



Upper School Course Catalog (Grades 8-12)

GRADE 8 COURSE OF STUDY

Language Arts (8th grade)

Length: Full Year

Reading instruction builds from the student's current reading level and extends word attack to syllabication and word analysis as needed. Reading comprehension instruction places emphasis on inferential and critical reading skills and vocabulary development coordinated with reading materials. Assigned readings will include a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials. Writing practice focuses on mechanics, spelling, punctuation, and grammar while focusing on composition of sentences, paragraphs and essays. Reinforcement is provided in a range of writing contexts, while students practice digital editing skills throughout the writing process.

Math (8th grade)

Length: Full Year

This course provides individualized, reinforced units extending basic operations and problem solving including fractions, decimals, and percents. Students are introduced to early pre-Algebra and pre-Geometry concepts while continuing to apply previously learned skills to real-life situations. Problem solving and reasoning skills are extended to include multi-step problems, graphing and measurements.

Movement II (8th grade)

Length: Full Year

This course is designed from a variety of curriculum resources, including SPARK Physical Education and FitnessGram, which give students the opportunity to learn through a comprehensive, sequentially planned program in accordance with the North Carolina Healthful Living Curriculum. Students will enhance their overall well-being by participating in movement classes that provide the knowledge, skills and values they need to become healthy and physically active for a lifetime. With active participation and practice in a positive atmosphere, students will improve their physical skills, personal fitness levels and social development.

Social Studies Rotation (8th grade)

Length: Full Year, three 12-week classes

Within the backdrop of American history, students explore major people, events and issues of North Carolina's past and present. Concepts of geography, civics and economics are integrated through the course. Emphasis is placed on learning and applying historical thinking skills.

General Science Rotation C (8th grade)

Length: Full Year, three 12-week classes

Students in this course will study a variety of concepts from earth science, physical science and life science. The topical units will prepare them to progress to high school science. Discussion, projects and experimentation - both hands on and digitally modeled - help students gather and apply knowledge to the everyday world around them.

Elective Rotation (8th grade)

Length: Full Year, three 12-week classes

Each 8th grade student is assigned three 12-week elective classes to complete during the academic year. Class options may include:

- Applied Research Writing (*required*)
- Cultural Studies
- Digital Literacy
- Theater/Improv

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES, GRADES 9-12

[English and Language Arts](#)

Elements of Literature

CP content area credit.1.0

Prerequisite: None

Course curriculum focuses on elements common to many types of literature: character, conflict, plot, setting, theme, and figurative language. Students are exposed to these elements at an appropriate reading level using a variety of reading materials. The goal is to help students understand common elements within a variety of genres: fiction (short stories and novels), drama, folklore, and nonfiction.

Genres of Literature

CP content area credit.1.0

Prerequisite: None

Students are asked to explore a more in-depth study of genre. They learn the characteristics of different genres and study various major genres, including short stories, novels, biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, drama, and poetry. Students refine writing skills and develop a more expansive, literature-based vocabulary. Examples from literature will be used to develop mature writing assignments.

American Literature

CP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes the study of American literature. Students are introduced to major American authors through a variety of reading materials. Authors may include: Poe, Hawthorne, Twain, and Hemingway. Instruction focuses on the application of knowledge of literary elements and genres. Composition is further practiced and developed with a focus on responses to classic American literary narratives and elements.

British and World Literature

CP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

British literature comprises the primary source material for this course; however, students may also be exposed to works by well-known authors from other countries to help broaden a student's perspective. Popular novels, historical literature and classical works are studied and analyzed, both through class discussion and individual composition. Curriculum emphasizes the use of rhetorical argument within academic writing assignments.

Advanced Literature

CP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

Students in this course will be engaged in a concentrated study of reading that is representative of various genres with deeper application of skills than is normally required in other courses. One goal of the course is to help students better understand the way writers use languages by considering the writer's structure, style and themes as well as underlying social and cultural values. Students will develop arguments, provide critical perspectives and evaluate text.

Literature and Composition

CP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their reading, writing and critical thinking skills. Students read, discuss, analyze, and write about challenging works of recognized literary works to develop honest, concise, and effective use of language and the ability to organize ideas in a clear, coherent and persuasive manner. Goals of the course included analysis of literature at an independent level and sharpening writing skills.

Elements of High School Writing

Elective credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Throughout the course of this elective, students will discuss plagiarism with more in depth instruction, producing expressive, informational, argumentative, critical literary writing to benefit all high school English classes. Goals of the course include increased use of elements of style in the student's written work in addition to a more advanced approach to the writing process, revising, editing and proper use of grammar.

American Literature Foundations

TP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes the study of American Literature. Students are introduced to major American authors through a variety of reading materials. Instruction focuses on the application of knowledge of literary elements and genres. Composition is further practiced and developed with a focus on responses to classic American literary narratives and elements.

Literature and Composition Foundations

TP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their reading, writing and critical thinking skills. Students read, discuss, analyze, and write about challenging works of recognized literary works to develop honest, concise, and effective use of language and the ability to organize ideas in a clear, coherent and persuasive manner. Goals of the course include analysis of literature at an independent level and sharpening writing skills.

Exploring Genres Foundations

TP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

Students are asked to explore a more in-depth study of genre. They learn the characteristics of different genres and study various major genres, including short stories, novels, biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, drama, and poetry. Students refine writing skills and develop a more expansive, literature-based vocabulary.

Elements of Literature Foundations

TP content area credit:1.0

Prerequisite: None

Course curriculum focuses on elements common to many types of literature. Students are exposed to these elements at an appropriate reading level using a variety of reading materials. The goal is to help students understand common elements within a variety of genres: fiction (short stories and novels), drama, folklore, and nonfiction.

[Mathematics](#)

Integrated Math I

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Pre-Alg or Level 8 math

Provides students the opportunity to study traditional topics from algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics in a problem centered, connected approach. Appropriate technology, from manipulatives to calculators and application software is regularly used for instruction and assessment.

Integrated Math II

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Int. Math I or equivalent

This level 2 class provides students the opportunity to study traditional topics from algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics in a problem centered, connected approach. Appropriate technology, from manipulatives to calculators and application software is regularly used for instruction and assessment.

Integrated Math III

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Int. Math II or equivalent

This level 3 class provides students the opportunity to study traditional topics from algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics in a problem centered, connected approach. Appropriate technology, from manipulatives to calculators and application software is regularly used for instruction and assessment.

Integrated Math IV

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Int. Math III or equivalent

This level 4 class provides students the opportunity to study traditional topics from algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics in a problem centered, connected approach. Appropriate technology, from manipulatives to calculators and application software is regularly used for instruction and assessment.

Algebra I

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Pre-Alg or Level 8 math

Students learn the basic rules, methods and concepts of Algebra by exploring linear equations, inequalities and polynomials, integrated with statistics and geometry. Students also learn to solve systems of linear equations and inequalities, along with properties of polynomials and an introduction to quadratic and exponential functions.

Algebra II

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Algebra I

Topics covered include solving systems of multiple linear equations and inequalities, and polynomial operations, exponents, roots and imaginary and complex numbers. Quadratic equations will be explored in detail.

Geometry

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Algebra I

Geometry includes in depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts as well as real-world problems. Topics include logic and proof of parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Students will be required to use different technological tools and manipulatives to discover and explain much of the course content.

Pre-Calculus

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Algebra II

Pre-Calculus weaves together previous study of algebra, geometry, and mathematical functions into a preparatory course for calculus. The course focuses on mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. Topics include a review of many fundamental concepts of Algebra, functions and graphs, polynomials and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, analytic trigonometry, topics in trigonometry, systems of equations and inequalities, matrices and determinants, conic sections, and analytic geometry, sequences, induction, probability, and an introduction to Calculus.

Statistics

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Algebra II

Statistics is designed as an introduction into the topics of analysis given certain events on sets of data including independent and dependent events, conditional probability, discrete random variables, probability distributions, measure of central tendency, normal distributions and organization/display of data. Students will be in charge of collecting and modeling real world data to learn how statistics can be commonly used. Statistics will mainly use an online interface using web resources and materials to enhance the scope of data to be shared. With an emphasis on the base level this course will be a launching pad for students to increase their mathematical reasoning and logical thinking skills.

Introduction to College Math (ICM)

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Statistics or Pre-Calculus

This course is designed to develop an understanding of topics, which are fundamental to the study of Calculus. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of trigonometric functions in multiple representations, right and oblique triangles, vectors, polar coordinates, and parametric equations. Upon completion, students should be able to select and use appropriate models and techniques for finding solutions to trigonometry-related problems with and without technology.

Integrated Math Foundations I

TP content area credit Prerequisite: None

This level 1 course is designed for students to gain an understanding of mathematics as it relates to everyday life. Activities help students not only understand the underlying mathematical concepts and equations they may encounter day to day, but also help them to be more financially aware and competent. Students solidify basic math skills as well as study mathematics in relation to vocation, banking, budgeting, time management, purchasing and myriad other everyday life applications.

Integrated Math Foundations II

TP content area credit Prerequisite: Int. Math Foundations I

This level 2 course is designed for students to further develop understanding of mathematics as it relates to everyday life. Activities help students not only understand the underlying mathematical concepts and equations they may encounter day to day, but also help them

to be more financially aware and competent. Students solidify basic math skills as well as study mathematics in relation to vocation, banking, budgeting, time management, purchasing and myriad other everyday life applications.

Integrated Math Foundations III

TP content area credit

Prerequisite: Int. Math Foundations II

This level 3 course is designed for students to apply mathematics in relation to everyday life. Activities help students not only understand the underlying mathematical concepts and equations they may encounter day to day, but also help them to be more financially aware and competent. Students solidify basic math skills as well as study mathematics in relation to vocation, banking, budgeting, time management, purchasing and myriad other everyday life applications.

Integrated Math Foundations IV

TP content area credit

Prerequisite: Int. Math Foundations III

This level 4 course is designed for students to apply and reflect upon mathematics as it relates to everyday life. Activities help students not only understand the underlying mathematical concepts and equations they may encounter day to day, but also help them to be more financially aware and competent. Students solidify basic math skills as well as study mathematics in relation to vocation, banking, budgeting, time management, purchasing and myriad other everyday life applications.

Social Studies

Cultural Studies

Elective credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course will explore varied dimensions of cultures around the globe, focusing on their historical and present-day culture, tradition, values, language, cuisine, and other cultural aspects documented through art, literature, music, and film. The study of each of these cultures will be supplemented by analytical techniques and interpretive strategies commonly employed in cultural studies. Students will also employ strategies to connect cultural knowledge to everyday life and practices.

Pop Culture

Elective credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Pop Culture is an engaging elective that examines and explores popular culture trends and influences. It follows a decades-based framework beginning in the 1920s and moves forward to our current decade. Students identify the characteristics of what makes something or someone a part of popular culture. Students also explore various pop culture aspects of each decade which may include listening and reflecting on music, learning a trendy dance, creating art and fashions of the time, researching important pop culture figures, etc. Students study the historical backdrop of each decade and build critical thinking skills that help them evaluate how pop culture reflects American values and is shaped by the economic realities and socio-political influences of a given time period.

US History

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Students engage in the study of US geography, climate, natural resources, and foreign nations and the impact all have had on the settlement and development of the United States from pre-colonial times to the present. Topics include Colonial America, the War for Independence, the Constitution, various Presidencies, the development of the Factory System, the Crisis of the 1850s, the Civil War, Westward Expansion, the Gilded Age, World War I, World War II and current events. Students are encouraged to question compromises, strategies, and solutions to various historical problems, and devise alternatives using resources from that particular time period. They also examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States throughout the course.

World History

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

In World History, students study major themes, people, places, and events that have played a significant role in shaping the modern world. Students explore cultural, economic, political and social developments beginning in the 13th century. Students will learn how historical world events unfold and connect as they discuss, compare and contrast historical elements across time. They are expected to think critically about the role of historical world events and to express their thoughts through writing and class discussions.

Rethinking History

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This year-long course introduces the concept of political cartoons and investigates the unexplained events of history. For the political cartoons component, students delve into the background of political cartoons, their purpose, and their use as primary sources. A brief history is provided related to the development of the United States. Topics discussed include why political cartoons are used, where to find them, the tools used by cartoonists, and the interpretation of political cartoons. Students are encouraged to challenge messages conveyed, develop their own opinions, and create their own cartoons to comment on historical current events. The Mysteries of History component delves into history's unsolved mysteries. Students learn that it is often difficult to interpret events because many times there are no right or wrong answers and secrets that the past is reluctant to reveal. Topics include who built Stonehenge and why, did the Chinese beat Columbus to the New Worlds, what happened to America's "Lost Colony", and much more. Students are encouraged to challenge historians' interpretations and express their own opinions.

Economics Legal and Political Systems (ELP)

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course is required of all college prep diploma track students. ELP is divided into two separate components; Economics and Legal Political Systems. Economic principles and topics are explored including supply and demand, competition, income, capitalism, the free

enterprise system, consumers, producers, businesses, business cycles, organized labor, money and banking, the Federal Reserve System, taxation, personal economic responsibility, and the stock market. The Legal and Political component features the American system, including state and local governments, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Presidency, the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch, public policy, urban problems and public opinions. The importance of current events is emphasized throughout the year.

Financial Literacy

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

Financially literate people use their knowledge and understanding of economics, money, credit, saving, investing, budgeting, etc. to make informed decisions about their personal finances. From everyday spending to long-term financial planning, effective management of money, credit, savings, and investments requires individuals to use their financial knowledge to plan for and further personal goals. Financial literacy expands beyond balancing a checkbook and budget sheet. Financial literacy requires individuals not only to be competent and fluent in personal finance but to also have a competent knowledge and understanding of national and global economics as well.

Introduction to Psychology

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

Introduces the basic concepts of behavior and thought processes. Students will learn about research methods, learning, memory, intelligence, personality and social behavior. Class discussion, multimedia presentations, and hands-on-activities/experiments are utilized to help students understand the importance of psychology and its impacts on their past, present and future lives.

ELP Foundations

TP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

ELP is divided into two separate components; Economics and Legal Political Systems. Economic principles and topics are explored including supply and demand, competition, income, capitalism, the free enterprise system, consumers, producers, businesses, business cycles, organized labor, money and banking, taxation, personal economic responsibility, and the stock market. The Legal and Political component features the American system, including state and local governments, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Presidency, the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch, public policy, urban problems and public opinions.

US History Foundations

TP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

Students engage in the study of US geography, climate, natural resources, and foreign nations and the impact all have had on the settlement and development of the United States from pre-colonial times to the present. Topics include Colonial America, the War for Independence, the Constitution, various Presidencies, the development of the Factory System, the Crisis of the 1850s, the Civil War, Westward Expansion, World War I, World War II and current events.

Financial Literacy Foundations

TP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

Financially literate people use their knowledge and understanding of economics, money, credit, saving, investing, budgeting, etc. to make informed decisions about their personal finances. From everyday spending to long-term financial planning, effective management of money, credit, savings, and investments requires individuals to use their financial knowledge to plan for and further personal goals. Financial literacy expands beyond balancing a checkbook and budget sheet. Financial literacy requires individuals not only to be competent and fluent in personal finance but to also have a competent knowledge and understanding of national and global economics as well.

Science

Physical Science

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

(Meets physical science requirement)

An investigation of Physics and Chemistry that focuses on hands-on use of the scientific method to plan and conduct experiments, gather and analyze data, and draw conclusions about the world around the student. Methods include the use of measuring instruments, graphing of information, and modeling the equations to help students understand five key concepts: matter, forces, chemical interactions, energy and electromagnetic waves.

Biology

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

(Meets life science requirement)

Students in Biology will investigate living things and their interactions within environments. This course will include material on each of the major kingdoms of living things (bacteria, Protist, Fungi, Plants and Animals). A variety of topics will be covered including cellular structure and homeostasis, classification systems, adaptation and evolution, reproduction, and basic genetics. In addition, students will learn about the features and characteristics that differentiate various classes of living things from one another.

Earth/Environmental Science

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

(Meets lab science requirement)

Students in Earth/Environmental science will build an understanding of concepts and develop skills in the natural sciences as they pertain to the interaction between people and the natural environment. An interdisciplinary study of the Earth's lithosphere, biosphere,

and atmosphere, this course will use local, national and global environmental issues to highlight the connections between humans and the planet they inhabit.

Chemistry

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra I

(Meets physical, lab science requirement or 4th credit option)

This course focuses on basic Chemistry concepts according to the Next Generation Science Standards. Students study matter and its properties and interactions by investigating chemical reactions, chemical bonding, and the structure and behavior of materials in all three physical states. Discussion, projects, and experimentation—both hands on and digitally modeled—help students gather knowledge and apply that to the everyday world around them.

Physics

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Geometry

(Meets physical, lab science requirement or 4th credit option)

This course focuses on basic Physics concepts according to the Next Generation Science Standards. Physics is presented as a hands-on investigation of forces, matter, energy, and electromagnetic concepts. Students observe the world around them through data driven experiments to model reality through the lens of mathematics. Emphasis is placed on understanding the importance and impact of scientific concepts on everyday life.

Biology Foundations

TP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

In foundations of biology, students investigate living things and their interactions within environments. A variety of topics are introduced, including cellular structure and processes, classification systems, adaptation and evolution, reproduction, and basic genetics. In addition, students learn about the features and characteristics that differentiate various groups of living things from one another.

Earth/Environmental Science Foundations

TP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Students studying foundations of earth and environmental science build an understanding of the interaction between people and the natural environment. A variety of topics are introduced, including the Earth's structure, its geology, hydrosphere, and atmosphere. Current environmental issues are studied to highlight the connection between humans and the planet they inhabit.

Physical Education

Physical Education and Health

CP/TP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

(Required for Graduation)

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn through the comprehensive sequentially planned Physical Education program in accordance with the North Carolina Healthful Living Curriculum. Students will be empowered to make choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness and movement activity for a lifetime. Units of physical education instruction will focus on personal fitness concepts and techniques as well as lifetime and team sports skill and strategies. Units of health instruction include: health and Wellness, Stress Management, Exercise Prescription, Nutrition, Life-Saving Skill; and Substance Abuse.

Fitness & Conditioning I

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training and overall fitness training and conditioning. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness and movement activity for a lifetime.

Fitness & Conditioning II

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to give students an advanced opportunity to further develop fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will begin to master the fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training and overall fitness training and conditioning. Students will be more deeply empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness and movement activity for a lifetime.

Foreign Language

Spanish I

CP content area credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Students are introduced to the basics of the Spanish language within the context of Hispanic Culture. Topics include food, family, colors, school, home and weather vocabulary, gender definite and indefinite articles, subject pronouns, cardinal and ordinal numbers,

conjugating the present and past verbs, 1st person vs. 3rd person, asking and answering simple questions, names of Hispanic countries formal and informal greetings, possessive adjectives, days of the week, months of the year, and boyd parts. Increased responses in Spanish and more complex conversations are required as students progress.

Spanish II

CP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Spanish I

Reviews major topics addressed in Spanish I in order to improve skills for more complex subjects. New topics include more challenging irregular verbs in the present, past and future tense, stem changing verbs, present progressive, irregular verbs in the preterite and imperfect tense, idioms, shop, daily tasks and a brief history of Latin America and Spain. An emphasis is placed on conversation as well as a more complex analysis of culture.

Fine Arts

Art I

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

Art I will introduce students to visual arts language and the creation of works of art. Personal expression and creative problem solving is encouraged but with a focus on developing perception, skills, and quality. Students will learn how to use art media and tools, both traditional and digital, to create drawings, paintings, prints, collages, and sculptures. Students will begin blogging on Edublog.com, to document their learning process, and to build a digital portfolio. On art history day, students will explore and learn how to critically examine the works of famous artists using video, readings, teacher and student-led presentations.

Art II – Studio Drawing and Painting

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: Art I

Art II builds on the skills and methods learned in Art I, which is a prerequisite. Art II provides an advanced level of drawing and painting instruction, using both traditional and digital media. Assignments will be thematic with an emphasis on personal, creative problem solving and how to communicate meaning through design. Students will learn how to effectively critique each other;s and other artists' works on art history day, and continue to develop their portfolios on their blogs.

Art III (& Art IV) – Portfolio Development

CP/TP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: Art II

This course is designed for the highly motivated student artist. Art I and II are both prerequisites and students are expected to have demonstrated skills and quality work in a range of methods and approaches. Students are required to demonstrate a strong work ethic while growing a coherent body of high quality work and organizing it into a college read portfolio. This course is largely self-directed with the instructor serving as technical and critical advisor. Students will learn how to present and promote their works in in-school group and solo shows.

Creative Expression

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for students to develop their creativity. Over the course of the semester, students will be introduced to new and traditional forms of creative expression. Creative expression seeks to awaken students to their own creative abilities. This course covers an introduction to creative writing, writing in response to different genres, research into different cultures' creativity and art appreciation.

Film Studies

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

This course provides a general introduction to the study of film and focuses on the key terms and concepts used to describe and analyze the film experience. As we put this set of tools and methods in place, we will also explore different modes of film production (fictional narrative, documentary, experimental) and some of the critical issues and debates that have shaped the discipline of film studies. A variety of films will be watched and reflected upon, including several noted cinematic masterpieces from a variety of genres. Journaling, discussion, and debate are required practices in this class as they will be used to deepen student's critical understanding of the myriad complexities presented through the use of various storytelling structures.

Garageband I (& Garageband II)

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

Garageband is a fine-arts elective course designed to explore aspects of leadership, communication and collaboration by pursuing common music-making goals within a garageband-style environment. No previous musical experience is necessary, as garageband participants work with their teacher to actively learn how to play multiple instruments of their choice. The teacher serves as a musical resource for the band and works to set and facilitate various music-making goals. Classes are goal-oriented, fun and informal, and the innovative curriculum is largely student-driven by student voice and choice. Each garageband works together to identify songs to learn and practice, set strategies for musical development, implement audio-recording and mixing choices, and establish goals for a concluding live performance.

Theater & Improv I (& Theater/Improv II)

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

In this course students will discover and explore the fundamentals of theater and performance. Classwork will focus on the exploration of both Classical and contemporary theatrical literature, an introduction to performance techniques and the basics of technical theater. Theater games and improv exercises will be used to introduce students to acting and character development. Basics of theatrical

performance will be explored through projects including work on selected scenes and monologues and various ensemble acting projects. Also included in the course will be a trip to a local theater to watch a play and observe drama performed on a professional level.

Theater Studies

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

This course provides a general introduction to the study of theater and focuses on the key terms and concepts used to describe and analyze theatrical performance. As we put this set of tools and methods in place, we will also explore different kinds of dramatic theater and historical elements that have shaped the development of theatrical performance. A variety of plays will be studied, watched and reflected upon, including several noted theatrical genres. Journaling, discussion, and debate are required practices in this class as they will be used to deepen student's critical understanding of theatrical studies.

Technical

Culinary Arts I (& Culinary Arts II)

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

This introductory course teaches the basics of culinary preparation, including sauteing, baking, broiling, frying, boiling, and basic knife skills. Students will also learn the important temperatures, kitchen vocabulary, and measuring utensils along with plate presentations. There will be lots of hands-on cooking experience, all types of cooking methods, and tasting their creations.

Culinary Arts III (& Culinary Arts IV)

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: Culinary Arts I & II

Advanced culinary arts students make their own recipes, with assistance, generate the ingredient list, understand the cost control and create their own cookbook based on their ideas. Students will also practice with different flavors of the world, cook 3-4 recipes per unit with authentic recipes from different countries of the world, as well as regions of the United States. Completed recipes will be taste tested and critiqued by the entire class.

Independent Living Skills

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

This class is designed to help students become more independent in their everyday lives. Emphasis will be on establishing positive relationships, investigating careers, applying nutrition and wellness knowledge, health and safety, accessing community resources and self-advocacy. Students will learn through hands-on activities in the classroom and in the community.

Exploring Computer Science I (& ECS II)

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

Students will be exposed to the practical use of modern technology in higher education and the workforce, as well as the creative use in modern and popular media. The class will explore future concepts and applications of technology, as well as develop an understanding of how technology influences the evolution of human society. Students will be introduced to basics of logic and computer science, modern digital manufacturing methods, development and use of creative digital media and assorted other modern digital technologies.

Vocational Arts I (& Vocational Arts II)

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

Vocational Arts is a course for students who love getting hands-on experience learning a variety of real world, practical skills. With lessons incorporating woodworking to small engine repair, students will be introduced to and taught how to use common tools found in most homes or shops. Additionally, safety/first aid is a recurring subject and priority due to the nature of the course. Students should prepare to get messy, as they are involved in multiple projects throughout the semester.

Yearbook & Digital Media I (& YDM II)

CP/TP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

Students will learn the principles of yearbook production, design, and development with the goal of creating a yearbook that documents student life in a realistic and inclusive manner that showcases our school community. Students will also be introduced to the overarching concepts and skills for modern digital content creation including video editing, graphic design and photography.

Leadership

Leadership: Believe & Achieve

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

What does it mean to believe in yourself? This course is designed to investigate this question by developing understandings of social emotional wellness. Special focus is spent on exploring and overcoming social challenges in establishing yourself as one who leads by example. Students will study a variety of potential hazards associated with the information age in which we live, and special emphasis will be placed on considering ways to establish yourself as a good digital citizen. Additional explorations will help students better understand how current events impact them and shape their beliefs. Students will also practice the art of self-advocacy while investigating real-life examples of perseverance and grit. Achieving one's potential requires a variety of skills, including study skills, self management & organization. Students will explore various techniques and ideas that may help them be more proficient in these areas. Students will also explore and understand various learning modalities while investigating their own learning strengths and weaknesses. A special focus will be placed on investigating real-life examples of personal integrity, from which questions will arise-

What is it? How do you establish it? How do you preserve it? Students will also study and consider various case studies where examples of personal responsibility, critical self-reflection, and effective problem solving can enhance one's sense of personal happiness and success. Importantly, students will also practice and develop improved public speaking skills as they strive to more effectively communicate their ideas.

Leadership: Explore & Soar

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

What are you curious about? How do your curiosities impact you as you learn more about them? How does what you learn shape future goals? Students will explore various interests and career paths and work to discern if those ideas may be a good match to one's individual skills. Special focus will also be given to learning how to create a personal resume, develop interviewing skills, and practice workplace etiquette. Students will also take time to research and consider a variety of higher education opportunities. The act of creating and exploring these critical questions are intended to better inform each student's future goals and pursuits. What are you curious about? How does what you learn shape your future goals? Are you working to your full potential? Do you have personal integrity? In this course, you will explore various interests and career paths and work to discern if those ideas may be a good match to one's individual skill set. Special focus will be given to learning how to create a personal resume, develop interviewing skills, and practice workplace etiquette. Students will also study and consider various case studies where examples of personal responsibility, critical self-reflection, and effective problem solving skills can enhance one's sense of personal happiness and success. Importantly, students will practice and develop improved public speaking skills as they strive to more effectively communicate their ideas and thoughts.

Career Readiness

TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on the development of both personal and employment skills that promote a successful transition from high school into the workforce. Students will develop both intrapersonal and interpersonal skills through a variety of role-playing exercises and self-reflective activities. Additionally, students will explore a variety of career pathways and develop myriad job-specific skills such as time management and successful interviewing. Lastly, students will also strengthen their independent communication skills through a variety of exercises.

Modern America

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

Starting with the Cold War, students will learn about how America has evolved and changed in the past 50 years. Topics will include nuclear warfare, how the tide of the internet has changed our society, the war on terror, and cultural evolution. Students will discuss ways in which the technological revolution has changed society to create a more global world. Students will also consider ways they, as future leaders, may contribute to and positively influence various facets of modern American society.

Speech and Debate

CP/TP content area credit: 0.5 Prerequisite: None

This course creates a confident and informed communicator by focusing on debate as a critical thinking AND listening activity. Students will use reliable research to establish a well-supported position and effectively present that position to an audience. During this process students will gain the ability to look at both sides of an issue, as well as an appreciation for opposing viewpoints, and will craft logical arguments to explain their conclusions. The projects will also sharpen oral presentation skills, such as voice projections and inflection, posture, eye-contact, gestures, etc.

Yearbook & Digital Media I (& YDM II)

CP/TP content area credit: 1.0 Prerequisite: None

Students will learn the principles of yearbook production, design, and development with the goal of creating a yearbook that documents student life in a realistic and inclusive manner that showcases our school community. Students will also be introduced to the overarching concepts and skills for modern digital content creation including video editing, graphic design and photography.

[Intersession](#)

Intersession

(Required each year enrolled at TFA)

Prerequisite: None

For at least one week in the spring semester each year, high school students attend one of several intersession course options. These courses are designed to create powerful hands-on learning, leadership, and service experiences beyond the classroom. Opportunities for in-depth study and exploration are central to the intersession experience. TFA offers both tuition inclusive and additional fee-based intersession course options for students. Those students who choose a fee-based course option are required to pay in full all associated course fees by the Fall registration deadline, so the business office may confirm all travel arrangements and other booking details.