 if Needed)
Example Schedule 1	English 12	Financial Math			see below ***	Lifetime Fitness 4 Capstone Graduation Project	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1, 2, or 3 ** (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 2	English 12	Statistics & Probability PreCalculus	Chemistry Physics **(choose 1)**	Psychology	see below ***	Lifetime Fitness 4 Capstone Graduation Project	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1, 2, or 3 ** (Spanish, French or German)
Example Schedule 3	English 12 Honors English 12 ** AP English Language & Comp ** AP English Literature & Comp ** Introduction to Communication & Speech **(choose 1)**	PreCalculus Honors PreCalculus ** AP Calculus ** AP Statistics ** **(choose 1)**	Physics ** Honors Physics ** AP Environmental Science ** AP Biology ** **(choose 1)**	AP US History **	see below ***	Lifetime Fitness 4 Capstone Graduation Project	Fine Art (Music, Art History) **OR** World Language Level 1, 2, or 3 ** (Spanish, French or German)

* course scheduled based on benchmarking results
** students must meet prerequisite requirements for all core courses (refer to the course catalog)
***seniors must have a minimum of 5 credits in their schedule and meet all graduation requirements (refer to course catalog)