

## Method Schools Course Catalog 2016-2017

### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### **Creative Writing**

Students create original essays, poems, and short stories in this course, which uses two textbooks and focuses on the four-step process writing model. They read professionally written forms of creative writing as models and then integrate their impressions of these works with their personal life experiences as they compose their own writing projects. Students are encouraged to write about topics they find engaging as they practice writing on the following themes: narration, definition, process analysis, cause and effect, and comparison/contrast. After students turn in each assignment, the teacher supplies detailed suggestions for revision. This feedback helps students learn how to improve their self-expression and self-editing skills.

#### **Grammar and Composition (UC, NCAA)**

This refresher course helps students improve their understanding of grammar and usage basics and enhance their communication skills through writing exercises and discussions with their peers. Students start by completing a diagnostic writing assignment to identify strengths and areas for improvement. They receive step-by-step instruction on the writing process, follow activities to develop their grammar skills, and have multiple opportunities to practice formal and informal writing. Students use literature and expository pieces as models for their own writing. They participate in threaded online conversations with the teacher and their fellow students to discuss their writing, receive constructive feedback for revision, and comment on other students' work. Throughout the course, rubrics help students remember what is expected of them and help them produce their best work.

#### **English Language Arts 9 (UC, NCAA)**

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

#### **English Language Arts 10 (UC, NCAA)**

Focused on application, this sophomore English course reinforces literary analysis and twenty-first century skills with superb pieces of literature and literary nonfiction, application e-resources, and educational interactives. Each thematic unit focuses on specific literary analysis skills and allows students to apply them to a range of genres and text structures. As these units meld modeling and application, they also expand on training in media literacy, twenty-first century career skills, and the essentials of grammar and vocabulary. Under the guidance of the eWriting software, students also compose descriptive, persuasive, expository, literary analyses, research, narrative, and compare-contrast essays.

#### **English Language Arts 11 (UC, NCAA)**

This junior-year English course invites students to delve into American literature from early American Indian voices through contemporary works. Students engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts as the centerpieces of this course. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, students master comprehension and literary analysis strategies. Interwoven in the lessons across two semesters are tasks that encourage students to strengthen their oral language skills and produce creative, coherent writing. Students read a range of short but complex texts, including works by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Emily Dickinson, Herman

Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Martin Luther King, Jr., F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sandra Cisneros, Amy Tan, and Dave Eggers.

### **English Language Arts 12 (UC, NCAA)**

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

### **Journalism**

Students are introduced to the historical importance of journalism in America. They study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role of printed news media in our society. They learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students conduct interviews, research, write, and design their own publications.

### **MATH**

#### **Algebra I (UC)**

The purpose of this course is to allow the student to gain mastery in working with and evaluating mathematical expressions, equations, graphs, and other topics in a yearlong algebra course. Topics included are real numbers, simplifying real number expressions with and without variables, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations, graphing linear and quadratic equations, polynomials, factoring, linear patterns, linear systems of equality and inequality, simple matrices, sequences, and radicals. Assessments within the course include multiple-choice, short-answer, or extended response questions. Also included in this course are self-check quizzes, audio tutorials, and interactive games.

#### **Geometry (UC)**

Geometry builds on students' prior knowledge by helping them make a connection to the concepts they learned in Algebra I. In this course, they are introduced to the basic elements of geometry and then move on to proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, the coordinate plane, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, congruence and similarity, surface area, volume, and transformations. Content is accompanied by numerous graphics and illustrations in this very visual course. Narrated slideshows make it easier for students to understand the more challenging concepts presented. Lessons are supplemented with interactive problems that let students practice what they've learned before they complete homework assignments and take assessments.

#### **Algebra II (UC, NCAA)**

Content covered in Algebra II includes functions, radical functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, geometry, conic sections, systems of equations, probability, and statistics. As students study the progressively more challenging topics in this course, they need more practice and feedback. To meet this need, Algebra II introduces the use of a math tutorial lab, which gives students an open forum to discuss concepts with other students and to receive teacher input. The course includes custom animations and flash tutorials to help explain the content. Students learn how to apply the concepts and skills taught in this course to real-world scenarios.

#### **Precalculus (UC)**

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

### Calculus (UC)

This course provides a comprehensive survey of differential and integral calculus concepts, including limits, derivative and integral computation, linearization, Riemann sums, the fundamental theorem of calculus, and differential equations. Content is presented across ten units and covers various applications, including graph analysis, linear motion, average value, area, volume, and growth and decay models. In this course, students use an online textbook, which supplements the instruction they receive and provides additional opportunities to practice using the content they've learned. Students will use an embedded graphing calculator applet (GCalc) for their work on this course; the software for the applet can be downloaded at no charge.

### Consumer Math

In Consumer Math, students study and review arithmetic skills they can apply in their personal lives and in their future careers. The first semester of the course begins with a focus on occupational topics; it includes details on jobs, wages, deductions, taxes, insurance, recreation and spending, and transportation. In the second semester, students learn about personal finances, checking and savings accounts, loans and buying on credit, automobile expenses, and housing expenses. Narrated slideshows help illustrate some of the more difficult content. Throughout the course, students participate in online discussions with each other and their teacher.

### Integrated Mathematics I (UC)

This first-year high school integrated math course focuses on linear and simple exponential models. The course contrasts linear behavior with exponential behavior, and uses both linear and simple exponential equations as models. Students learn about and work extensively with functions—analyzing function properties and behavior, creating new functions from known functions, and applying functions to various continuous and discrete situations. The statistics in the course focus on modeling. Geometry topics covered in the course include constructions, transformations, similarity, and congruence—and students use the Pythagorean theorem in analytic geometry contexts.

### Integrated Mathematics II (UC)

Integrated Mathematics II, a second-year high school math course, focuses on extending the number system to include irrational and complex numbers, as well as computation with quadratic polynomials. The course continues with quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, including making comparisons to their linear and exponential counterparts, covered in Integrated Mathematics I. The course also introduces conditional probability as a way to make better decisions when given limited information. Geometry topics covered in the course include similarity, right triangle trigonometry, and volume. Students use the tools of analytic geometry, synthesizing algebra, and geometry concepts, to describe circles and parabolas in the coordinate plane.

### Integrated Mathematics III (UC)

In this third-year high school math course, students encounter unified instruction reviewing and expanding all previous high school math topics. First, they extend their work on polynomials beyond quadratics to graphing, problem solving, and working with rational expressions. Next, they use statistical and probability tools, such as the standard normal distribution, to understand data. Students make inferences using simulations, experiments, and surveys. In geometry, they extend trigonometric concepts to general triangles and use trigonometric functions to model periodic processes. Finally, students substantially use mathematical modeling by making use of well-developed skills with various mathematical tools.

## SCIENCE

### Physical Science

Physical Science serves as an introductory course that prepares students for high school biology, chemistry, and physics courses. In this course, students learn about the nature of science, including scientific processes, the

scientific method, and scientific inquiry. The course covers safety in the lab and the field, principles for conducting experiments, and the need for scientific communication. Instructional content includes the atomic nature of matter, classification of the elements, the periodic table, acids, and bases. Students explore the various forms of energy and energy transformations and discuss the production of electricity. The course concludes with a unit on the composition and structure of the universe, the life cycles of stars, and space exploration.

### **Earth Science**

In this course, students learn about the history of life on Earth and the development of the geologic time scale. The course includes instruction on how to carry out scientific investigations both in the lab and in the field. Students explore Earth's terrestrial, atmospheric, and marine ecosystems and discover how human activities affect them. They analyze maps to describe geologic features and meteorological data. Content covers the properties of rocks and minerals, the theory of plate tectonics, the processes of weathering and erosion, and climate patterns. The course concludes with a unit on the structure and composition of the solar system.

### **Biology**

This compelling two-semester course engages students in the study of life and living organisms and examines biology and biochemistry in the real world. This is a yearlong course that encompasses traditional concepts in biology and encourages exploration of new discoveries in this field of science. The components include biochemistry, cell biology, cell processes, heredity and reproduction, the evolution of life, taxonomy, human body systems, and ecology. This course includes both hands-on wet labs and virtual lab options.

### **Physics**

In this course, students learn the fundamentals of physics and gain an understanding of how this branch of science is interconnected with the everyday world. Students explore the concepts of motion, force, gravitation, thermodynamics, the behavior of light and sound waves, and the relationship between electricity and magnetism. They are encouraged to use critical thinking and scientific problem solving to make informed decisions and reach logical conclusions. Approximately forty percent of the course involves virtual laboratory investigations. Some activities require ordinary household items, such as rulers, meter sticks, balls or marbles, string, paper, and pencils. Students must have successfully completed Algebra II to enroll in Physics; Geometry is also recommended.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

### **World History (UC)**

This World History course examines human development from the dawn of civilization to the present day. Students learn about the socioeconomic conditions, political institutions, and ideological attitudes that have marked various time periods throughout history. Using primary and secondary sources, students conduct inquiry-based research to examine historical events, cultural developments, and social and family structures. They also participate in interactive discussions and analyze statistics and data from maps, charts, and graphs. Students are encouraged to use their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills to evaluate the achievements of civilizations in the fields of science, technology, and the arts.

### **Geography**

This course explores world geography on a region-by-region basis and covers a broad range of geographical perspectives. Each unit covers one continent or other major geographical region of the world. Units include North America, Central America, South America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Cultures, Africa, India, and the Middle East. Students first learn about each region's landforms, climate, and population. They then examine that region's cultural, economic, and political institutions. Each unit is presented in a parallel format to facilitate interregional comparisons and allow students to see the similarities and differences between the regions more clearly.

**U.S. History (UC)**

This one-year high school course presents a cohesive and comprehensive overview of the history of the United States, surveying the major events and turning points of U.S. history as it moves from the Era of Exploration through modern times. As students examine each era of history, they will analyze primary sources and carefully research events to gain a clearer understanding of the factors that have shaped U.S. history. In early units, students will assess the foundations of U.S. democracy while examining crucial documents. In later units, students will examine the effects of territorial expansion, the Civil War, and the rise of industrialization. They will also assess the outcomes of economic trends and the connections between culture and government. As the course draws to a close, students will focus their studies on the causes of cultural and political change in the modern age. Throughout the course, students will learn the importance of cultural diversity while examining history from different perspectives.

**Civics (UC)**

Civics is the study of citizenship and government. This one-semester course provides students with a basic understanding of civic life, politics, and government, and a short history of government's foundation and development in this country. Students learn how power and responsibility are shared and limited by government, the impact American politics has on world affairs, the place of law in the American constitutional system, and which rights the American government guarantees its citizens. Students also examine how the world is organized politically and how civic participation in the American political system compares to that in other societies around the world today.

**Economics (UC)**

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

**CAREERS/TECHNOLOGY****Accounting**

In this introductory course, students gain a foundation in the skills needed for college accounting courses, office work, and managing their own small businesses. They also build an appreciation for the role of accounting in managing a profitable business. The course provides an overview of the three forms of accounting: financial, cost, and management accounting. Instructional material covers the basic concept conventions and rules of the double entry system—and includes techniques for analyzing ratios from a balance sheet. The concepts of ethics, integrity, confidentiality, and rigor are woven through all the units.

**Career Planning**

Students use an informative interactive process to explore career and life options in this one-semester elective. They begin with a thorough examination of their own interests, aptitudes, achievements, and personality styles. Instructional material then helps them match job market information, interview techniques, training requirements, and educational paths to potential careers that suit their strengths and personal priorities. Successfully completing this course gives students the ability to identify and describe their personal interests, aptitudes, and lifestyle goals; locate and evaluate information about different careers; identify the skills and knowledge needed for careers of interest and how to obtain them; and create an entrepreneurial business plan.

**3D Art I—Modeling**

This course introduces students to 3D modeling tools and concepts. Using Blender, the popular open-source 3D modeling package, students learn the basics of creating shapes, adding textures and lighting, and rendering. By the

end of the course, students produce a series of increasingly sophisticated projects for their 3D portfolio. This course is suitable for students with no prior experience in 3D game design or digital media authoring tools.

### **3D Art II—Animation**

In this advanced course, students build on the skills they developed in 3D Art I to learn 3D animation techniques. Using Blender, a powerful open-source modeling tool, students master the basics of animation—rigging, bones, and movement—while learning how to apply traditional animation techniques to their 3D models.

### **Computer Fundamentals**

In this two-semester introductory course, students become familiar with the basic principles of a personal computer, including the internal hardware, the operating system, and software applications. Students practice using key applications such as word processors, spreadsheets, and presentation software, and examine social and ethical issues around the Internet, information, and security. In the first semester, the focus is on the fundamentals: learning and using applications and understanding the basic roles and responsibilities of software, hardware, and operating systems. In the second semester, the focus is on gathering and analyzing data, and using the right tools and methods to collect and present data. This course should not be taken if the student has already completed Computer Literacy.

### **Computer Literacy**

Students must be able to use technology effectively to research, organize, create, and evaluate information. In this introductory course, students become familiar with the basic principles of a personal computer, including the internal hardware, operating system, and software applications. Students practice using key applications such as word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software, and examine social and ethical issues around the Internet, information, and security.

In the first part of the course, the focus is on the fundamentals: learning and using applications, and understanding the basic roles and responsibilities of the software, hardware, and operating system. The second part of the course focuses on gathering and analyzing data, and using the right tools and methods to collect and present data. This course should not be taken if the student has already completed Computer Fundamentals.

### **Game Design**

Game Design introduces students to the basic skills necessary for game design. Instructional materials highlight the various games in the industry and analyze their approach in terms of design and development. Students explore both the artistic and technical processes of developing game elements such as story, levels, sound, and user interfaces. They merge all these elements into a functional prototype to demonstrate their understanding of the game design process. Unit topics in this one-semester course include history, player elements, genres, elements of game play, setting platform, game generations, and player modes. The following software is required for this course: Blender (freeware), TrackMania Nations (freeware), and Multimedia Fusion Developer (demo).

### **Image Design and Editing**

This introductory design course is for students who want to create compelling, professional- looking graphic designs and photos. Students learn the basics of composition, color, and layout through the use of hands-on projects that allow them to use their creativity while developing important foundational skills. They use GIMP software to create a graphic design portfolio with a wide variety of projects involving the mastery of technical topics, such as working with layers and masks, adding special effects, and effectively using typefaces to create visual impact. The projects help students develop the skills they need to create and edit images of their own.

### **Java Programming**

This introductory-level, one-semester course is designed for people who have very little programming experience. In Java Programming, students gain an understanding of Java platforms and learn how to build a stand-alone application, such as a countdown clock or leap year indicator. Students also learn the techniques of Java and how Java can be used in cross- platform programming. At the end of the course, students are able to write basic programs using Java and are prepared to pursue further instruction in any programming language. Prior

coursework in computer fundamentals and programming are prerequisites for Java Programming. JDK 1.5 or a higher version Java application is required for this course.

**VB.NET Programming**

Students learn basic programming and the essential concepts of VisualBasic.NET (VB.NET) in this one-semester course. As an introduction to VB.NET, students are taught the basic uses of the programming language, its similarities to the English language and others, its architecture, program flow, and its flexibility as a programming language. The course helps participants understand the processes involved in software development and object-oriented programming. This course provides an introduction to programming that could lead to careers such as software engineer, developer, or game designer. Prior coursework in computer fundamentals is a prerequisite. Visual Studio 2008 Express Edition is required software for this course.

**Web Design**

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the essentials of web design, from planning page layouts to publishing a complete site to the web. Students learn how to use HTML to design their own web pages. The course covers basic HTML tags for formatting text, as well as more advanced tags. Through real-world design scenarios and hands-on projects, students create compelling, usable websites using the latest suite of free tools.

**Entrepreneurship**

This course is designed for students who dream of owning their own business to help them understand what they need to know to own and operate a successful business. Students learn how to create a business plan, how to finance a business, and how to price products and services.

**Creative Writing**

Students create original essays, poems, and short stories in this course, which uses two textbooks and focuses on the four-step process writing model. They read professionally written forms of creative writing as models and then integrate their impressions of these works with their personal life experiences as they compose their own writing projects. Students are encouraged to write about topics they find engaging as they practice writing on the following themes: narration, definition, process analysis, cause and effect, and comparison/contrast. After students turn in each assignment, the teacher supplies detailed suggestions for revision. This feedback helps students learn how to improve their self-expression and self-editing skills.

**Environmental Science**

Environmental Science is a multidisciplinary field that draws from the physical sciences in addition to other fields. This course teaches the connection between all living organisms within an ecosystem. It helps students better understand the impact humans have on the world around them and the ways in which individuals can influence the environment through their actions. Environmental Science explains the concept of biome as a region defined by a specific climate, plant life, and animal community. Content highlights the critical value of clean water, the impact of pollution, agricultural and population issues, and various types of existing and future energy resources and technologies.

**Forensic Science**

This one-semester course surveys key topics in forensic science, including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Through online lessons, virtual and hands-on labs, and analysis of fictional crime scenarios, students learn about forensic tools, technical resources, forming and testing hypotheses, proper data collection, and responsible conclusions. Prerequisites for Forensic Science are at least two years of high school science, including Biology (or equivalent); Chemistry is highly recommended.



**Journalism**

In this one-semester course, students produce news stories, editorials, features, and sports articles as they learn the basics of journalism. The course uses a textbook and covers laws and ethics, freedom of the press, and the principles of journalistic writing. Students learn how to generate ideas and conduct interviews. They improve their writing skills by concentrating on properly organizing their ideas and using correct grammar and vocabulary as they compose their articles and assignments. In the process, they learn how to think critically about the main ideas, points of view and bias, validity of sources, and the relevance of the various topics they write about.

**Psychology**

In this one-semester course, students investigate why human beings think and act the way they do. This is an introductory course that broadly covers several areas of psychology. Instructional material presents theories and current research for students to critically evaluate and understand. Each unit introduces terminology, theories, and research that are critical to the understanding of psychology and includes tutorials and interactive exercises. Students learn how to define and use key terms of psychology and how to apply psychological principles to their own lives. Unit topics include: Methods of Study, Biological Basis for Behavior, Learning and Memory, Development and Individual Differences, and Psychological Disorders.

**Public Speaking**

The art of public speaking is one which underpins the very foundations of Western society. This course examines those foundations in both Aristotle and Cicero's views of rhetoric, and then traces those foundations into the modern world. Students learn not just the theory, but also the practice of effective public speaking, including how to analyze the speeches of others, how to build a strong argument, and how to speak with confidence and flair. By the end of this course, students will know exactly what makes a truly successful speech and will be able to put that knowledge to practical use.

**Veterinary Science**

As animals play an increasingly important role in our lives, scientists have sought to learn more about their health and well-being. In this course, students take a look at the animals that live in our homes, on our farms, and in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries, and examine some of the common diseases and treatments for domestic animals. They also learn about toxins, parasites, and infectious diseases that affect not only the animals around us, but at times, humans as well! The course provides an overview of veterinary medicine and science, and how the prevention and treatment of diseases and other health issues are studied and applied

**FINE ARTS****Art Appreciation**

This one-semester course introduces students to various forms of the visual arts, such as painting, sculpture, and film. Students learn how to critically examine a work of art in historical, social, and cultural contexts; identify and compare key characteristics in artworks; and understand the role art has played throughout history. Through hands-on activities, virtual museum tours, discussion, and research, students develop the ability to explain the significance of artworks in Western and non-Western cultures; identify the medium and technique used to create works of art; and analyze formal elements, principles of design, and stylistic characteristics found in artworks from various art historical periods.

**Music Appreciation**

Students receive an introduction to the elements, instrumentation, and history of music in this one-semester course. Instructional materials emphasize the significance of surroundings and time periods and how they influenced the music of the day. Students listen to and evaluate several types of music and are assessed on their comprehension through projects, presentations, and exams. After completing the course, students have the skills to identify basic musical elements, compare and contrast elements in different musical genres, identify key musical time periods and their characteristics, identify significant composers and musicians from different time periods, describe different instrumentations in music, and develop critiques of musical pieces based on information in the course.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Physical Education

This high school course focuses on the fundamental components and principles of fitness. Physical Education examines safety guidelines, proper technique, and exercise principles such as FITT: Frequency (how often you exercise), Intensity (how hard you work during exercise), Time (how long you exercise), and Type (what type of activity you do). Students assess their current level of fitness in relation to the five components of physical fitness: flexibility, cardiovascular health, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and body composition. This two-semester course equips students with strategies to help them begin, design, and maintain an exercise program to keep them fit for life.

## HEALTH

### Health

This high school course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions that allow them to stay active, safe, and informed. Students learn about the components of a healthy lifestyle and learn strategies for making healthy choices. Instructional material introduces students to the concepts of mental health, emotional health, social health, consumer health, and physical health. It presents opportunities for students to apply their value systems to decisions concerning their own health. Students develop communication skills in this one-semester course that allow them to demonstrate healthy choices with respect for self, family, and others.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### French I (UC, NCAA)

Students receive a thorough grounding in the basics of the French language in this introductory, two-semester course. French I has been designed to meet the standards of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). These standards call for a method of teaching that focuses on successful communication through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading, threaded discussions, multimedia presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes, and exams. Learning activities in each unit are focused on a specific theme.

### French II (UC, NCAA)

French II continues the learning process that began with French I and adheres to the standards of ACTFL. Instructional material introduces students to new grammar and vocabulary and allows them to build conversational and reading skills to cover many common situations in daily life. Unit topics include daily routine, animals, entertainment, body parts, rooms and furniture, shopping and clothing, meals, sports and recreation, and transportation. Unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that standards are met. The successful completion of French I is a prerequisite for this course.

### Spanish I (UC)

Students begin their introduction to Spanish by focusing on the four key areas of world language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course represents an ideal blend of language learning pedagogy and online learning. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning; become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases; comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns; participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts; analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries; and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL.

**Spanish II (UC)**

Students continue their study of Spanish by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also are able to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension activities, speaking and writing activities, multimedia cultural presentations, and interactive activities and practices which reinforce vocabulary and grammar. There is a strong emphasis on providing context and conversational examples for the language concepts presented in each unit. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning; understand common vocabulary terms and phrases; use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing; participate in conversations and respond appropriately to conversational prompts; analyze and compare cultural practices, products, and perspectives of various Spanish-speaking countries; read and analyze important pieces of Hispanic literature; and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. The course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish, and has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by ACTFL.

**ELECTIVES****Contemporary World Issues**

Students analyze governments, economies, peoples, and cultures from around the world in this course. Instruction emphasizes the structures and policies of the United States and how they compare to other systems in the international community. Students apply critical thinking and research skills to examine current events and contemporary issues, including human rights, the strengths and weaknesses of globalization, America's role in the international economy, the severe environmental threats facing many regions around the world today, how religion is often used to facilitate and justify violence, and America's "War on Terror" and its impact on the Middle East and Islamic culture.

**Driver Safety**

Driver Safety can provide a foundation for a lifetime of responsible driving. Instructional material in this course emphasizes the mechanics of driving operations and the rules of safe driving. Among other topics, students learn how to assess and manage risk; handle social pressures; understand signs and signals; comprehend the rules of the road; and start, steer, stop, turn, and park a car. They also learn how to contend with driving environments, including light and weather conditions, share the roadway, respond to an emergency, buy and maintain a car, plan a trip, take a state driving test, and partner with their parents or guardians to promote safety on the road. Students use a textbook for this one-semester course. This course may not satisfy the state department of transportation's or motor vehicle's requirements for learners permit issuance. Please consult local requirements prior to enrolling.

**Family & Consumer Science**

In this one-semester course, students develop skills and knowledge to help them transition into adult roles within the family. They learn to make wise consumer choices, prepare nutritious meals, contribute effectively as part of a team, manage a household budget, and balance roles of work and family. They gain an appreciation for the responsibilities of family members throughout the life span and the contributions to the well-being of the family and the community.

**Life Skills**

This one-semester elective is designed to increase students' knowledge of and ability in using the skills necessary for everyday living. Life Skills emphasizes defining personal values, goal-setting and planning, and solving problems. Instructional material focuses on dealing with media and peer pressure, communication and relationships, working with others, avoiding and/or resolving conflict, decision making, wellness and personal safety, aspects of good citizenship, environmental awareness, and how students can contribute to their own community. The course is organized in six units: Course Introduction; Thinking About Yourself; Thinking for Yourself; Taking Care of Yourself; Caring for Your Relationships; and Caring About Your World.

**Nutrition and Wellness**

This one-semester elective course provides students with an overview of good nutrition principles that are necessary for physical and mental wellness and a long, healthy life. Instructional materials include discussions of digestion, basic nutrients, weight management, sports and fitness, and life-span nutrition. The Nutrition and Wellness course emphasizes an understanding of today's food and eating trends and gives students the capacity to intelligently evaluate all available sources of nutrition information and make informed decisions. The course is organized in six units: Course Introduction; Wellness and Food Choices in Today's World; Digestion and Major Nutrients; Body Size and Weight Management; Physical Fitness, Sports Nutrition, and Stress; and Life Cycle Nutrition.

**Personal Finance**

Understanding financial management concepts is an important life skill that forms the crux of the one-semester Personal Finance course. Students learn to understand the consequences of their financial choices, from credit and debt to insurance, taxes, investments, and discretionary spending. Instructional material surveys typical personal financial needs and emphasizes the basics of budgeting. Through activities and projects with practical applications, students taking this course learn to better prepare for and secure their financial futures. Unit topics in this elective course include: Money Management (personal financial planning and checking); Financial Security (savings, investments, and risks); Credit Management; Risk Management; and Taxes and Employment Forms.

**World Religions**

Throughout the ages, religions from around the world have shaped the political, social, and cultural aspects of societies. This course focuses on the major religions that have played a role in human history, including Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism, and Taoism. Students trace the major developments in these religions and explore their relationships with social institutions and culture. The course also looks at some of the similarities and differences among the major religions and examines the connections and influences they have.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT****AP Biology**

This course guides students to a deeper understanding of biological concepts, including the diversity and unity of life, energy and the processes of life, homeostasis, and genetics. Students learn about regulation, communication, and signaling in living organisms, as well as interactions of biological systems. Students carry out a number of learning activities, including readings, interactive exercises, extension activities, hands-on and virtual laboratory experiments, and practice assessments. These activities are designed to help students gain an understanding of the science process and critical-thinking skills necessary to answer questions on the AP Biology Exam. The content aligns to the sequence of topics recommended by the College Board.

**AP Calculus AB (UC)**

This course is the equivalent of an introductory college-level calculus course. Calculus helps scientists, engineers, and financial analysts understand the complex relationships behind real-world phenomena. Students learn to evaluate the soundness of proposed solutions and apply mathematical reasoning to real-world models. Students also learn to understand change geometrically and visually (by studying graphs of curves), analytically (by studying and working with mathematical formulas), numerically (by seeing patterns in sets of numbers), and verbally. Students prepare for the AP Calculus Exam and further studies in science, engineering, and mathematics. AP Calculus AB requires use of a graphing calculator.

**AP English Language (UC)**

This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in English Language and Composition. The literary component of the course covers a range of genres, including nonfiction, fiction, drama, and poetry. While analyzing these works, students consider style (a language-based approach to exploring meaning in a piece of writing through tone, diction, and syntax) and rhetoric (the examination of the argument and structure of a piece

of writing by considering aspects of the author's credibility, irony, and use of logic). Writing assignments cover both expository and argumentative aspects of writing. Prior coursework in English through the high school sophomore level is required for enrollment in AP English Language.

### **AP English Literature (UC)**

AP English Literature prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in English Literature and Composition. In this course, students acquire the reading and critical thinking skills necessary to understand challenging material, analyze that material to deduce meaning, and apply what they learn. They also acquire the composition skills needed to communicate their understanding effectively to a variety of audiences. Students read and analyze classic works of literature that contain literary qualities that merit study and provoke deep thought. Students also read modern and contemporary works as they examine a variety of literary genres, including plays, short stories, poetry, essays, and novels. Prior coursework in English through the high school junior level is required for enrollment in this course.

### **AP Environmental Science**

Students examine the natural world's interrelationships in AP Environmental Science. During this two-semester course, they identify and analyze environmental problems and their effects and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed solutions. They learn to think like environmental scientists as they make predictions based on observation, write hypotheses, design and complete field studies and experiments, and reach conclusions based on the analysis of resulting data. Students apply the concepts of environmental science to their everyday experiences, current events, and issues in science, politics, and society. The course provides opportunities for guided inquiry and student-centered learning that build critical thinking skills. Prerequisites for enrollment include two years of prior coursework in laboratory sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, or Physics).

### **AP European History (UC)**

This course surveys the social, economic, cultural, intellectual, political, and diplomatic history of modern Europe and its place in the history of the world—from the fall of Constantinople to the fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the Soviet Union. The course is equivalent to a college freshman or sophomore modern European history course. Students develop an understanding of the major periods, ideas, movements, trends, and themes that characterize European history from approximately 1450 to the present. They also develop the ability to analyze historical evidence and express their understanding and analysis in writing. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement European History Exam.

### **AP Statistics (UC)**

Statistics concerns the collection, organization, and interpretation of data. In AP Statistics, students interpret the output generated by statistical software programs. This two-semester course presents the following topics, among others: organizing data, examining relationships, producing data, probability, random variables, binomial and geometric distributions, sampling distributions, and inference. This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement Statistics Exam. Students who enroll in AP Statistics must have access to a computer equipped with software capable of doing data analysis. In addition, one of the following Texas Instruments calculators is required: TI-83, TI-83+, TI-84, TI-84+, or TI-89. Prerequisites for AP Statistics include Algebra I and Algebra II.

### **AP U.S. Government (UC)**

This course presents an analytic perspective on American politics, covering the ideals, institutions, and processes that direct the daily operations of government and shape public policy. In AP U.S. Government, students examine the constitutional structure of government, participatory politics, the formal institutions of power, and the extra-constitutional influences on government institutions. They interpret and analyze the political landscape to develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. system of government. This one-semester course addresses the following topics, among others: American political culture, the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, civil rights, public opinion, media, political parties, campaigns and elections, interest groups, Congress, the presidency, the federal bureaucracy, and the federal courts.

### **AP World History (UC)**

This course spans the Neolithic age to the present in a rigorous academic format organized by chronological periods and viewed through fundamental concepts and course themes. Students analyze the causes and processes of continuity and change across historical periods. Themes include human-environment interaction, cultures, expansion and conflict, political and social structures, and economic systems. In addition to mastering historical content, students cultivate historical-thinking skills that involve crafting arguments based on evidence, identifying causation, comparing and supplying context for events and phenomenon, and developing historical interpretation.

## **CREDIT RECOVERY – LANGUAGE ARTS**

### **English I**

In this credit recovery course, students learn about modern forms of communication and the media, with a focus on the Internet. They also explore elements of fiction and expository texts, build their vocabulary, and develop their language skills through reading and writing assignments. Vocabulary lists and definitions are provided in both English and Spanish. Tools to improve study skills are embedded throughout the course; threaded discussions, rubrics, and study guides help students absorb and proactively respond to the course content. Because the course is designed specifically for credit recovery students, content is appropriately grouped into smaller topics to increase retention and expand opportunities for assessment.

### **English II**

In English II Credit Recovery, students conduct an in-depth survey of literature. They read literary works from a variety of genres and cultures and examine both classic and modern periods. In the process, students learn about literary techniques and the effectiveness and purposes of common literary devices. The course stresses critical-thinking skills; assignments include speaking and writing projects to help students develop these skills. Students continue to build their vocabulary in this course; as in English I, vocabulary lists and definitions are provided in English and Spanish. Interactive questions and games allow students to check their understanding before taking assessments.

### **English III**

This credit recovery course helps students understand how the reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills they have been developing in high school can be applied to work they may do in college courses and in their future careers. In English III, students use an online literature anthology to continue their study of literature. Course content progresses chronologically through the periods of American literature, from Native American oral traditions through contemporary works of poetry, fiction, drama, and nonfiction. Each unit focuses on a literary movement through the lens of an overlying theme. Students continue to work on their vocabulary skills and supplement their learning with multiple-choice games, self-check activities, and writing projects.

### **English IV**

English IV Credit Recovery is a condensed version of the English IV Foundations course. Its format and length makes it great fit for summer programs and other contexts in which instructional time and teacher time may be limited. In this course, students read and analyze classic, modern, and contemporary literary works. Reading selections, which are contained in an online literary anthology, include plays, short stories, poetry, essays, and novels. Students think critically about the complex issues posed in the readings and express their interpretations of these issues in essays, research papers, journals, and oral presentations. Students learn about the validity of sources as they complete their writing assignments.

## **CREDIT RECOVERY – MATH**

### **Algebra I**

The purpose of this course is to allow the student to gain mastery in working with and evaluating mathematical expressions, equations, graphs, and other topics, with an emphasis on real-world applications throughout this yearlong algebra course. The first semester of the course includes an introduction to real numbers and variable expressions, methods for solving equations, understanding functions and relations, and an in-depth study of linear

and quadratic functions. The second semester of the course provides students with extensive instruction in topics, including systems of equations and inequalities, exponential and radical functions, rational expressions and equations, as well as probability and statistics. Throughout the course are self-check quizzes, audio tutorials, interactive manipulatives, practice games, and plenty of review activities.

### **Algebra II**

Algebra II Credit Recovery expands on the mathematical content of Algebra I and Geometry and serves as a foundation for the material presented in subsequent mathematics courses (for example, Trigonometry and Calculus). In this course, the emphasis is on functions and using algebraic solutions to solve various types of problems. Students are encouraged to develop their abstract-thinking skills as well as their computational skills. The two-semester course covers the following topics: linear and quadratic functions, radical functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, systems of equality, geometry, conic sections, and statistics and probability.

### **Geometry**

Geometry Credit Recovery is a comprehensive course featuring geometric terms and processes, logic, and problem solving. The course begins by giving students an immediate connection to the content and concepts they have learned in their algebra courses. (Building on prior knowledge helps students absorb new content.) Students go on to learn about parallel line and planes; rays and angles; congruent triangles; inequalities; quadrilaterals; circles; polygons; perimeter, area, and volume; inductive and deductive reasoning; and translations, reflections, and rotations. They study various forms of proofs and develop their reasoning and problem-solving skills by studying similarity, areas, volumes, circles, and coordinate geometry.

## **CREDIT RECOVERY - SCIENCE**

### **Biology**

This credit recovery course is an introduction to biology, which is the branch of knowledge that deals with living organisms and vital processes. In Biology, students learn about the processes of scientific inquiry (the diverse ways in which scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on the evidence derived from their work). They also learn about the fundamental principles of living organisms, including physical and chemical properties of life, cellular organization and function, and the transfer of energy. The course also addresses cellular reproduction, the classification of living things, and the six kingdoms of life. Students explore ecology and ecosystems and conclude the course with a unit on human biology and populations.

### **Earth Science**

Earth Science is the branch of science devoted to studying the planet Earth and all the objects in the universe. This course begins with an introduction to the processes, methods, and tools of scientific inquiry. An understanding of the geology of Earth is built through units that discuss topics such as rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, and Earth's natural resources. The structure and function of the atmosphere as well as situations that cause changes in the atmosphere build student's understanding of Earth's atmosphere. The study of oceanography is introduced with such topics as seafloor features and ocean currents. Weather, climate, and climate change are topics that begin to develop an understanding of meteorology. Throughout the course, students develop an understanding of how Earth's systems and cycles work together to make life on Earth possible. The students also take a tour of the universe as they discuss its formation, the characteristics of the objects in our solar system, and the universe beyond our solar system. Throughout the course, they see examples of how individuals have built our knowledge of Earth and the universe through invention, innovation, and discovery.

### **Physical Science**

This credit recovery course is an introductory course to high school science courses. In Physical Science (ELL-supported content), students expand on their middle school science experiences to prepare for subsequent courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. The course emphasizes scientific thinking as a way of understanding the natural phenomena that surround us. It includes real and virtual lab exercises and gives students the skills to



discuss a number of scientific topics, understand how science is used in their daily lives, and become comfortable with solving simple algebraic expressions that support scientific laws. Built with the credit recovery student in mind, the course content is grouped into smaller topics to increase retention and expand opportunities for assessment.

## **CREDIT RECOVERY – SOCIAL SCIENCE**

### **American Government**

This one-semester credit recovery course covers the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions of the government of the United States. The focus is on the principles and beliefs that the United States was founded on and on the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. In American Government, students examine the principles of popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, republicanism, federalism, and individual rights. They also learn about the roles of individuals and groups in the American political system. Students compare the American system of government with other modern systems and assess the strengths and problems associated with the American version.

### **American History**

This credit recovery course gives students a basic understanding of American history. The course begins with the settling of America and continues through present-day domestic and world issues that affect American society. In this course, students analyze influential documents and learn about significant individuals who contributed to the nation's development. They study the causes and effects of the various wars in which Americans have fought, and they use critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they take part in interactive discussions and complete a variety of assignments. By the end of the course, students have the knowledge to discuss the characteristics that define the United States as a world power.

### **Economics**

In this one-semester credit recovery course, students gain a basic understanding of economics. The course uses real-world economic applications to help students better grasp a range of economic concepts, including macro- and microeconomic concepts. The course covers the American free enterprise system and addresses how this system affects the global economy. Students learn how to think like economists as they study economic principles and different economic systems. They analyze and interpret data to understand the laws of supply and demand. Examining the world of business, money, banking, and finance helps students understand how economics is applied both domestically and globally.

### **Geography**

Designed for credit recovery students, this course examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all of the major regions of the world. Each region is reviewed in a similar structure so that students can clearly see the similarities and differences between regions. Specifically, the course explores where each region is located along with its physical characteristics, including absolute and relative location, climate, and significant geographical features. The course closely examines the human impact on each region from cultural, economic, and political perspectives. It also includes instruction on writing about art, and a discussion of art historians.

### **World History**

World History Credit Recovery is a survey of world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students learn about the socioeconomic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods as they study historical events, cultural achievements, and world regions. Using primary and secondary sources, students employ critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they conduct inquiry-based research, participate in interactive discussions, and complete assignments establishing real-world connections. By the end of the course, students can articulate the relationship between historical occurrences and contemporary situations. They can also predict how contemporary issues will affect future generations based on historical evidence.



**CREDIT RECOVERY – ELECTIVES****Health**

This one-semester credit recovery course provides students with information that will help them live a more healthy and productive life. The emphasis is on making healthy personal decisions and getting the information needed to make those choices. The course addresses both mental and physical health. Students learn about nutrition, including food guidelines and types of food, eating disorders, first aid and CPR, substance abuse, and human sexuality. The course also covers consumer health resources, including government resources, nonprofit resources, and health insurance. Students learn how technology is influencing health care, and they examine the benefits of frequent physical exercise.

**Physical Education**

Through this one-semester credit recovery course, students learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they will be able to use in their everyday life. The course addresses the fundamentals of physical fitness, including goal setting and target heart rate. Students learn how their body works by studying static and dynamic balance, linear and rotary motion, anatomy, and biomechanics. They are introduced to a variety of lifetime activities, including tennis, golf, Frisbee, and orienteering. They also learn about activities that promote cardiorespiratory fitness, including kickboxing, hip hop dance, fitness walking, and cycling. Pilates, yoga, and breathing exercises that help promote physical and emotional wellness are addressed as well.

**Spanish I**

This credit recovery course provides students with instruction in the basics of learning the Spanish language. Content includes greetings, time, dates, colors, clothing, numbers, weather, family, houses, sports, food and drink, and school. The course introduces basic and stem-changing verbs and their formation and use in the present tense. Students also learn about interrogatives, question formation, and adjectives and their form and use. Possessives, prepositions, and other grammatical structures are also covered. In this course, students become acquainted with the Spanish-speaking countries of the world and their cultures, and learn practical information, such as restaurant vocabulary and expressions of invitation.

**FOUNDATIONS****Algebra I**

In this two-semester course, students work with and evaluate mathematical expressions, equations, and graphs. Topics include real numbers, simplifying real number expressions with and without variables, solving linear equations and inequalities, solving quadratic equations, graphing linear and quadratic equations, polynomials, factoring, linear patterns, linear systems of equality and inequality, simple matrices, sequences, and radicals. Students learn to work effectively with ratios and direct and inverse variation, understand basic statistics, and solve systems of linear equations and inequalities. Assessments consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended response questions that measure students' progress. The course also includes self-check quizzes, audio tutorials, and interactive games.

**American History**

Students gain a basic understanding of American history in this two-semester course. Instructional content focuses on the origins of the nation's democratic principles and continues through present-day domestic and world issues that affect American society. Students use critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they complete a variety of assignments. They become well versed in the origins of the United States. By the end of the course, students can identify and analyze key events, documents, and individuals in America's development as well as issues that still affect the nation both home and abroad. They can also discuss the characteristics that define the United States as a world power.

**Biology**

Biology is a two-semester course that introduces students to general biology principles and the processes of scientific inquiry and thinking. Instructional material covers the fundamentals of living organisms, including physical and chemical properties of life, cellular organization and function, the transfer of energy through metabolic systems, cellular reproduction, the classification of living things, and the six kingdoms of life. The course focuses on presenting biological information on up-to-date principles and concepts in an understandable and straightforward way that helps capture students' interest. Unit topics include biological principles, chemical and molecular basis of life, cells, genetics, evolution, microorganisms, plants, animals, and human biology, and populations.

### **Earth Science**

This introductory course incorporates knowledge and facts accumulated from people's observations of the earth around them and the skies above them. Earth science includes several different branches of study: geology, hydrology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy. Students become familiar with the properties of rocks and minerals and their significance as resources. They discuss the theory of plate tectonics and its impact on the continents, and they learn to analyze maps to describe geologic features and meteorological data. Completing this course gives students the knowledge and skills to describe and demonstrate the nature of earth science and design investigations to research and explain the unique features of our planet.

### **English I**

In this introductory language arts course, students concentrate on multiple types of mass media as they sharpen their reading and writing skills. The course begins with a diagnostic writing assignment and a reading pre-assessment to help students identify their strengths and discover what they need to work on. Course content includes literary elements; students study poetry, short stories, and a novel. They participate in online threaded discussions and receive detailed instruction on the writing process, including note taking, generating a thesis, and writing a research paper. Throughout the course, self-check interactive activities let students check their understanding before they take quizzes and tests.

### **English II**

In this course, students develop critical reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills while they explore classic and modern world literature. They begin by taking a diagnostic writing assignment and a reading pre-assessment to help them identify their strengths and find out what they need to work on. The course covers literary elements, the writing process, understanding and using media, and best practices for giving an oral presentation. It also provides instruction on vocabulary and grammar with a focus on the often-confusing aspects of English usage. Each unit includes a checklist to help students manage their time and keep track of their assignments.

### **English III**

Students study American literature and continue to develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in this intermediate-level course. The lessons feature in-depth tutorials with avatars to help students understand the practical aspects of communicating messages effectively in both academic and work-related scenarios. Assignments include creating oral presentations and conducting an independent project. As they complete these assignments, students synthesize information from the course and create products that will prepare them for upcoming courses in high school and college as well as future careers. Interactive games and questions help reinforce new material for students before they take tests on the content. Study guides and rubrics throughout the course help students be proactive learners.

### **English IV**

This course, which is a shortened version of the standard English IV course, can be used in contexts in which instructional time and teacher time may be limited. In English IV Foundations, students read and analyze classic, modern, and contemporary works of literature. They explore several genres, including plays, short stories, poetry, essays, and novels. The course includes a variety of learning activities; students do a lot of close reading, learn how to paraphrase material, and participate in online, threaded discussions. Assignments are diverse, too: students complete essays and research papers, maintain reflective journals, and create oral presentations. They learn about the validity of sources and hone their writing skills as they complete their projects.

**Geography**

Geography examines a broad range of geographical perspectives covering the major regions of the world. Each region is reviewed in a similar structure so students can clearly see the similarities and differences between each one. The course continues with a look at the regions from cultural, economic, and political perspectives, closely examining the human impact on each region. Students explore each region's location globally and its physical characteristics, including absolute and relative location, climate, and significant geographical features. Unit topics include an introduction to geography, North America, Central America, South America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, and East Asia.

**Geometry**

In this two-semester course, students improve their understanding of geometric terms and processes, explore logic, and develop problem-solving skills. The course includes topics such as parallel lines and planes, congruent triangles, inequalities, quadrilaterals, and various forms of proofs. Students hone their reasoning, and problem-solving skills as they study similarity, areas, volume, circles, and coordinate geometry. At the end of the course, they have the ability to identify and apply the properties of rays, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and parallel and perpendicular lines. They can also write conditional statements and proofs, graph linear functions, prove that certain figures are congruent or similar, and apply transformations to various figures.

**Health**

This one-semester course presents a range of topics and instructional material that is designed to help students develop strategies for making healthy choices, staying safe, being active, and remaining informed about health issues. Among other topics, students explore factors of psychological health, aspects of social and consumer health, details about nutrition, types of infectious and noninfectious diseases and the prevention of disease, first aid and CPR, human sexuality, and drug and alcohol awareness. They learn about the components of a healthy lifestyle and learn decision making and communication skills to help them protect their health and demonstrate respect for family members and others in their lives.

**Physical Science**

Physical Science serves as an introductory course that prepares students for high school Biology, Chemistry, and Physics courses. In this course, students learn about the nature of science, including scientific processes, the scientific method, and scientific inquiry. The course covers safety in the lab and the field, principles for conducting experiments, and the need for scientific communication. Instructional content includes the atomic nature of matter, classification of the elements, the periodic table, acids, and bases. Students explore the various forms of energy and energy transformations and discuss the production of electricity. The course concludes with a unit on the composition and structure of the universe, the life cycles of stars, and space exploration.

**World History**

This two-semester core course explores world history from prehistoric to contemporary times. Students learn about the socioeconomic, political, and ideological conditions of various time periods. They use primary and secondary sources, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills to study historical events and cultural achievements of world regions and to complete assignments that help them establish real-world connections to the course content. They learn to interpret statistical data from maps, charts, and graphs. They summarize the achievements of civilizations, particularly in the fields of science, technology, and the arts. Instructional content encourages students to articulate the relationship between historical and current events and predict how contemporary issues will affect future generations.