

2021 -2022

NNVA

COURSE CATALOG &
ENROLLMENT GUIDE



Spring 2021

Dear Parent:

Northeastern Nevada Virtual Academy is beginning its class registration for the 2021-2022 school year. This catalog and associated materials are provided to aid you and your son or daughter in the selection of a meaningful education program. The staff and administration request that you review this catalog to help make the registration process more efficient.

To help with class choices and possible career or college interests in the future, students may request a parent/student meeting with NNVA staff to discuss appropriate scheduling directions. A meeting is required for all upcoming seniors to go over credits and requirements for graduation.

Prior to these meetings, we are requesting your help by taking the following steps:

- * Discuss the program choices with your son or daughter.
- * Complete and sign the written agreement for 2021-2022.
- * Review the plan of study form for 2021-2021.

This last step is very important because of a policy governing schedule change. This policy will make it virtually impossible to change a student's schedule after the first month of courses. The only changes that will be considered are those that (1) strengthen the student's program, (2) are necessitated by a failure in the prior semester and (3) are necessitated by a need to meet graduation requirements (Seniors).

All students, except seniors, will be required to select a full program of six (6) periods. Qualifying Seniors may complete an Exemption for Merit or Exemption of Cause. If approved by the Board of Trustees, students only need to take the required courses for graduation.

Northeastern Nevada Virtual Academy plans to do everything possible to prevent any scheduling confusion during the opening of school next fall. This information, combined with your cooperation, should allow your son/daughter the best possible program for next year and allow NNVA to start the educational process on the first day of school.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Lacey Smith
Principal

Contents

Preface.....	4
Middle School Credit Requirements.....	4
Course Dates and Extensions.....	5
Edgenuity Grades	5
Course Completion.....	5
Four-year Educational Plan.....	6
Graduation Requirements	6
High School Enrollment Requirements	7
Early Graduation	8
Class Change/Withdrawal Policy	8
Honors Criteria	8
Class Ranking	9
Testing Schedule	10
Dual Enrollment/Credit—GBC	10
Course Descriptions	
English Language Arts.....	12
Mathematics	14
Science	16
Social Studies	18
Middle School Electives	20
Physical Education	22
Health and Computer Science Applications	22
ELECTIVES	
Language Arts	23
STEM	24
Arts/Music	24
Social Studies	25
Foreign Language.....	26
Career and Technical Education	27
Business & Marketing Education	28
Education, Hospitality, & Human Services	29
Information and Media Technology	30
Health Science and Public Safety	31

PREFACE

This manual contains all courses planned to be offered at Northeastern Nevada Virtual Academy during the 2021-2022 academic year. It is hoped that with the publication of this material, the individual student will be better able to plan a sound educational program.

Grade designations found after the courses in the catalog are recommended years for a class to be taken, allowing students to maintain a continuous, positive progression of their studies. Students of a particular grade level may not select a course recommended for a higher grade level without special permission; however, permission need not be secured for students wishing to enroll in a course recommended below their grade level. This method of selection will guarantee students the required prerequisites for the more advanced course.

All courses are one year in length unless otherwise designated. These courses offer one unit of credit per year. Those courses designated as semester courses offer 1/2 unit of credit per semester.

Middle School Credit Requirements

1. Any students enrolled in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade must take a minimum of six (6) courses. Students may only opt out of elective courses with parent and administrator permission.
2. A student must earn credits during their 7th and 8th grade years in the four core areas of English, Math, Social Studies, and Science. A half credit (.5) is earned by successfully passing a semester of a subject with a 60% or better. Following is the minimum number of earned credits needed in 7th & 8th grade:

English=1.5

Math=1.5

Science=1.0

Social Studies=1.0

A student that has failed one or more semesters of English or Math and is credit has the following options:

- Take Summer School
 - Take credit recovery courses as an 8th grader (7th grade students only)
 - 'Meet Standard' on the SBAC test for the failed subjects
 - Go to 9th grade on Academic Probation and do credit remediation in the failed subject(s) through the High School. Being on Academic Probation means that a student is ineligible for participation in sports or extracurricular activities.
3. Students may take Algebra I (7th or 8th grade) and Geometry (8th grade) in middle school for high school credit. The following prerequisites must be met:
 - To enroll in Algebra I as a 7th grader, students must successfully complete both semesters of pre-algebra with an A or B as a 6th grader
 - To enroll in Algebra I as a 8th grader, students must successfully complete both semesters of pre-algebra with an A or B as a 7th grader

Course Dates and Extensions

All courses will start and conclude one week prior to the calendar set by the school district. This allows NNVA staff adequate time to transfer all grades from the Edgenuity platform to be stored in Infinite Campus. The dates to the 2021-2022 school year will be as follows:

Semester 1: August 23, 2021 – January 14, 2022

Semester 2: January 18, 2022 – June 3, 2022

Students/parents may request a one-week extension on their course(s). Need for the extension must be based on extenuating circumstances and there must be evidence that the student has attempted to stay on pace with the course throughout the semester.

Explanation of Edgenuity “Grades” and Course Completion

Grades are not posted in Infinite Campus until courses are either completed or after the set end date. Students and parents should be monitoring their grades in Edgenuity on a regular basis. Here is an overview of the different grades you will see in Edgenuity and their progress reports:

Actual Grade: This metric displays a weighted average of the student’s submitted activities while also incorporating a progress penalty if the student is behind the suggested pacing for the course. For example, if a student is 40% of the way through the course but should be 50% of the way through the course, the student’s Progress Ratio is 40/50, or 0.8. The student’s Actual Grade is the product of the Overall Grade and the Progress Ratio. In the previous example, this would be the Overall Grade times 0.8.

Overall grade: This is a straightforward weighted average of the activities a student has completed in the course regardless of whether the student is behind, on, or ahead of the suggested pace.

Relative Grade: This metric is computed by assigning zeros for all activities a student has not yet completed in the course. It reflects an estimate of the student’s final course grade if he or she were to discontinue work in the course today.

Courses are marked as “complete” by Edgenuity either when a student completes 100% or more that 80% of the course has been completed by the end date. The “overall grade” is used as the final grade if the course is indicated to be “complete”. **English I B, English II B, Algebra I B, and Geometry B must all be 100% complete because of End of Course requirements.**

Courses are marked as “incomplete” by Edgenuity if less than 80% of the course has been completed by the end date. The “actual grade” is used as the final grade in courses identified as “incomplete”.

Initial Credit Courses	Credit Recovery Courses	Honors Courses
Feature extended instruction and assignments for complete coverage of standards	Feature instruction and assignments to meet state standards	Have additional instruction and/or assignments to extend learning
Contain teacher-graded assignments	Have limited or no teacher-graded assignments	Contain additional and more rigorous teacher-graded assignments
Take an average of 50 hours per semester	Take an average of 40 hours per semester	Take an average of 60 hours per semester

**Northeastern Nevada Virtual Academy
Recommended Four Year Educational Plan
(Starting with Class of 2023)**

9th

1	English I
2	Math
3	Science
4	Physical Education
5	_____
6	_____

10th

1	English II
2	Math
3	Science
4	World History
5	Health/Computer Science Applications
6	_____

11th

1	English III
2	Math
3	Science
4	U.S. History
5	Physical Education
6	_____

12th

1	English IV
2	Math
3	Gov't/Economics
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

*To receive a **Standard Diploma** signifying graduation from an Elko County High School, students must earn 23 total credits while fulfilling the requirements in the following areas of study:*

<u>AREAS OF STUDY</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>
English Language Arts -----	4
English I -----	1
English II -----	1
English III -----	1
English IV -----	1
Mathematics -----	4
(3 yrs. with signed Grade 12 Plan of Study from parent.)	

**** Algebra I and Geometry credits earned in middle school are automatically added to your transcript. If you want these removed, you must fill out paperwork by the end of your Junior Year. ****

Science ----- 3

Social Studies ----- 3

- World History ----- 1
- American History --- 1
- Government ----- 1/2
- Economics ----- 1/2

Health ----- 1/2

Computer Science Applications----- 1/2

Physical Education ----- 2

Humanities/Career & Technical ----- 1
(See course descriptions)

Electives ----- 6

ADVANCED DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Completion of 24 credits
- B. Completion of 3 Science credits (**4 Science credits are strongly recommended for college bound students, however not required for graduation.**)
- C. Completion of 4 Math credits (**Including Algebra II or higher**)
- D. **Students must have a cumulative weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.25 or higher**

High School Enrollment Requirements

1. Any students enrolled in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade must take a minimum of six (6) courses. 12th grades will be enrolled in at least four (4) courses unless permission has been granted by the ECSD Board of Trustees to enroll in fewer classes.
2. Students may not enroll in more than eight (8) courses unless an accelerated plan of study has been agreed upon by the student, parent, and school principal. The plan of study also must be approved by the ECSD Board of Trustees.
3. Credit Deficiency will be determined by:
 - 10th grade, a student must have earned a minimum of five (5) credits.
 - 11th grade, a student must have earned a minimum of eleven (11) credits.
 - 12th grade, a student must have earned a minimum of seventeen (17) credits.

It is highly recommended that students that are credit deficient enroll in summer school to acquire credits needed in the progression towards graduation. Students unable to make up credits in a timely manner by their senior year may be recommended to the adult education program.

Early Graduation

1. The Board of Trustees will not accept a modification of the four (4) year attendance requirement for high school unless the student has satisfactorily completed all requirements as set forth by the Elko County School District, the Nevada State Board of Education, and have a recommendation of their principal, the written consent of their legal guardian, and review and approval of the Board of Trustees.
2. A student who chooses to follow a modified program will not be eligible to participate in school activities, such as athletics or clubs, following withdrawal from regular attendance.
 - a. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, seniors who apply to graduate at the end of the first semester will not be eligible to participate second semester school activities or the June graduation.
3. Any student considering a request for early graduation must first consult his/her counselor.
4. A formal request for early graduation must include the following:
 - a. Letter of explanation from the student as to why he/she would like to graduate early.
 - b. Letter of approval from parents.
 - c. Letter of recommendation from counselor.
 - d. Letter of recommendation from the principal.
5. The school registrar will forward the above items to the secondary curriculum director and then on to the ECSD Board of Trustees for their consideration.

Course Change/Withdrawal Policy

Course changes can be requested the first weeks of each semester. Some changes may necessitate a parent conference with the administrator to determine what arrangements are in the best educational interest of the student and the school. A withdrawal after the fourth week of the semester will result in the grade WF ("Withdrawal Fail"); this grade will be included on the student's transcript and calculated into the student's GPA. Withdrawal is not allowed if the student's course load would be decreased to less than that of a full course load (6 courses each semester). *All withdrawal requests after the fourth week of any semester must be approved by administration.*

Honors Criteria: District Policy

Honors classes were placed in the curriculum by the Elko County School District because we believe that accelerated students should be adequately challenged and allowed to proceed at a pace commensurate with their ability.

To assure proper placement of students in these programs, the district has adopted the following criteria governing admission:

1. The student shall have scored at or above the 90th percentile on the district's adopted achievement tests in the year prior to admission and in the curriculum area in which application for the honors class has been made.

AND/OR

2. The teacher in the selected discipline area where application for honors is made shall make recommendation to the principal regarding placement of the student at the succeeding grade level. Nothing in this section should prohibit the transfer of a student

from or to honors classes, per recommendation of the student's teacher, at any time during the school year. Transfers of this nature should correspond with the end of a grading period.

NNVA Honors Courses: English I Honors, English II Honors, English III Honors, English IV Honors, Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, Algebra II Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors, Biology Honors, Chemistry Honors, Physics Honors, World History Honors, U.S. History Honors

For the completion of an honors course with a grade of A, B, C or D, a value of .025 will be added to the uniformed grading scale value. No extra value will be given for a failing grade in an Honors course.

Class Ranking

Class ranking shall be determined by cumulative grade point average (GPA) of all classes that are applicable toward graduation requirements in Elko County.

Regular Grade Scale	Honors Weighted Grade Scale	Dual Credit Weighted Grade Scale
A = 4	A = 4, add 0.025 to over GPA	A = 4, add 0.050 to overall GPA
B = 3	B = 3, add 0.025 to over GPA	B = 3, add 0.050 to overall GPA
C = 2	C = 2, add 0.025 to over GPA	C = 2, add 0.050 to overall GPA
D = 1	D = 1, add 0.025 to over GPA	D = 1, add 0.050 to overall GPA
F = 0	F = 0	F = 0

1. All courses applicable toward graduation requirements in Elko County shall be counted in computing class rank.
2. All students at a given grade level shall be included in determining class rank.
3. If a student's record includes courses that are marked in nontraditional fashion-for instance, on a pass/fail or credit/no credit basis- the computation shall be based on those courses with traditional grades only.
4. Credit recovery courses will be added to a student's GPA and will not replace failing grades on the student's transcript.
5. Rank in class information shall be released to:
 - a. Appropriate school personnel;
 - b. At the written request or consent of the student and/or parents;
 - c. In response to formal legal process
6. The following designations will be used to honor graduates of each graduating class:
 - a. Special Recognition Honors – 4.0 and above
 - b. Gold Honors – 3.7 to 4.0
 - c. Silver Honors – 3.4 to 3.7
 - d. Bronze Honors – 3.0 to 3.4

* Honors graduates will receive appropriate recognition at commencement exercises.

Testing Schedules

Course Final Exams

Final Exams must be unlocked and proctored by NNVA staff. A testing schedule will be sent out near the end of the semester. Students/parents must make alternative arrangements if they are unable to attend on the scheduled dates. Testing will take place at the ECSD office.

State Mandated Testing (must take place at a school district site)

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC) in ELA and Math

- Students in grades 6 – 8 will participate in two ELA and two Math assessments during the spring (dates and locations TBA).

End of Course Assessments (EOCs) for ELA and Math

- ELA I (Reading) – taken at the end of English I
- ELA II (Writing)—taken at the end of English II
- Math I – taken at the end of Algebra I
- Math II – taken at the end of Geometry

All students will participate in the Nevada State Science Assessment in the spring of their 8th grade and sophomore years.

College and Career Readiness Assessment

All students in their junior year of high school will participate in an assessment of their college readiness. The state of Nevada has determined this assessment to be the ACT, to be administered in the spring semester.

College Entrance Exams

An essential part of a student's preparation for college is taking the entrance exams. We offer the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. The following is a suggested testing schedule:

- 10th grade PSAT (Practice) – Fall
- 11th grade PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholastic Qualifying Test) – Fall
ACT and/or SAT – 2nd Semester
- 12th grade ACT and/or SAT – 1st Semester

Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Courses

Great Basin College and Elko County School District have identified many courses which qualify for Dual Enrollment/Credit. Students enrolling in these courses take a college course and earn credit at GBC and NNVA. There is a course fee for Dual Enrollment courses. Students must complete the Dual Credit packet – which can be emailed to students or picked up at the ECSD office – by the assigned deadline in order to participate in the Dual Credit program.

**** Dual Enrollment – Enrolled at NNVA and GBC – If you miss the dual credit deadline you will only get credit at GBC for the class (if you pass) and you will be required to pay for the course.**

**** Dual Credit – Receive credit at NNVA AND GBC (if you pass) for your dual enrollment class (deadline must be met to receive dual credit).**

For current more information and paperwork, please see your counselor and the website below.
<https://www.gbcnv.edu/academics/dualenrollment.html>

How does a high school student enroll in dual credit GBC courses?

The following forms are available to students as a Dual Credit packet in the ECSD Curriculum Office. Forms will need all required signatures and will need to be turned in before the deadline in May. Packets will need to be returned to the ECSD Office in order for the student's name to be submitted to ECSD for admission to the program.

- Sophomores must have a 3.5 weighted GPA and Juniors/Seniors must have a 3.0 weighted GPA
- **Application for Admission** to Great Basin College.
- **Pay the nominal admission** fee at Great Basin College
- **Special Admission Form for High School Students** (signed by student and parent/guardian)
- **Information Release for High School Students** (signed by student so that the GBC grades can be released to the high school).
- **High School Permission Form**, which lists desired courses and must be signed by the student and the high school counselor. This serves as a registration form as well.
- The **Elko County School District Permission Form** must be signed by the parent, student and school principal. There are GPA requirements noted on this form.

IMPORTANT NOTES TO PARENTS:

High school students enrolled in dual credit courses are treated like any other college student. The student, and not the parent or guardian, must sign the appropriate forms, resolve concerns with course instructors, access his or her own grades, etc. Students must apply for Admissions at GBC and pay the \$10 admissions fee.

The cost of ENG 101/102 and HIST 101/102 are covered by Elko County School District. The cost of other Dual Credit courses will be paid by the student/parent. **All fees are due before classes begin.** If a student drops ENG 101/102 or HIST 101/102 after the class has begun, the student/parent will be responsible for reimbursing Elko County School District for the cost of the class.

For the completion of a Dual Credit course with a grade of A, B, C, or D, a value of .050 will be added to the uniformed grading scale value. No extra value will be given for a failing grade in a Dual Credit course.

English Language Arts

English Language Arts 6 A & B

This course eases students' transition to middle school with engaging, age-appropriate literary and informational reading selections. Students learn to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence to support ideas as they read essential parts of literary and informational texts and explore a full unit on Lewis Carroll's classic novel *Through the Looking Glass*. Vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills are sharpened through lessons that give students explicit modeling and ample practice. Students also engage in routine, responsive writing based on texts they have read. In extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full-year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

English Language Arts 7 A & B

Students grow as readers, writers, and thinkers in this middle school course. With engaging literary and informational texts, students learn to think critically, analyze an author's language, and cite evidence to support ideas. Students complete an in-depth study of Jack London's classic novel *White Fang* and read excerpts from other stories, poetry, and nonfiction. Explicit modeling and ample opportunities for practice help students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills. Students also respond routinely to texts they have read. In extensive, process-based writing lessons, students write topical essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

English Language Arts 8 A & B

In this course, students build on their knowledge and blossom as thoughtful readers and clear, effective writers. A balance of literary and informational texts engages students throughout the course in reading critically, analyzing texts, and citing evidence to support claims. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through lessons designed to provide explicit modeling and ample opportunities to practice. Students also routinely write responses to texts they have read, and use more extensive, process-based lessons to produce full-length essays in narrative, informative, analytical, and argumentative formats. In this full year course, students develop a mastery of reading, writing, and language arts skills.

English I A & B (Year)--1 credit (L.A.)—Freshman

Prerequisite for Honors: "A" in 8th grade English

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 also study short but complex texts, including influential speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Ronald Reagan. Contemporary texts by Richard Preston, Julia Alvarez, and Maya Angelou round out the course.

English II A & B (Year)--1 credit (L.A.)—Sophomore

Prerequisite for Honors: "A" in English I A & B

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 analysis, research, narrative, and compare-contrast essays.

English III A & B (Year)--1 credit (L.A.)—Junior

Prerequisite for Honors: "A" in English II A & B

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 IV A & B (Year)--1 credit (L.A.)—Senior

Prerequisite for Honors: "A" in English III A & B

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.

English 101 & 102 (Year)--1 dual credit (L.A.)—Senior (In lieu of English IV)

Prerequisite: "B" in English III A & B and a minimum ACT score of 18 on the English usage test or pass the college placement test.

This is a college level course offered through dual enrollment at GBC.

English 101 (1st Semester) will consist of reading and writing of English, with special attention to composition and the investigative paper.

English 102 (2nd Semester) is a continuation and extension of English 101, with readings including literature as means to further training in composition.

Mathematics

Mathematics 6 A & B

This course begins by connecting ratio and rate to multiplication and division, allowing students to use ratio reasoning to solve a wide variety of problems. Students further apply their understanding of multiplication and division to explain the standard procedure for dividing fractions. This course builds upon previous notions of the number system to now include the entire set of rational numbers. Students begin to understand the use of variables as they write, evaluate, and simplify expressions. They use the idea of equality and properties of operations to solve one-step equations and inequalities. In statistics, students explore different graphical ways to display data. They use data displays, measures of center, and measures of variability to summarize data sets. The course concludes with students reasoning about relationships among shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume.

Mathematics 7 A & B

This course begins with an in-depth study of proportional reasoning during which students utilize concrete models such as bar diagrams and tables to increase and develop conceptual understanding of rates, ratios, proportions, and percentages. Students' number fluency and understanding of the rational number system are extended as they perform operations with signed rational numbers embedded in real-world contexts. In statistics, students develop meanings for representative samples, measures of central tendency, variation, and the ideal representation for comparisons of given data sets. Students develop an understanding of both theoretical and experimental probability. Throughout the course, students build fluency in writing expressions and equations that model real-world scenarios. They apply their understanding of inverse operations to solve multi-step equations and inequalities. Students build on their proportional reasoning to solve problems about scale drawings by relating the corresponding lengths between objects. The course concludes with a geometric analysis of angle relationships, area, and volume of both two- and three-dimensional figures.

Mathematics 8 A & B

The course begins with a unit on input-output relationships that builds a foundation for learning about functions. Students make connections between verbal, numeric, algebraic, and graphical representations of relations and apply this knowledge to create linear functions that can be used to model and solve mathematical and real-world problems. Technology is used to build deeper connections among representations. Students focus on formulating expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and writing and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students develop a deeper understanding of how translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations of distances and angles affect congruency and similarity. Students develop rules of exponents and use them to simplify exponential expressions. Students extend rules of exponents as they perform operations with numbers in scientific notation. Estimating and comparing square roots of non-perfect squares to perfect squares exposes students to irrational numbers and lays the foundation for applications such as the Pythagorean theorem, distance, and volume.

Pre-Algebra

May be taken during 6th or 7th grade to prepare for Algebra I the following year. An "A" in Math 6 A & B or teacher recommendation is required.

This course reviews key algebra readiness skills from the middle grades and introduces basic Algebra I work with appropriate support. Students revisit concepts in numbers and operations, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, and basic functions. By the end of the course, students are ready to begin a more formal high school Algebra I study.

Algebra I A & B (Year)—1 credit (Math)

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Math 8/ Pre-Algebra; Honors Prerequisite: A or B in Math 8/Pre-Algebra

This full-year course is available to students as early as the 7th grade for high-school credit and focuses on five critical areas: relationships between quantities and reasoning with equations, linear and exponential relationships, descriptive statistics, expressions and equations, and quadratic functions and modeling. This course builds on the foundation set in middle grades by deepening students' understanding of linear and exponential functions and developing fluency in writing and solving one-variable equations and inequalities. Students will interpret, analyze, compare, and contrast functions that are represented numerically, tabularly, graphically, and algebraically. Quantitative reasoning is a common thread throughout the course as students use algebra to represent quantities and the relationships among those quantities in a variety of ways. Standards of mathematical practice and process are embedded throughout the course, as students make sense of problem situations, solve novel problems, reason abstractly, and think critically.

Geometry A & B (Year)—1 credit (Math)

Prerequisite: Algebra I; Honors Prerequisite: A or B in Algebra I

This course is available to students as early as the 8th grade and focuses on reasoning and making mathematical arguments. Mathematical reasoning is introduced with a study of triangle congruency, including exposure to formal proofs and geometric constructions. Then students extend what they have learned to other essential triangle concepts, including similarity, right-triangle trigonometry, and the laws of sines and cosines. Moving on to other shapes, students justify and derive various formulas for circumference, area, and volume, as well as cross-sections of solids and rotations of two-dimensional objects. Students then make important connections between geometry and algebra, including special triangles, slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines, and parabolas in the coordinate plane, before delving into an in-depth investigation of the geometry of circles. The course closes with a study of set theory and probability, as students apply theoretical and experimental probability to make decisions informed by data analysis.

Algebra II A & B (Year)—1 credit (Math)

Prerequisite: Geometry; Honors Prerequisite: A or B in Geometry

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

Pre-Calculus A & B (Year)—1 credit (Math)

Prerequisite: Algebra II; Honors Prerequisite: A or B in Algebra II

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. Sophomores and Juniors that excel in this course typically move on to Statistics or Dual Credit courses at GBC.

Consumer Math A & B (Year)—1 credit (Math)

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

Statistics A & B (Year)—1 credit (Math)

This fourth-year high school math option provides a comprehensive introduction to data analysis and statistics. Students begin by reviewing familiar data displays through a more sophisticated lens before diving into an in-depth study of the normal curve. They then study and apply simple linear regression and explore sampling and experimentation. Next, students review probability concepts and begin a study of random variables. Later topics also include sampling distributions, estimating and testing claims about proportions and means, and inferences and confidence intervals.

Science

Science 6-8 A & B

The middle school science courses integrate and overlap concepts in life, physical, and earth science. Here are some of the expectations that align with the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science in the middle school courses (based on storylines from NDE website):

Students in middle school continue to develop understanding of four core ideas in the physical sciences. The middle school performance expectations in the Physical Sciences build on the K – 5 ideas and capabilities to allow learners to explain phenomena central to the physical sciences but also to the life sciences and earth and space science. The performance expectations in physical science blend the core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge to explain real world phenomena in the physical, biological, and earth and space sciences. In the physical sciences, performance expectations at the middle school level focus on students developing understanding of several scientific practices. These include developing and using models, planning and conducting investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, and constructing explanations; and to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas. Students are also expected to demonstrate understanding of several of engineering practices including design and evaluation.

Students in middle school develop understanding of key concepts to help them make sense of the life sciences. These ideas build upon students' science understanding from earlier grades and from the disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts of other experiences with physical and earth sciences. There are five life science topics in middle school: 1) Structure, Function, and Information Processing, 2) Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms, 3) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and 5) Natural Selection and Adaptations. The performance expectations in middle school blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing useable knowledge across the science disciplines. While the performance expectations in middle school life science couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many science and engineering practices integrated in the performance expectations.

Students in middle school develop understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and space science (ESS) that build upon science concepts from elementary school through more advanced content, practice, and crosscutting themes. There are six ESS standard topics in middle school: Space Systems, History of Earth, Earth's Interior Systems, Earth's Surface Systems, Weather and Climate, and Human Impacts. The content of the performance expectations are based on current community-based geoscience literacy efforts such as the Earth Science Literacy Principles (Wyssession et al., 2012), and is presented with a greater emphasis on an Earth Systems Science approach. The performance expectations strongly reflect the many societally relevant aspects of ESS (resources, hazards, environmental impacts) as well as related connections to engineering and technology.

Physical Science A & B—1 credit (science)—Freshman

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

Biology A & B—1 credit (science)—Sophomore

Honors Prerequisite: A in Physical Science A & B

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.

Chemistry A & B—1 credit (science)—Junior

Prerequisite: Biology A & B; Honors Prerequisite: A in Biology A & B or A/B in Honors Biology

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

Physics A & B—1 credit (science)—Junior

Prerequisite: Biology A & B and Algebra II A & B; Honors Prerequisite: A in Biology A & B or A/B in Honors Biology

This full-year course acquaints students with topics in classical and modern physics. The course emphasizes conceptual understanding of basic physics principles, including Newtonian mechanics, energy, thermodynamics, waves, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear and modern physics. Throughout the course, students solve mathematical problems, reason abstractly, and learn to think critically about the physical world.

Environmental Science A & B—1 credit (science)—Junior

Prerequisite: Biology A & B

Environmental science is a captivating and rapidly expanding field, and this two-semester course offers compelling lessons that cover many aspects of the field: ecology, the biosphere, land, forests and soil, water, energy and resources, and societies and policy. Through unique activities and material, high school students connect scientific theory and concepts to current, real-world dilemmas, providing them with opportunities for mastery in each of the segments throughout the semester.

Anatomy/Physiology—1 credit (science)—Junior

Prerequisite: Biology A & B

In this course, students will explore the anatomy or structure of the human body. In addition to learning anatomical terminology, students will study the main systems of the body—including skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, reproductive, and nervous systems. In addition to identifying the bones, muscles, and organs, students will study the structure of cells and tissues within the body. Students will examine the functions of the body's biological systems—including skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, endocrine, nervous, and reproductive systems. In addition to understanding the function of each system, students will learn the function of cells, blood, and sensory organs, as well as study DNA, immunity, and metabolic systems.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6 A & B

This yearlong course covers ancient peoples, cultures, civilizations, and innovations through approximately 300 CE. Students are introduced to historical inquiry skills for application to studies of ancient civilizations. Students explore physical and human geography to explain how ancient people interacted with the environment and understand how civilizations developed. Students study early economies and how trade relations affected culture and language. In later lessons, students examine how early forms of government and technology have had a lasting influence on modern civilization. Throughout the course, students analyze maps and primary sources to identify patterns and make connections across time and space. Students are exposed to diverse cultures and learn to explore the past with historical empathy.

Social Studies 7 A & B

Exploring the structure of the United States government on a national, state, and local level, this course challenges students to learn and understand fundamental concepts and philosophies that led to the creation of the United States Constitution. Students enrolled in this two-semester course analyze the political process, political parties, and influences that affect them both. Engaging, interactive content introduces economic concepts and encourages students to explore government and economics on a global scale. By instilling a thorough understanding of government and economics, this course inspires students to investigate what it means to be an American citizen.

Social Studies 8 A & B

Offering an interactive and comprehensive overview of American history, this course engages and inspires students to learn about the rich and diverse history of America's native peoples, early European colonization and settlement in America, and the creation of a new nation through the American Revolution. Middle school students enrolled in this course will closely examine major changes brought about by the nation's reconstruction, industrialization, urbanization, and progressive reforms and consider the implications each of these events had on the expansion of the United States' global influence through modern times. Over the course of two semesters, interesting course content encourages students to think carefully about the challenges and opportunities facing the United States in the twenty-first century.

World History A & B—1 credit (social studies)—Sophomore

Honors Prerequisite: A in Social Studies 8 A & B

This yearlong course examines the major events and turning points of world history from ancient times to the present. Students investigate the development of classical civilizations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Asia, and they explore the economic, political, and social revolutions that have transformed human history. At the end of the course, students conduct a rigorous study of modern history, allowing them to draw connections between past events and contemporary issues. The use of recurring themes, such as social history, democratic government, and the relationship between history and the arts, allows students to draw connections between the past and the present, among cultures, and among multiple perspectives. Throughout the course, students use a variety of primary and secondary sources, including legal documents, essays, historical writings, and political cartoons to evaluate the reliability of historical evidence and to draw conclusions about historical events.

U.S. History A & B—1 credit (social studies)—Junior

Honors Prerequisite: A in World history or A/B in Honors World History

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.

Government—0.5 credit (social studies)—Senior (starting with class of 2023)

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

Economics—0.5 credit (social studies)—Senior (starting with class of 2023)

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.

Middle School Electives

Online Learning and Digital Citizenship (6th grade)

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

Keyboarding (6th grade)

Keyboarding and Applications is a semester-long course that teaches students keyboarding skills, technical skills, effective communication skills, and productive work habits. Students learn proper keyboarding techniques. Once students have been introduced to keyboarding skills, lessons include daily practice of those skills. Students gain an understanding of computer hardware, operating systems, file management, and the Internet. In addition, students apply their keyboarding skills and create a variety of business documents, including word processing documents and electronic presentations.

MS Career Explorations A & B (7th grade)

This course prepares middle school students to make informed decisions about their future academic and occupational goals. Through direct instruction, interactive skill demonstrations, and practice assignments, students learn how to assess their own skills and interests, explore industry clusters and pathways, and develop plans for career and academic development.

MS Health (8th grade)

This comprehensive health course is designed for middle school students. It covers basic information about body systems, disease, and hygiene. Students explore the various realms of health, including mental, social, and emotional health. In addition, students learn important life skills such as decision-making and refusal skills.

MS Life Skills (8th Grade)

This course allows students to explore their personality type and interests, as well as refine important skills that will benefit them throughout their lives, including personal nutrition and fitness skills, time and stress management, communication and healthy relationships, goal setting, study skills, leadership and service, environmental and consumer health, and personal finances. In addition, students explore possible colleges and careers that match their needs, interests, and talents.

MS Art

Journey inside the art studio and learn to bring your 2D art visions to life. Whatever medium you prefer, painting or drawing, this course will help you hone your 2D art skills. Learn the elements and principles needed to logistically create art; explore your artistic inspirations; view art from different ages and cultures; gain insight about the art of critiquing.

MS Digital Arts

Digital art and design involves everything from advertising to animation to photography and more. In this course, you'll learn about the evolution of art; the basic principles of art and design; the role of art in politics and society; and how to create digital art and make it come alive.

MS Financial

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

MS Game Design

The possibilities are endless when it comes to video game design! Learn about the history of gaming, software and hardware, trouble shooting, and Internet safety. Tap into your creative abilities and learn the necessary technical skills to design your own gaming platforms and create a plan for a 2D game. Turn your hobby into a future career.

MS Coding

In this course, students will learn all about the technology they use in their day-to-day life as well as explore how the internet functions. The course includes an introduction to the basics of computer science as students discover how to create and build websites using HTML and CSS. They will also become familiar with programming languages like JavaScript and Python. Students will leave the course with a portfolio of work that will showcase their skills.

MS Music

Learn about how we hear music, its history and culture, and how it affects our lives. Explore the elements of music, such as rhythm, pitch, and harmony, while discovering more about musical genres, singing and your voice, instruments, and musical composition. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things musical.

Physical Education

Physical Education A & B—1 credit (PE)—Freshman/Junior

In this course, students will explore concepts involving personal fitness, team sports, dual sports, and individual and lifetime sports. Students will focus on health-related fitness as they set goals and develop a program to improve their fitness level through cardio, strength, and flexibility training. In addition, they will learn about biomechanics and movement concepts as they enhance their level of skill-related fitness. Students will learn about game play concepts and specifically investigate the rules, guidelines, and skills pertaining to soccer, softball, volleyball, tennis, walking and running, dance, and yoga. Students take a pre- and post-fitness assessment. Throughout this course, students also participate in a weekly fitness program involving elements of cardio, strength, and flexibility, as well as participating in a variety of dual, individual, and group sport activities.

Health and Computer Science Applications

Health—0.5 credit (Health)—Sophomore

This semester-long health offering examines and analyzes various health topics. It places alcohol use, drug use, physical fitness, healthy relationships, disease prevention, relationships and mental health in the context of the importance of creating a healthy lifestyle. Throughout the course, students examine practices and plans they can implement in order to carry out a healthy lifestyle, and the consequences they can face if they do not follow safe practices. In addition, students conduct in-depth studies in order to create mentally and emotionally healthy relationships with peers and family, as well as nutrition, sleeping, and physical fitness plans. Students also examine and analyze harassment and bullying laws. This course takes covers issues of sex and gender identity, same-sex relationships, contraception, and other sensitive topics.

Computer Science and Applications—0.5 credit (Computers)—Sophomore

This course is an introduction to computer science and applications intended to “prepare young learners to become computational thinkers who understand how today’s digital tools can help solve tomorrow’s problems.” (ISTE, 2018). CS & A will include at least 50% computer science principles and computational thinking. The balance of the course will integrate skills in digital and media literacy and digital citizenship.
***Satisfies the Computer Literacy requirement.**

ELECTIVES

Language Arts

Public Speaking A & B—1 credit (Humanities)

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 will learn not just the theory, but also the practice of effective public speaking, including how to analyze the speeches of others, build a strong argument, and 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.

Journalism A & B—1 credit (Humanities)

If you're the first to know what's going on in your school or town, or the first to post on Facebook or Instagram about your favorite TV shows or favorite celebrities, then you're just the person that every online, in-print, and broadcast news outlet is looking for. And Journalism: Investigating the Truth is the perfect course for you! In this course, you'll learn how to write a lead that grabs your readers, how to write engaging news stories and features, and how to interview sources. You'll also learn about the history of journalism, how to succeed in the world of social media news, and how to turn your writing, photography, and people skills into an exciting and rewarding career.

Creative Writing—0.5 credit (Elective)

For many hundreds of years, literature has been one of the most important human art forms. It allows us to give voice to our emotions, create imaginary worlds, express ideas, and escape the confines of material reality. Through creative writing, we can come to understand ourselves and our world a little bit better. This course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process, from finding inspiration to building a basic story to using complicated literary techniques and creating strange hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of this course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

Mythology—0.5 credits (Elective)

Mighty heroes. Angry gods and goddesses. Cunning animals. Since the first people gathered around fires, mythology and folklore has been used as a way to make sense of humankind and our world. Beginning with an overview of mythology and different kinds of folklore, students will journey with ancient heroes as they slay dragons and outwit gods, follow fearless warrior women into battle, and watch as clever monsters outwit those stronger than themselves. They will explore the universality and social significance of myths and folklore, and see how these are still used to shape society today.

STEM

Astronomy A & B—1 credit (Elective)

Why do stars twinkle? Is it possible to fall into a black hole? Will the sun ever stop shining? Since the first glimpse of the night sky, humans have been fascinated with the stars, planets, and universe that surrounds us. This course will introduce students to the study of astronomy, including its history and development, basic scientific laws of motion and gravity, the concepts of modern astronomy, and the methods used by astronomers to learn more about the universe. Additional topics include the solar system, the Milky Way and other galaxies, and the sun and stars. Using online tools, students will examine the life cycle of stars, the properties of planets, and the exploration of space.

Biotechnology A & B—1 credit (Elective)

Can we bring back extinct species? Will the cures for cancer, malaria, and other diseases come from the combination of natural materials and new technologies? How is science changing the foods we eat? Welcome to the world of biotechnology! In this course, you will explore the history of biotechnology, including early attempts at food preservation, the development of antibiotics, and changes to food crops around the world. You'll also learn more about some of the challenges of biotechnology, such as the growth of antibiotic resistant bacteria and questions about the safety of commercially produced genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Finally, you'll research new biotechnologies and how they are changing the world we live in.

Forensic Science A & B—1 credit (Elective)

Fingerprints. Blood spatter. DNA analysis. The world of law enforcement is increasingly making use of the techniques and knowledge from the sciences to better understand the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. This course focuses on some of the techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, the student will follow evidence trails until the CSI goes to trial, examining how various elements of the crime scene are analyzed and processed.

Art/Music

Art History A & B—1 credit (Elective)

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

Digital Photography A & B—1 Credit (Elective)

Have you ever wondered how photographers take such great pictures? Have you tried to take photographs and wondered why they didn't seem to capture that moment that you saw with your eyes? The Digital Photography I course focuses on the basics of photography, including building an understanding of aperture, shutter speed, lighting, and composition. Students will be introduced to the history of photography and basic camera functions. Students will use the basic techniques of composition and camera functions to build a portfolio of images, capturing people, landscapes, close-up, and action photographs.

Music Appreciation—0.5 credit (Humanities)

Music is part of everyday lives and reflects the spirit of our human condition. To know and understand music, we distinguish and identify cultures on local and global levels. This course will provide students with an aesthetic and historical perspective of music, covering a variety of styles and developments from the Middle Ages through the Twentieth First Century. Students will acquire basic knowledge and listening skills, making future music experiences more informed and satisfying.

Social Studies

Sociology—0.5 credits (Elective)

Providing insight into the human dynamics of our diverse society, this is an engaging, one-semester course that delves into the fundamental concepts of sociology. This interactive course, designed for high school students, covers cultural diversity and conformity, basic structures of society, individuals and socialization, stages of human development as they relate to sociology, deviance from social norms, social stratification, racial and ethnic interactions, gender roles, family structure, the economic and political aspects of sociology, the sociology of public institutions, and collective human behavior, both historically and in modern times.

Archaeology—0.5 credits (Elective)

George Santayana once said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The field of archaeology helps us to better understand the events and societies of the past that have helped to shape our modern world. This course focuses on this techniques, methods, and theories that guide the study of the past. Students will learn how archaeological research is conducted and interpreted, as well as how artifacts are located and preserved. Finally, students will learn about the relationship of material items to culture and what we can learn about past societies from these items.

Psychology A & B—1 credit (Elective)

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

Anthropology A & B—1 credit (Elective)

The aim of anthropology is to use a broad approach to gain an understanding of our past, present and future, and in addition address the problems humans face in biological, social and cultural life. This course will explore the evolution, similarity and diversity of humankind through time. It will look at how we have evolved from a biologically and culturally weak species to one that has the ability to cause catastrophic change. Exciting online video journeys to different areas of the anthropological world are just one of the powerful learning tools utilized in this course.

Foreign Languages

Spanish I, II, and III A & B—1 credit (Humanities)

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

French I, II, and III A & B—1 credit (Humanities)

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

German I and II A & B—1 credit (Humanities)

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

Chinese I and II A & B—1 credit (Humanities)

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

Career and Technical Education

Agri Science I –0.5 credit (Elective)

In this course, students will learn more about the development and maintenance of agriculture, animal systems, natural resources, and other food sources. Students will also examine the relationship between agriculture and natural resources and the environment, health, politics, and world trade. This course is meant to be taken opposite of Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources or Forestry and Natural Resources.

Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources –0.5 credit (Elective)

Food has to travel from the farm to the table, and in Agriculture and Natural Resources, you will learn about all of the steps in that journey, beginning with the history of agriculture through animal husbandry, plant science, and managing our use of natural resources. In this course, you will receive a broad understanding of the subject matter, preparing you for future hands-on learning, participation in Future Farmers of America, and supervised agricultural experiences.

Agri Science II A & B–1 credit (Elective)

Prerequisite: Agri Science I

Science and technology are revolutionizing many areas of our lives, and agriculture is no exception! From aquaculture to genetic engineering, agriscience is finding new ways to better produce and manage plants, from the field to the garden. In Agri Science II, you'll build on your existing knowledge of plant science and delve deeper into important areas such as soil science and weed management. You'll learn more about horticulture and plant science trends from creating hybrid species to growing edible plants in unlikely places.

Forestry and Natural Resources—0.5 credit (Elective)

Prerequisite: Agri Science I

Forests and other natural resources play an important role in our world, from providing lumber and paper products to providing habitat for birds and animals. In the Introduction to Forestry and Natural Resources course, you'll learn more about forest ecology, management, and conservation. You'll explore topics such as environmental policy, land use, water resources, and wildlife management. Finally, you'll learn more about forestry related careers and important issues facing forestry professionals today.

Animal Systems—0.5 credit (Elective)

Prerequisite: Agri Science II

Animal Systems is a semester-long high school course that provides students with a wealth of information on livestock-management practices, animal husbandry, physiological systems, the latest scientific trends, veterinary practice, and innovations in food production. Changes in practices, regulations, and legislation for animal welfare continue as new research provides solutions to medical, ethical, and practical concerns. The course reviews current topics, such as advancements in technology and research, and defines areas of discussion while maintaining focus on best-management practices. A student might use the knowledge gained from the course to further an interest in becoming a chef, researcher, doctor, wildlife-management professional, or any number of applicable careers.

Veterinary Science—0.5 credit (Elective)

Prerequisite: Agri Science II & Animal Systems

As animals play an increasingly important role in our lives, scientists have sought to learn more about their health and well-being. Taking a look at the pets that live in our homes, on our farms, and in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries, this course will examine some of the common diseases and treatments for domestic animals. Toxins, parasites, and infectious diseases impact not only the animals around us, but at times we humans as well! Through veterinary medicine and science, the prevention and treatment of diseases and health issues is studied and applied.

****Other CTE courses are available through the GBC dual enrollment/credit program****

Business & Marketing Education

Introduction to Business A & B—1 credit (Elective)

In this two-semester introductory course, students learn the principles of business using real-world examples—learning what it takes to plan and launch a product or service in today's fast-paced business environment. This course covers an introduction to economics, costs and profit, and different business types. Students are introduced to techniques for managing money, personally and as a business, and taxes and credit; the basics of financing a business; how a business relates to society both locally and globally; how to identify a business opportunity; and techniques for planning, executing, and marketing a business to respond to that opportunity.

Introduction to Careers in Finance—0.5 credit (Elective)

Introduction to Careers in Finance is a semester-long course that provides the fundamentals of the financial services industry in the United States and explores the jobs and career opportunities that the industry offers. Course units address a broad set of services in the industry including finance overview, financial services, securities analysis, investments, principles of corporate finance, banking services, risk management, and insurance.

Personal Finance—0.5 credit (Elective)

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

Technology and Business A & B—1 credit (Elective)

This year-long course teaches students technical skills, effective communication skills, and productive work habits needed to make a successful transition into the workplace or postsecondary education. In this course, students gain an understanding of emerging technologies, operating systems, and computer networks. In addition, they create a variety of business documents, including complex word-processing documents, spreadsheets with charts and graphs, database files, and electronic presentations.

Business Law—0.5 credit (Elective)

This semester-long high school course is designed to provide students with the knowledge of some of the vital legal concepts that affect commerce and trade, after first gaining some familiarity with how laws are created and interpreted. Students are then introduced to the types of businesses that can be created as well as the contractual and liability considerations that can impact a business. Laws that affect how a business is regulated are reviewed, particularly the impact of administrative rules and regulations on a business. Global commerce and international agreements, treaties, organizations, and courts are discussed to get a better sense of what it means to “go global” with a business. Dispute resolution strategies are also addressed.

Education, Hospitality, & Human Services

Culinary Arts A & B—1 credit (Elective)

Food is all around us—we are dependent on it and we enjoy it. This course will give you the basic fundamentals to start working in the kitchen and gaining experience as you explore and establish your talents for cooking and preparing food in a creative and safe way. You will learn safety measures as well as enhance your knowledge of various types of foods and spices. If you enjoy hands-on learning and want to deepen your knowledge about culinary arts, this is a great course to start.

Early Childhood Education A & B—1 credit (Elective)

Want to have an impact on the most important years of human development? Students will learn how to create fun and educational environments for children, how to keep the environment safe for children, and how to encourage the health and well-being of infants, toddlers, and school-aged children.

Fashion and Interior Design—0.5 credit (Elective)

Do you have a flair for fashion? Are you constantly redecorating your room? If so, the design industry might just be for you! In this course, you'll explore what it is like to work in the industry by exploring career possibilities and the background that you need to pursue them. Get ready to try your hand at designing as you learn the basics of color and design then test your skills through hands-on projects. In addition, you'll develop the essential communication skills that build success in any business. By the end of the course, you'll be well on your way to developing the portfolio you need to get your stylishly clad foot in the door of this exciting field.

Nutrition and Wellness—0.5 credit (Elective)

This course takes students through a comprehensive study of nutritional principles and guidelines. Students learn about worldwide views of nutrition, essential nutrient requirements, physiological processes, food labeling, weight management, healthy food choices, fitness, diet-related diseases and disorders, food handling, healthy cooking, nutrition for different populations, and more. Students gain important knowledge and skills to aid them in attaining and maintaining a healthy and nutritious lifestyle.

Peer Counseling—0.5 credit (Elective)

Helping people achieve their goals is one of the most rewarding of human experiences. Peer counselors help individuals reach their goals by offering them support, encouragement, and resource information. This course explains the role of a peer counselor, teaches the observation, listening, and emphatic communication skills that counselors need, and provides basic training in conflict resolution, and group leadership. Not only will this course prepare you for working as a peer counselor, but the skills taught will enhance your ability to communicate effectively in your personal and work relationships.

Information and Media Technology

Introduction to Coding—0.5 credit (Elective)

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

Introduction to Information Technology—0.5 credit (Elective)

This course introduces students to the essential technical and professional skills required in the field of Information Technology (IT). Through hands-on projects and written assignments, students gain an understanding of the operation of computers, computer networks, Internet fundamentals, programming, and computer support. Students also learn about the social impact of technological change and the ethical issues related to technology. Throughout the course, instructional activities emphasize safety, professionalism, accountability, and efficiency for workers within the field of IT.

Game Design A & B—1 credit (Elective)

Explore all things related to video game design. Gain skills to conceptualize, design, and fully create a video game. Explore software and hardware, sharpen your coding skills, learn about storylines, player progression, and algorithmic decision making. Analyze a variety of game play components.

Required Materials

- Computer with:
 - OS: Windows 7 SP1+, 8, 10; Mac OS X 10.8+.
 - Windows XP & Vista are not supported; and server versions of Windows & OS X are not tested.
 - Firefox or Chrome browser for Audio App used in Unit 1
 - GPU: Graphics card with DX9 (shader model 3.0) or DX11 with feature level 9.3 capabilities.
 - More advanced gaming prototypes may require more advanced
 - Audio Recording device (microphone, etc.)
 - Mouse/trackball with scroll wheel

Health Science and Public Safety

Introduction to Health Science A & B—1 credit (Elective)

This high school course introduces students to a variety of healthcare careers, as they develop the basic skills required in all health and medical sciences. In addition to learning the key elements of the U.S. healthcare system, students learn terminology, anatomy and physiology, pathologies, diagnostic and clinical procedures, therapeutic interventions, and the fundamentals of medical emergency care. Throughout the course, instructional activities emphasize safety, professionalism, accountability, and efficiency for workers within the health care field.

Health Science A & B—1 credit (Elective)

This year-long course introduces high school students to the fundamental concepts of anatomy and physiology—including the organization of the body, cellular functions, and the chemistry of life. As they progress through each unit, students learn about the major body systems, common diseases and disorders, and the career specialties associated with each system. Students investigate basic medical terminology as well as human reproduction and development. Students are introduced to these fundamental health science concepts through direct instruction, interactive tasks, and practice assignments. This course is intended to provide students with a strong base of core knowledge and skills that can be used in a variety of health science career pathways.

Medical Terminology A & B—1 credit (Elective)

This full-year course introduces students to the structure of medical terms, plus medical abbreviations and acronyms. The course allows students to achieve comprehension of medical vocabulary appropriate to health care settings, medical procedures, pharmacology, human anatomy and physiology, and pathology. The knowledge and skills gained in this course provide students entering the health care field with a deeper understanding of the application of the language of health and medicine. Students are introduced to these skills through direct instruction, interactive tasks, practice assignments, and unit-level assessments.

Careers in Criminal Justice—0.5 credit (Elective)

The criminal justice system offers a wide range of career opportunities. In this course, students will explore different areas of the criminal justice system, including the trial process, the juvenile justice system, and the correctional system.

Criminology—0.5 credit (Elective)

In today's world, crime and deviant behavior rank at or near the top of many people's concerns. In this course, we will study the field of Criminology – the study of crime. We will look at possible explanations for crime from the standpoint of psychological, biological and sociological perspectives, explore the categories and social consequences of crime, and investigate how the criminal justice system handles not only criminals, but also their misdeeds. Why do some individuals commit crimes why others do not? What aspects in our culture and society promote crime and deviance? Why are different punishments given for the same crime? What factors...from arrest to punishment...help shape the criminal case process?

Non-Departmental

Career Planning A & B—1 credit (Elective)

Introducing high school students to the working world, this course provides the knowledge and insight necessary to compete in today's challenging job market. This relevant and timely course helps students investigate careers as they apply to personal interests and abilities, develop the skills and job search documents needed to enter the workforce, explore the rights of workers and traits of effective employees, and address the importance of professionalism and responsibility as careers change and evolve. This course includes lessons in which students create a self-assessment profile, a cover letter, and a résumé that can be used in their educational or career portfolio.