

## Upper School Course Catalogue (Grades 8-12)

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course of Study

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#### **Language Arts (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

Reading instruction focuses on 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. Consistent reinforcement is provided through a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials and students participate in an independent reading program outside of the classroom. Students continue to improve the use of mechanics; spelling, punctuation, and grammar and focus on sentence writing, paragraph development and writing essays. Reinforcement is provided in a range of writing contexts, along with an emphasis on computer use in the writing process.

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#### **Math**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

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 as well as continue to apply previously learned skills to real-life situations. Problem solving and reasoning skills are extended to include multi-step problems, graphing and measurements.

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#### **Movement II (Grade 8)**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

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, non-threatening atmosphere, students improve their physical skills, fitness, social development and personal enjoyment. The emphasis is on traditional physical education outcomes and health-related fitness activities all within the Sport Education model. The skill aspect of the class will focus on developing sport-specific skills by practicing and applying strategies during individual skill builders, partner challenges and small-sided modified games. The Sport Education model emphasizes student engagement in active challenges that require problem-solving, communication, teamwork and social values.

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#### **North Carolina History – 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to help students explore North Carolina's people, events and issues using current events in addition to learning about major events from the Age of Exploration to present. Concepts of geography, civics and economics will be taught throughout the course within the context of events in addition to examining North Carolina's locale, state and position within the national government.

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#### **General Science C – 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course utilizes a combination of topical units to conduct review and development of concepts in the areas of Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science. Units incorporate various text sources, media and visual organizers. Emphasizes content reading strategies as well as hands-on experiences and application projects to reinforce connections between science and the everyday world.

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#### **Applied Research Writing**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*3 12 week rotations*

Students will begin this course with their language arts teacher with a focus on plagiarism; during each rotation, students will have the opportunity to explore various topics which will help them with a greater understanding of the nature of inquiry and research. Students will look at the importance of research in daily life, characteristics, process, and ethics of research, understand the difference between quantitative and qualitative research, and examine research in areas of interest (arts, humanities, sports, science, business, agriculture, social inquiry and current events). Goals of this course include improved research skills: gathering relevant information, analyzing data and information, forming logical conclusions, and writing and presenting a clear report(s).

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# High School Course Offerings, Grades 9-12

## ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS

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### **Elements of Literature**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(count as a graduation requirement towards English credits)*

This course 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. Students are exposed to mechanics, sentence fluency, composition, and notes and research.

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### **Genres of Literature**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(count as a graduation requirement towards English credits)*

This course involves a more in depth look at genre. Students learn the characteristics and begin an appreciation of the major genres such as short stories, novels, biographies, autobiographies, memoirs, drama, and poetry. Students refine mechanics; expand sentence fluency and composition as well as use literature to develop more mature writing assignments.

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### **American Literature**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(count as a graduation requirement towards English credits)*

This course focuses on American Literature. The goal of the course is to introduce students to major American authors through a variety of reading materials. Authors may include: Poe, Hawthorne, Twain, and Hemingway. Students apply knowledge of the elements of literature as well as genres. Composition is further developed with a focus on responses to literature, business and practical writing, creative and personal writing, and research writing.

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### **British and World Literature**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(count as a graduation requirement towards English credits)*

The foundation of this course is British Literature; however, students may be exposed to works by well-known authors from other countries to help broaden the student's perspective. Historical novels set in Great Britain or elsewhere in the world can also be incorporated to give a broader viewpoint. Composition focuses on refining and mastery of skills.

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### **Advanced Literature**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(count as a graduation requirement towards English credits)*

Students in this course will be engaged in a concentrated study of reading that is representative of various genres with a focus on literature from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. One goal of the course is to help students better understand the ways writers use language 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.

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### **Literature and Composition**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(count as a graduation requirement towards English credits)*

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 way. Goals of the course include analysis of literature at an independent level and sharpen writing skills.

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### **English III – Foundations**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(Requirement for Graduation)*

This course focuses on American Literature. The goal of the course is to introduce students to major American authors through a variety of reading materials. Authors may include: Poe, Hawthorne, Twain, and Hemingway. Students apply knowledge of the elements of literature as well as genres. Composition is further developed with a focus on responses to literature, business and practical writing, creative and personal writing, and research writing. 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. Students are exposed to mechanics, sentence fluency, composition, and notes and research. Materials used for this course may be adapted or abridged to meet their instructional level.

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### **English IV – Foundations**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(Requirement for Graduation)*

The foundation of this course is British Literature; however, students may be exposed to works by well-known authors from other countries to help broaden the student's perspective. Historical novels set in Great Britain or elsewhere in the world can also be incorporated to give a broader viewpoint. Composition focuses on refining and mastery of skills.

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## MATHEMATICS

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### **Integrated Mathematics: Levels 1-4**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

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.

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### **Consumer Math: Levels 1-3**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed for students to gain an understanding of mathematics as it relates to their everyday lives. Activities help students not only understand the underlying mathematical concepts and equations they may encounter day to day but also helps them to be more financially aware and competent. Students will solidify basic math skills as well as study the mathematics of: work, banking and credit, personal finance and investments, trades and professions, automobiles and transportation, and housing and taxes. Students will also utilize information from the High School Financial Planning Program.

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### **Algebra I**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra*

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.

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### **Algebra II**

*Length: Full Year*

*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.

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### **Geometry**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: Algebra I*

Basic concepts of Geometry are covered, including points, lines, segments and angles. Students learn about polygons, with an emphasis on triangles and their properties, basic logic concepts and problem-solving techniques.

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### **Pre-Calculus**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II*

Classwork consists of daily exercises in the text with homework for practice and reinforcement of concepts. Some of the topics covered are: Mathematical Models, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Trigonometric Functions, Analytic Trigonometry, Matrices and Determinants and Conic Sections. Real-world, hands-on application of certain concepts are examined when applicable to learning objectives. Tests are administered when concepts are mastered, with the timing of tests dependent on student progress as well as teacher assessment of readiness.

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### **Statistics**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisites: 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, measures 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.

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### **Introduction to College Math (ICM)**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisites: Statistics and 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.

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## SOCIAL STUDIES

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### **World History**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(Requirement for Graduation)*

This course focuses on study of the six accepted periods of World History: Technological and Environmental, Transformations, Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies, Region and Transregional Interactions, Global Interactions, 1700-1900 and 1900-Present.

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**Rethinking History***Length: Full Year**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 and 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 World, what happened to America's "Lost Colony", and much more. Students are encouraged to challenge historians' interpretations and express their own opinions.

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**Economics Legal and Political Systems (ELP)***Length: Full Year**Prerequisite: None**(Requirement for Graduation)*

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 opinion. The importance of current events is emphasized throughout the year.

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**United States History***Length: Full Year**Prerequisite: None**(Requirement for Graduation)*

United States History is a study of geography, climate, natural resources, and foreign nations impacting the settlement and development of the United States from pre-colonial times to the present. Topics include the Age of Exploration, colonial America, the War for Independence, the Constitution, various Presidencies, the Civil War, Westward Expansion, the Gilded Age, both World Wars, the Twenties and Thirties, the Cold War period, and more. Students are encouraged to question many of the compromises and solutions to various historical problems and devise alternatives using resources from that particular time period. They will also examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States throughout the course.

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**Financial Literacy***Length: Full Year**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.

In today's automated global society financial literacy expands beyond balancing a checkbook and budget sheet. Financial literacy requires individuals not only be competent and fluent in personal finance but to also have a competent knowledge and understanding of national and global economics as well.

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**Introduction to Psychology***Length: Full Year**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 discussions, multimedia presentations, and hands-on activities/experiments are utilized to help students understand the importance of psychology and its impact on their past, present and future lives.

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**SCIENCE**

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**Physical Science***Length: Full Year**Prerequisite: None**(Requirement for Graduation)*

An investigation and introduction to physics and chemistry, in which students use the skills of the scientific method to plan and carry out experiments, analyze results and form conclusions, learn how to convert measurements, use formulas and create graphs to facilitate their understanding of these concepts. Topics include a study of force, motion, energy, heat, momentum, machines, waves, magnetism, sound, light, lenses and basic chemistry.

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**Biology***Length: Full Year**Prerequisite: None**(Requirement for Graduation)*

An investigation of cell biology, classification, botany, zoology, genetics, evolution and ecology. Students use the scientific method to recognize problems, form hypotheses, conduct experiments, and draw conclusions. Students study the structure of the cell, the taxonomy of plants and animals and perform select dissections of the animal phyla and learn basic genetics.

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**Earth/Environmental Science***Length: Full Year**Prerequisite: None**(Requirement for Graduation)*

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

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**Chemistry**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: Algebra I*

This course focuses on basic Chemistry concepts as included in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Students study Matter, Atoms, The Periodic Table, Chemical Compounds, Chemical Reactions, Chemical bonding the Kinetic Theory of Matter, Behavior of Gases, the Mole, Solutions, Acids and Bases, and practical applications of these concepts in everyday life. Classwork includes hands-on experiences, virtual experimentation via computer/internet, viewing videos, producing research projects and solving problems from the text. Homework is assigned regularly for reinforcement and enrichment. Glencoe's "Chemistry concepts and Applications" is the main text used. A variety of other print resources are used as needed.

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**Physics**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: Algebra II/Geometry*

Physics is presented as a hands-on investigation of topics including motion, energy, matter, heat, light, sound, magnetism, electricity, and electromagnetism. Students participate in a variety of demonstrations and laboratory exercises in an inquiry-based setting in order to develop a conceptual understanding of Physics. Discrepant events--experiences that defy common sense--are regularly used to engage student interest and support learning. Drawing from a wide-variety of print, web, video resources, and current events, this course invites students to ask questions, develop experimental procedures, analyze results, and solve problems using algebra-based physics formulas and mathematical reasoning skills.

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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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**Physical Education and Health**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

*(Requirement for Graduation)*

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn through a 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 skills and strategies. Units of health instruction include: health and Wellness; Stress Management; Exercise Prescription; Nutrition; Life-Saving Skills; and Substance Abuse.

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**Fitness/Conditioning I**

*Length: Full Year*

*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.

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**Fitness/Conditioning II**

*Length: Full Year*

*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.

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**FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

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**Spanish I**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

Students are introduced to the basics of the Spanish language within the context of the Hispanic culture. Topics include food, school, home and weather vocabulary, gender, definite and indefinite articles, subject pronouns, cardinal and ordinal numbers, conjugating the present tense of verbs, asking and answering simple questions, names of Hispanic countries, formal and informal greetings, possessive adjectives, days of the week, months of the year, and expression of dates. Increased responses in Spanish and more complex conversations are required as the students' progress.

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**Spanish II**

*Length: Full Year*

*Prerequisite: Spanish I*

Reviews major topics addressed in Spanish I in order to improve skills for more complex subjects. New topics introduced include more challenging irregular verbs in the present tense, family vocabulary, stem changing verbs, shop, direction vocabulary, present progressive and preterit tense, Hispanic folktales, proverbs, idioms, irregular verbs in the preterit tense and future and conditional tense. An emphasis is placed on conversation as well as a more complex analysis of culture.

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## ELECTIVES

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### **Technology I/II**

*Length: Half Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

Students will be exposed to both the history as well as concepts for future technology. Exploring the beginnings of technology and its transformation to what we use today and what may come in the future, students will better understand the impact of technology on our everyday world. Students will also explore popular tech industries through hands on experimenting opportunities with computer coding, web design, video/film production, and photography.

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### **Art I**

*Length: Half Year*

*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, 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.

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### **Art II – Studio Drawing and Painting**

*Length: Half Year*

*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. Lessons in visual literacy will include decoding images using Molly Bang's "Picture This" and learning 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.

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### **Art III – Portfolio Development**

*Length: Half Year*

*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 ready 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.

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### **Theater**

*Length: Half Year*

*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 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.

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### **Culinary Arts I - Introduction**

*Length: Half Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course teaches the basics to the culinary and baking and pastry field; sautéing, baking, broiling, frying, boiling, basic knife skill. Students will also learn 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.

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### **Culinary Arts II – Advanced**

*Length: Half Year*

*Prerequisite: Culinary Arts I*

In this course, the student will make their own recipes, with assistance, generate the ingredient list, understand 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.

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### **Cultural Studies**

*Length: Half Year*

*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 interpretative strategies commonly employed in cultural studies. Students will also employ strategies to connect cultural knowledge to everyday life and practices.

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### **Creative Expression**

*Length: Half Year*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed for students to develop her or his creativity. Over the course of the year, 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 will cover an introduction to creative writing, film appreciation, different styles of music/song, and art appreciation.

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**Elements of High School Writing***Length: Half Year**Prerequisite: None*

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

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**Film Studies***Length: Half Year**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 students' critical understanding of the myriad complexities presented through the use of various storytelling structures.

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**Independent Living Skills***Length: Full Year**Prerequisite: None*

This course will focus on helping 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.

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**Skills for Life***Length: Half Year**Prerequisite: None*

Students in this course will engage in social interactions and behaviors through topics related to horticulture, auto mechanics, carpentry and work safety with a practical, hands-on approach. Students will learn common tasks such as maintaining automobiles and lawn equipment, the use of basic power tools, measurement, gardening and simple construction. Students will be involved in several real hands-on service-learning projects, such as maintaining areas of campus landscaping and creating useful resources with construction materials, all while developing useful life skills for life after high school.

Another component of this course that students may be exposed to is consumer related skills for the older student who will soon be transitioning to higher-level education or a career. Some of the topics covered include income, budgeting, banking, consumer credit, income taxes, and health insurance.

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**Intersession Courses***Length: 5 days**Prerequisite: None*

For up to one week during the Spring semester, each High School student attends 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.

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**Leadership: Believing in Yourself***Length: Half Year**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 and 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.

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**Leadership: Achieving to Your Potential***Length: Half Year**Prerequisite: None*

Achieving to 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.

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**Leadership: Exploring Next Steps as a Curious Learner** *Length: Half Year**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.

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**Senior Leadership: Soaring as a Community Leader***Length: Full Year**Prerequisite: None**Requirement for Graduation*

Seniors at TFA are student leaders who learn how to lead assemblies, organize red and white events, and support other school events. Seniors also work together throughout the year to plan, prepare, and produce a yearbook that documents student life in a positive and inclusive way that showcases our school community's success. By the end of the year, seniors complete the Activate Good Curriculum and develop awareness of national and community issues calling for volunteer and non-profit action. Students discuss the necessity of individual action to community improvement and gain knowledge, skills, and experience to take action beyond their time in high school.

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