

# **High School Electives**

## **Humanities**

### **Art History grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credit)**

This Art History course integrates the four components of art study: art production, historical and cultural context, critical process and aesthetic process. Students will be able to identify and describe art from prehistoric times to modern time. Throughout this course, students will discuss various artworks, research artists, and create documents and presentations demonstrating concepts learned.

### **Art Appreciation grades 8 – 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

What makes an artwork a masterpiece? Why do artists create art? What is the difference between Rococo and Art Nouveau? In this course, students will discover the answers to these questions and more. We examine the elements of art and principles of design, and explore how artists have used these elements and principles in the creation of art for centuries.

### **Digital Media grades 9 – 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

Digital Media is a project-based survey of different forms of digital media, such as digital audio, imaging and illustration, movie editing, and animation. It's oriented toward teaching broad, flexible tools and concepts that are not tied to any one platform or program. Each module ends with a culminating task (like a podcast or short film), and students will be able to draft and develop their projects as they build their skills over each lesson.

### **Graphic Design grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credit)**

Graphic Design is an introduction to elements of design, spatial relationships, typography and imagery as they apply to practical visual solutions for self-promotion, resumes, logo design, Web design, and sequential systems. In this course, the student explores the basic foundations of design through a series of visual projects that explore the principles and elements of design. Students will work both with analog and digital media as they explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional design along with color theory. This course will help develop and explore a student's ability to communicate visually. In each lesson students acquire new skills, which take some effort. Beyond fundamental skills are various levels of creativity. Each lesson provides room for a student to express the technical skill learned in his or her own creative way.

**Medicine grades 9 – 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

This course provides students with an introduction to healthcare, with emphasis on modern, clinical medicine. Students review basic human anatomy and physiology, then study major health concerns affecting people in the U.S. and the world. This comprehensive, 10-unit course examines such topics as infectious diseases, cancer, traumatic injuries, and healthcare career opportunities.

**Music Appreciation grades 8 – 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

Students will gain a thorough understanding of music by studying the elements of music, musical instruments, and music history, as well as music advocacy. Students will be introduced to the orchestra and composers from around the world. They will be required to be a composer, performer, instrument inventor, and advocate.

# **Career Explorations/Guidance**

## **Study Skills & Strategies grades 9 - 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

The Study Skills and Strategies course equips students with skills and understandings critical to effective learning. Using a unique approach to the traditional topic of study skills, this course weaves understanding regarding the role of the brain in learning into the instruction of discrete learning skills and strategies. Moving beyond a list of good tips and ideas, the Study Skills and Strategies course will challenge students to develop intentional approaches to learning. They will be required to make connections between the strategies and skills they learn in this course and the implementation of those strategies and skills in their other coursework. Upon completion of the course, students will have learned a variety of specific learning skills and strategies, gained greater understanding of their own learning preferences, and become prepared to develop and implement specific learning and study plans for any academic course or other learning needs.

## **Career Planning grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credits)**

The Career Planning course guides students through the essential elements of the career planning process and the development of a defined career plan. Students will consider the many factors that impact career success and satisfaction. Using a process of investigation, research, and self-discovery, students will acquire the understandings critical to the career planning process. Upon completion of the course, students will have created a practical and comprehensive college or career transition portfolio that reflects their skills and abilities, as well as their interests, values, and goals.

# **Business Education**

## **Accounting grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credit)**

In this course, you will explore accounting, including investigating accounting careers. You will learn basic accounting skills and procedures both with and without a computer for general journals, general ledgers, cash payments journals, cash receipts journals, sales journals, accounts payable ledgers, and accounts receivable ledgers. You will also learn how to reconcile a bank statement and to prepare payroll records. This course covers the basic principles of financial accounting for individuals and for companies with attention to both the mathematical formulas and to the ethical side of accounting. Each unit has practical exercises including a project at the end of the unit.

## **Basic Web Design grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credits)**

In this course, students will learn how to design a beautiful and functional website. Students will learn how to take their design and translate it into a live website using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) programming languages. HTML5 and CSS3 will be the standard versions used in the class. Students will understand design components of websites, including the use of color, layout and when to use different techniques, typography rules, and the importance of imagery. At the conclusion of the course, students will present a website to the class. Upon completion of this course, each student will have hands-on experience creating a fully functioning website. Students do not need to have a previous technical background with HTML or CSS prior to taking this course.

## **Business Law grades 9 – 12 (.5 Credit)**

Students learn about the American legal system. They examine ethics, court systems, criminal law, and law of torts. They examine how the court systems work together, and what misconduct results in going to court. It is important to also understand your consumer rights. As they progress through the course, they will also gain an understanding from a business perspective what is right and wrong business actions and employment laws. As an employee or employer it is important to understand the laws that protect the employee and employer. The study will focus on the formation of a business and the basic legal issues associated with each type of business.

### **Computer Basics ( Grades 9 – 12 ) - (0.5 Credit )**

In this course you will learn how to use productivity and collaboration tools, such as G Suite by Google Cloud to create word processing documents, spreadsheets, surveys and forms such as personal budgets and invitations.

### **Introduction to Business grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credit)**

This course introduces students to the basic business concepts that will help them understand how a business survives in today's economy and the role that consumers play in the same economy. Students will learn how to balance a checkbook, save for the future, and use credit wisely. Students will also learn how to create a resume and how to participate in a job interview.

# **Health and Physical Education**

## **High School Health grades 9 – 12 (1.0 Credit)**

In this course, students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to lead a healthy life. The course begins with focusing on the impact of personal decisions on the student's own health. Students learn how to find, evaluate, and use reliable information related to a variety of health topics. They also study the basic science behind nutrition, exercise, stress, and psychology, and examine how these factors affect a person's overall health. Each lesson in the course guides students in applying what they have learned in the lesson to their own lives and choices—and gives them a chance to discuss the topic with peers and instructors. The course also focuses on the developmental aspects of being human and healthy. Students learn about some of the more dramatic changes that the human body experiences from birth to death. They explore topics related to aging and sexuality and identify ways to remain healthy and safe throughout life's major events and challenges. The course emphasizes what students can do to improve or maintain their own health and encourages them to be a positive influence on family and friends. Each lesson helps identify ways that students might use what they have learned in the lesson in their own lives.

## **High School Physical Education grades 9 – 12 (1.0 Credit)**

Physical Education encompasses learning how to live and maintain a healthy lifestyle. This course covers physical fitness, why it is important, how to have a healthy attitude, and how to stick with a healthy game plan. In this ever-changing world, physical fitness becomes more important and more difficult to find the time for. This course allows the student to discover how to make physical fitness not only a part of their daily life, but also see that it is attainable. This course leads the student to discover healthy behaviors and sets the tone for physical fitness as well as healthy exercise. PE for a Healthy Lifestyle will examine the emotional, physical, and scientific factors that influence physical performance. This course is designed for anyone, ranging from the beginner to advanced abilities.

## **Individual and Team Sports grades 6 – 12 (0.5 Credit)**

To improve and maintain optimum health, it is necessary for people of all ages to participate in physical exercise. Physical education is much more than just fitness and exercise. A well-planned program will cause you to think and express your emotions about different situations. In addition, a good program can make a valuable contribution to your education. These experiences will help you develop a sense of wellness. Emphasis in this course is placed on the value of these sports as possible lifetime activities and on creating a clear explanation of the rules and basic principles of a variety of sports. The sports covered in this course are archery, bicycling, golf, skiing, tennis, volleyball, baseball, basketball, football, hockey, and soccer. Information about the playing area and equipment, basic rules, safety considerations, and terminology for each sport are included in the discussions. For the most part, the information presented in each lesson applies to sports programs throughout most sections of the United States.

### **Personal Fitness grades 9 - 10 ( 0.5 Credit )**

In this course, students are introduced to exercise and physical fitness and the general recommendations for physical activity, while examining the benefits of exercise, lifestyle choices that can help prevent disease, and tips for kick-starting a healthier lifestyle. Students will explore each type of fitness, include the benefits, and the federal guidelines for exercise in detail. Students will also learn about bones and joints and the functions of the skeleton, and the different types of movements that occur at various joints, the different types of muscle in their bodies, and how they are structured, with particular attention to the different types of muscle fibers. Students will also explore the functions that muscles perform, how they work, and their interaction with the central nervous system and special considerations for safe and effective exercise. Students will learn how the cardio and respiratory systems work and interact with each other and about the different blood vessels that make up the circulatory (vascular) system, the body's energy systems and how eating and drinking relates to exercise. Finally, students will learn about the psychology of exercising.

# **Family and Consumer Sciences**

## **Character Education grades 9 – 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

This course teaches students practical skills for understanding and managing their emotions, setting goals and getting organized, understanding and getting along with others in our diverse world, and making good decisions. Research shows that people who practice these skills have greater academic achievement as students and experience more success and satisfaction as adults.

## **Child Development grades 9 – 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

This course is designed to help prepare students for their responsibilities as parents and caregivers of children. Topics include prenatal care, growth and development through age six, teen pregnancy, maternal health, parenting skills, and child guidance.

## **Financial Literacy grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credit )**

This course is designed to help students budget, keep a checkbook and filing system, deal with debt and credit, and become wiser consumers. Students will learn how money and the dynamics surrounding it affect their relationships, their lifestyles, and their retirement.



## **Social Studies Electives**

### **Psychology grades 9 – 12 (1.0 Credit)**

The purpose of this course is to investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course and will broadly cover several areas. Students will be expected to expand and go further into the topics. Theories and current research will be presented for the student to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit will present the terminology, theories and research that are critical to the understanding of the topic. Assignments and assessments will be included as well as tutorials and interactive drills.

### **Sociology grades 9 – 12 (.5 Credit)**

Sociology examines the basics of sociology, which is the study of society including individuals, human groups, and organizations. The course is divided into four main areas: the sociological perspective, social structures, inequality in society, and social institutions and change. Students will examine controversies around social change, inequality, gender, and race. The course revolves around an overview of the field with projects that offer the student a chance to explore from a sociologist's perspective.

## **Language Arts Electives**

### **Media & Communication grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credit)**

From banner ads to billboards, newspaper articles, and Facebook feeds, people are constantly sharing ideas. This course looks at the many facets of mass media. Students will learn how the media shapes every aspect of our lives. We examine the role of newspapers, books, magazines, radio, movies, television, and the growing influence of Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

### **Journalism grades 9 – 12 (0.5 Credit)**

This course is designed to prepare you to become a student of journalism and media. The work we do here will equip you with the critical skills you must have to succeed in high school media, college media, and beyond. We will read a variety of journalistic material and do a great deal of news writing. We will also look at journalism from legal, ethical, and historic vantage points. Expect to complete numerous writing activities in a variety of styles including editorial, hard news, feature, review, and more. If you participate actively, you will gain tremendous skills that will serve you for the rest of your life. Individual and group project will also be a part of this class. This course is a project based course and does not include traditional tests, unit level understanding is assessed through unit projects.

### **Spanish 1 grades 9 – 12 (1.0 Credit)**

Spanish 1 is designed to develop an authentic and practical understanding of the Spanish language and culture. Students will have the ability to express their thoughts, feelings, and opinions in the target language within basic, real-life situations and learning scenarios. All new concepts, grammatical concepts, and cultural information will be introduced in context while incorporating various listening, speaking and writing activities

### **Spanish 2 grades 9 – 12 (1.0 Credit)**

Students build upon the foundation developed in Spanish 1. They continue to build vocabulary, learn new verb tenses and other grammar concepts, and they increase their ability to communicate with others. They learn new concepts, like reflexive verbs, infinitive expressions, commands, the imperfect tense. Students will continue building on vocabulary, grammar concepts and communicating effectively in the target language. Students will explore new countries where Spanish is spoken and continue to keep abreast of current events in the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Spanish 3 grades 9 – 12 (1.0 Credit)**

Students continue to develop their ability in reading, writing, speaking, and understanding Spanish through a systematic review of its structure. Students focus on applying vocabulary in a wider array of situations by learning about the past progressive and subjunctive moods and the present perfect, future, and conditional tenses.

### **Theater Studies grades 9 – 12 ( 0.5 Credit )**

Have you ever wondered how a play goes from the playwright's mind all the way into a multi-million dollar Broadway production? In this course, you'll learn the whole process! This course provides a thorough introduction to the theater by providing an overview of major topics in theater studies, with a blend of theoretical and practical lessons. In the first half of this course you will learn about the definitions of theater, theater history, and contemporary theatrical genres. The second half of the course will guide you through all of the elements of putting on a professional theatrical production. You will learn about the entire production process, from playwriting through opening night, including elements of technical theater, the rehearsal process, and audience response. Whether you're an aspiring actor, technician, director, or producer, or even just an avid theater-goer, this course is for you.