

# Vista del Lago High School

## Curriculum Guide

2020–2021



The Governing Board is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in education. District programs, activities, and practices shall be free from discrimination based on race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

# Table of Contents [\(click on subject heading or page number to jump to content\)](#)

<b>How to Use the Curriculum Guide</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Course Selection Process</b>	<b>2</b>
Schedule Change Process	2
Drop “F” Policy	2
Procedure for enrolling in an AP/Honors course	2
Late Arrival/Early Release	2
APEX online learning	2
Graduating Early	2
Challenging a Course (FCUSD AR 6155)	3
Course Substitution	3
<b>Earning Grades and Credits</b>	<b>3</b>
Repeating Classes	4
Grade Reports	4
Selection of the Valedictorian(s)	4
Class Rank	4
<b>College Credit Opportunities</b>	<b>4</b>
Advanced Placement/Honors courses	4
Concurrent Enrollment	4
<b>College Admission Requirements</b>	<b>4</b>
Community Colleges (2-Year Degree)	4
California State Universities (4 -Year Degree)	5
University of California (4 -Year Degree)	5
Private and Out-of-State Colleges	5
Approved UC “a-g” Course List	5
<b>GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS COMPARED</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Course Descriptions by Subject Area</b>	<b>8</b>
Social Science Course Descriptions	8
English Course Descriptions	11
Math Course Descriptions	14
Science Course Descriptions	17
World Language Course Descriptions	21
Visual and Performing Arts Course Descriptions	23
College Preparatory Electives	28
College Preparatory CTE Elective	30
ENGINEERING AND DESIGN PATHWAY	30
SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY	31
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY	31
PRODUCTION AND MANAGERIAL ARTS PATHWAY-MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION PATHWAY	32
DESIGN, VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS PATHWAY-FILM/VIDEO	33
BIOTECHNOLOGY PATHWAY	33
Physical Education Course Descriptions	34
Health and Safety Course Descriptions	35
General Elective Course Descriptions	37

## How to Use the Curriculum Guide

The curriculum guide contains essential information for planning a high school program and completing the annual course selection process. By using the provided graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, and list of courses and their prerequisites and credit categories, students and parents can choose courses that will help students to reach their post secondary goals as well as explore their interests.

## The Course Selection Process

Students and parents will be notified through school announcements and advisory activities when the course selection process begins in early February for the next school year. Resources and instructions are provided to students to research what courses to select. Once students and parents have reviewed their choices and made preliminary selections, students then meet with their counselor to review their choices to assure that requirements are being met. In late spring a Course Verification Sheet is sent home with the student to finalize their course choices for the school year.

### Schedule Change Process

It is essential that all students put serious consideration into their course selections during the spring registration process. All Vista del Lago High School class choices are *yearlong* choices. Following the spring registration process, students will have an opportunity to request schedule changes. Changes are granted on space availability and it is important to understand that when a student changes a class, it affects other students' classes and teachers. For this reason, the following schedule change policy has been established to minimize student movement once classes have been established: ***During the first week of a new term, students must prove a compelling need in order to petition for any schedule changes. Even with a compelling need, administration is unable to grant most student schedule change requests once the term has started due to either master schedule constraints or space in individual courses.***

### Drop "F" Policy

At Vista del Lago High School, courses may be dropped without penalty through the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the term. Any course dropped after that time will only be dropped from a student's schedule with a failing grade for the semester in which it was dropped. It is important to note the semester grades are a part of a student's permanent record. Students must still maintain a three period day if granted a drop "F". Schedule restraints can sometimes limit the ability to grant a drop "F".

### Procedure for enrolling in an AP/Honors course

Review the information on the homepage of the AP/Honors course you are interested in taking. Answer questions on the Google form in order to be sure there is record of your visit to the page. Sign the AP/Honors policies and procedures included in this packet and return it with your registration materials. Next, select the Honors or AP class on your course selection form and turn in registration paperwork on time. Students will be notified if they have been placed in the desired course when course verification sheets are delivered in May.

### Late Arrival/Early Release

Late arrival/Early Release is only open to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students must get approval from their counselor as well as their parent/guardian during the spring registration process. Transportation to school is not provided for students who have late arrival/early release. Students must vacate the school property during their release period.

### APEX online learning

APEX Learning courses are preapproved by FCUSD as well as by The University of California to meet the college preparatory requirements as well as graduation requirements. These courses are NOT approved by NCAA and cannot be used to establish eligibility. These courses are: English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12, US History, Government and Economics. Enrollment in these courses is limited to availability. Students must have a 2.7 overall GPA at time of registration or placement by administration for remediation purposes.

### Graduating Early

Students interested in graduating after their junior year must submit an application in February **of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year**. Students interested in graduating midterm of their senior year must submit an application in **February of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year**. In order to graduate early students must have accumulated enough credits to be able to reach the required 220 credits by graduation. This includes all courses that are graduation requirements. Once students have completed graduation requirements and have been approved for early graduation, they are no longer a student of Vista del Lago High School and may not re-enroll as a high school student. Be aware that students who take a college course after graduating midterm (but prior to enrolling in a four-year college in the fall) may be reclassified as a "transfer student" by the four year college. This could negatively affect a student's enrollment status at the four-year college. Students should check with the four-year college prior to enrolling in any community college course after graduating from high school. Early graduates may participate only in the graduation ceremony of the school year they graduate. They may attend Senior Ball and Sober Grad Night with approval from administration.

### Challenging a Course (FCUSD AR 6155)

Students interested in challenging an academic course shall file a petition form with their counselor prior to or within the first week of a term. A course challenge exam may be offered when the academic course is part of a sequence of courses normally taken in specific order or when the course is normally required for entry into another course. During their enrollment in high school, students may challenge no more than four courses which meet graduation requirements. A student may challenge only one course per semester. Courses previously taken where credit was received, remedial courses, and physical education/health courses are exempted from the course challenge program. A student may challenge a particular course only once, and he/she cannot later enroll in the same course to improve or replace a challenge grade. The challenge grade is permanent on the student's high school transcript. The student must earn an A or B grade to receive credit for challenging a course by examination.

### Course Substitution

Students may choose to take courses outside of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District when a student is, for good reason, unable to take the course of study offered at Vista del Lago High School. Examples of courses that must have an approved Course Substitution Contract include, but are not limited to:

- Courses taken at a district other than FCUSD once a student is enrolled at any FCUSD school
- Courses taken during summer break while school is not in session
- Courses taken via independent study while enrolled in an FCUSD school.
- Courses taken online while enrolled in an FCUSD school.
- Courses taken at a 2 year or 4 year college or university while enrolled in an FCUSD school.

In order for permission to be granted for a student to take such a course, the following stipulations must be met:

- Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.7 or higher and have demonstrated academic preparation and ability.
- Students must have a full, inflexible academic schedule planned for their entire time enrolled at Vista del Lago. A student may not be approved for a course substitution if the student has an unscheduled class period or electives during the regular school year that do not meet high school graduation requirements or pathway/college preparatory needs.
- Course Substitution Contracts must be approved in advance of enrollment in any non FCUSD course.
- Course substitutions will only be approved if the course is an FCUSD graduation requirement and taken through a WASC accredited Program.
- Students are not guaranteed a seat in the higher level course depending on seat availability in the master schedule at the time of the request.

### Physical Education Independent Study

To qualify for PE Independent Study, student must be *nationally ranked* with an association affiliated with national or international competition *and* have the intent to compete nationally or internationally. In addition, students must participate for a minimum of 21 hours per week in practice or competition, as verified by a supervising coach or trainer. Supporting documentation must be submitted to verify the above requirements. The maximum number of credits possible to earn via PE Independent Study is ten (10), and grading will be on a 'P' (Pass) or 'F' (Fail) basis. Students must complete the Physical Education Independent Study Program and submit it to their counselor prior to the start of the athletic season. All students must complete 9th grade Physical Education in the regular school program.

### Short Term Independent Study

Independent Study is for students who will be absent from school for a minimum of five days and a maximum of three weeks. Class work is requested following parent notification. This notification must be made through the vice principal's office at least three days prior to the absence period.

### Medical Independent Study Program

Medical Independent Study (MIS) is available for qualified students who are unable to attend school for three weeks or more due to medically-verified reasons. Parents should contact the counseling staff to obtain information about the MIS program. Approval is obtained through District Health Services.

## Earning Grades and Credits

Each year a student has the opportunity to take eight courses over two terms. Students will be enrolled in four courses per term. Students will earn five credits per semester for each course for which they earn credit. Credit is earned towards FCUSD graduation requirements for a grade of "D" or better in coursework. The University of California and California State University Systems require a grade of a "C" or better to satisfy college admission requirements. **"D" grades do not satisfy prerequisite requirements for higher level sequential courses such as math and languages.** Semester grades stand alone, meaning they are not 'averaged' for a 'final' grade.

To receive a high school diploma, students must earn 220 credits in the designated credit areas. The graduation requirements are dictated by the Folsom Cordova Unified School District Board of Education, and the State of California.

### Repeating Classes

For the purpose of the high school transcript, with the approval of the principal or designee, a student may repeat a course in order to raise his/her grade. Both grades received shall be entered on the student's transcript, but the student shall receive credit only once for taking the course. The highest grade received shall be used in determining the student's overall grade point average (GPA). For the purposes of college applications, please see specific guidelines from each university system.

### Grade Reports

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter, semester and term. Quarter grades are posted on the PowerSchool Portal and are considered grades-in-progress with no credits. The semester and term grades are the final grades for the term and become a part of the student's permanent academic record. Five credits per semester are issued for each passing grade in each class. Semester and term grades are used to determine eligibility for sports and extracurricular activities.

### Selection of the Valedictorian(s)

Prior to the start of his/her final year of high school, a student meeting specific district requirements will be determined a valedictorian candidate and will be made aware of the requirements necessary to become a final valedictorian.

Requirements for candidacy:

Cumulative unweighted GPA of 4.0 in ALL COURSES posted to transcript through the 3rd quarter of the senior year (or end of term 1 grades for early graduates).

A minimum of 60 weighted credits (AP and HONORS) posted to transcript by graduation. At least ten of these credits must be completed during the senior year.

### Class Rank

As of the Class of 2020, Vista Del Lago no longer ranks students. In place of class rank, college admissions personnel will use the Vista del Lago school profile which can be found on our website.

### Weighted Grades

In advanced placement and select honors courses, students receive a weighted grade towards their GPA. Vista del Lago assigns **1(one)** grade point per semester for grades A, B and C. Grades earned lower than a C do not earned the weighted point. Courses that assign weighted grades are indicated in the course descriptions in this curriculum guide.

## College Credit Opportunities

### Advanced Placement/Honors courses

Vista del Lago High School's programs for high-achieving students are intended to offer challenging educational experiences. These programs are designed for highly-motivated students who choose to take a more demanding program to improve their critical thinking and skills. Students who pass an AP exam may earn college credit. Please check with the college you wish to apply to in order to insure they accept advanced placement test scores for credit. Upon completion of an AP course, students will receive weighted grade points as per District Policy 5126.3. The Curriculum Guide has a complete description of all courses in this category. Due to the rigors of these courses, and accelerated pace of the block system; it is strongly advised that students take no more than four AP courses *per year*. Students and parents are required to review and agree to the Honors/AP Policies and Procedures before being enrolled in an Honors/AP course.

### Concurrent Enrollment

Vista del Lago has a strong working relationship with the Los Rios Community College District and we encourage our qualified students to take advantage of their Advanced Education program.. Some examples of courses that are offered at FLC include Anthropology, Astronomy, Philosophy, American Sign Language, Sociology and College Success. All rules and regulations governing the Los Rios and other community college districts will be in effect for all college courses taken by high school students. Students are only allowed to take courses at a community college that Vista Del Lago does not offer. There is a two course per term maximum. Students must download an advanced education packet from the college website, complete and have approved a concurrent enrollment form from their counselor **prior to** enrollment at any community college. Students must provide their own transportation.

## College Admission Requirements

### Community Colleges (2-Year Degree)

Admission requirements: Be eighteen years of age, or earn a high school diploma, or pass the California High School Proficiency Examination. We encourage students who wish to attend a community college to take rigorous coursework in preparation for the college-level courses they will take at the community college. Placement tests are required in Math and English. Local campuses: Folsom Lake, Sierra, American River, Sac City and Cosumnes River.

### California State Universities (4 -Year Degree)

Minimum Admission requirements: Complete 15 "a-g" subject requirements with 'C' grades or higher. Attain a minimum 2.0 grade point average in the approved "a-g" subjects. Meet the eligibility index, which includes SAT Reasoning or ACT exam scores. We encourage students to exceed the minimum entrance requirements in order to be a competitive candidate for the college of their choice.

### University of California (4 -Year Degree)

Minimum Admission requirements: Complete 15 "a-g" subject requirements with 'C' grades or higher. Attain a minimum 3.0 grade point average in the approved "a-g" subjects. Meet the eligibility index, which includes SAT Reasoning or ACT exam scores. We encourage students to exceed the minimum entrance requirements in order to be competitive candidate for the college of their choice.

### Private and Out-of-State Colleges

Students meeting the University of California admission requirements generally will meet the admission requirements of many private and out-of-state colleges. Be sure to refer to the specific institution's website and/or catalog for further details.

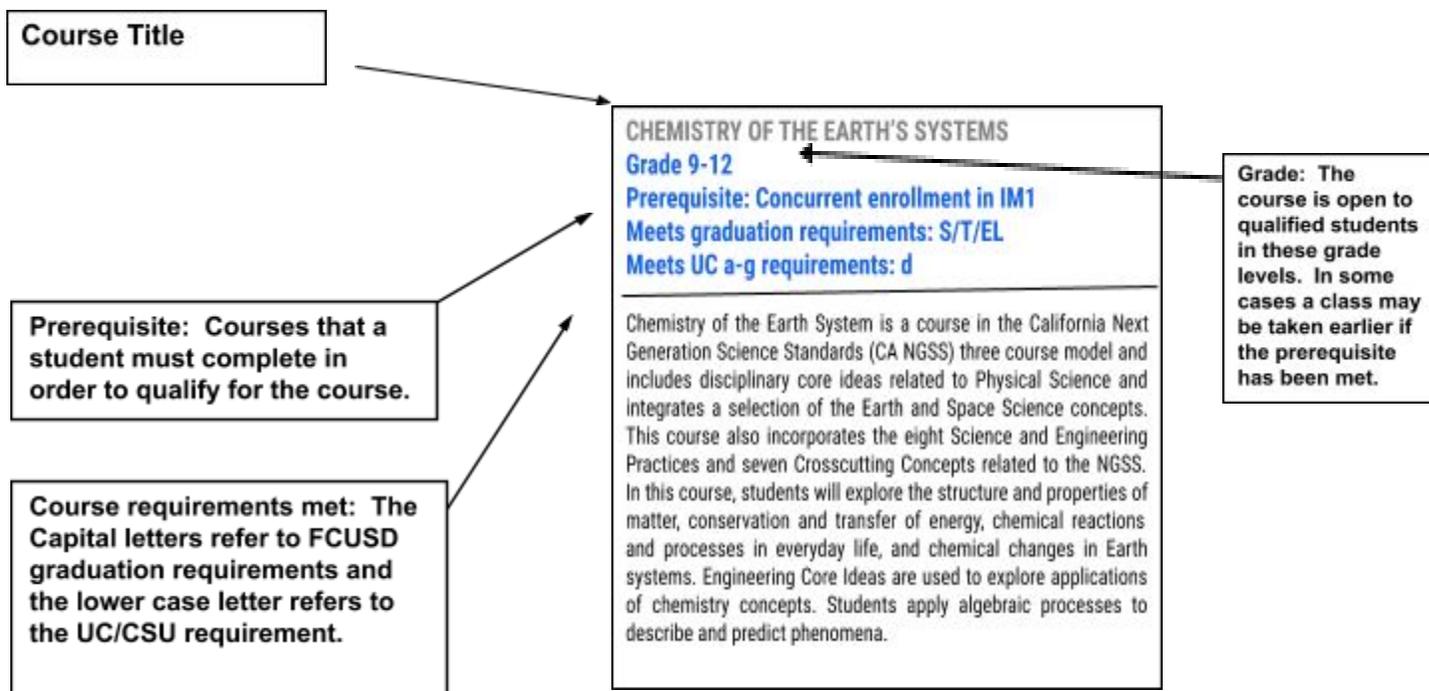
### Approved UC "a-g" Course List

A list of approved college preparatory courses is published annually. VDLHS list can be found at <http://www.ucop.edu/agguide/>. Courses taught at Vista del Lago High School that fulfill the UC/CSU requirements are listed on the "Course Offerings" list with a check mark in the **UC a-g course** column.

GRADUATION AND COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS COMPARED

<u>Subject Requirements</u>	<u>Vista del Lago High School</u>	<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>California State University</u>	<u>University of California</u>
<b>Social Science</b>	<b>30 credits:</b> World Cultures U.S. History Government (5 credits) Economics (5 credits)	Meets (a) subject area	<b>2 Years:</b> 1 Year World History 1 Year U.S. History	<b>2 Years:</b> 1 Year World History 1 Year U.S. History
<b>English</b>	<b>40 credits:</b> English 1 English 2 English 3 CSU ERWC 1+2 (Eng 4)	Meets (b) subject area	<b>4 Years:</b> College preparatory English	<b>4 Years:</b> College preparatory English
<b>Math</b>	<b>30 credits:</b> Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Third year of Math (Must enroll in math in the 11 grade)	Meets (c) subject area	<b>3 Years:</b> Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Integrated Math 3	<b>3 Years:</b> Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Integrated Math 3 (4 years recommended)
<b>Science</b>	<b>20 credits:</b> Biology Physical Science	Meets (d) subject area	<b>2 Years</b> lab science: 1 year in each: Biological and Physical	<b>2 Years</b> (three years recommended) of laboratory science in two of these three: biology, chemistry and physics.
<b>World Language</b>	<b>10 credits:</b> 1 Year Fine Art or World Language or CTE	Meets (e) subject area	<b>2 Years:</b> Foreign Language (must be the same language)	<b>2 Years:</b> Foreign Language (must be the same language)(3 years recommended)
<b>Fine Arts</b>		Meets (f) subject area	<b>1 Year:</b> Visual and Performing Art	<b>1 Year:</b> Visual and Performing Art
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>20 credits</b>		None	None
<b>Health</b>	<b>5 credits</b>		None	None
<b>CTE</b>	<b>10 credits:</b> CTE or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of science		None	None
<b>Elective Credits</b>	<b>55 elective credits</b> Beginning Composition	Meets (g) subject area	<b>1 Year:</b> Additional college preparatory electives	<b>1 Year:</b> Additional college preparatory electives
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>220 credits</b>		Grade of C or higher in all college preparatory classes	Grade of C or higher in all college preparatory classes
<b>Test Requirements</b>			ACT or SAT Reasoning Test	ACT or SAT Reasoning Test

## WHAT INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE COURSE DESCRIPTION?



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS KEY

Use this key for the following pages to interpret how the courses fill graduation and college entrance requirements

### VDLHS Graduation Requirements:

EL	= Elective
E	= English
FA	= Fine Arts
H	= Health
M	= Mathematics
PE	= Physical Education
S	= Science
SS	= Social Science
T	= CTE or third year of science
WL	= World Language
G	= Integrated Math 2

### UC/CSU Requirements:

a	= History/Social Science
b	= English
c	= Mathematics
d	= Laboratory Science
e	= Language Other than English
f	= Visual & Performing Arts
g	= College Prep Elective

# Course Descriptions by Subject Area

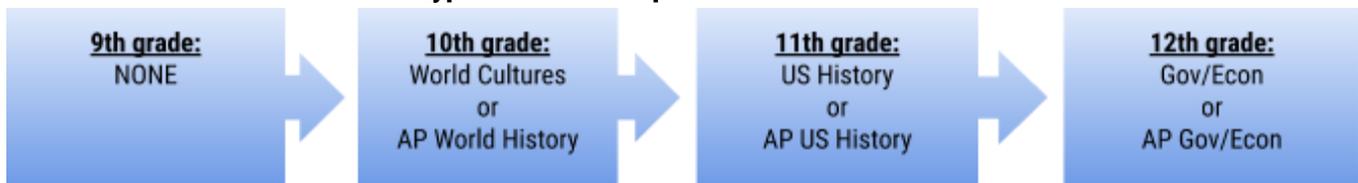
## Social Science Course Descriptions

Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 30 credits

Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: 20 credits

Core Courses in this department:	Elective Courses in this department:
World Cultures US History Government/Economics AP US History AP World History AP Government/Economics	World Geography AP Human Geography

### Typical Course Sequence for Social Science:



### WORLD CULTURES

Grade 10

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirement: SS

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Students in grade ten study major turning points that shaped the modern world, from ancient times through the present, including the cause and course of the two world wars. They trace the rise of democratic ideas and develop an understanding of the historical roots of current world issues, especially as they pertain to international relations.

### AP WORLD HISTORY

Grade 10

Prerequisite: World Geography or AP Human Geography

Recommended: A or B in previous SS class and English class

Meets graduation requirement: SS

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

This course earns students a weighted grade

The purpose of the AP World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. The course emphasizes relevant factual knowledge deployed in conjunction with leading interpretive issues and types of historical evidence. The course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents that, along with geography, set the human stage.

## US HISTORY

Grade 11

Prerequisite: World Cultures

Meets graduation requirement: SS

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

---

In this course students study the major turning points in American history. An overarching theme in the course centers around the nation's founding ideals from the Declaration of Independence: equality, rights, liberty, opportunity, and democracy. Each generation has struggled with these ideals. Some have made little progress toward achieving them, while others have made great progress. During this course, students will become engaged in the struggle, from establishing an American republic to the making of modern America. The APEX online learning version of this course is a-g approved but NOT NCAA approved. APEX course description can be found here: [APEX US History Course Description](#)

## AP US HISTORY

Grade 11

Prerequisite: World Cultures or AP World History

Recommended: A or B in English and Social Science course

Meets graduation requirement: SS

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

This course earns students a weighted grade

---

The AP program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and enduring understandings necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials their relevance to a given interpretive problem, their reliability, and their importance and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship.

## GOVERNMENT

Grade 12

Prerequisite: US History

Meets graduation requirement: SS

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

---

In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. In addition, they draw on their studies of American history and of other societies to compare different systems of government in the world today. This course should be viewed as the culmination of the civic literacy strand that prepares students to evaluate public policy, understand voting and the election process, and reflect on the responsibilities of citizenship. Students will gain an understanding of their role when participating in civic activities. This is a 5 credit class paired with Economics. The APEX online learning version of this course is NOT NCAA approved. APEX course description can be found here: [APEX Government Course Description](#)

## ECONOMICS

Grade 12

Prerequisite: US History

Meets graduation requirement: SS

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

---

In this course, students will deepen their knowledge of our economy by studying both Micro and Macro economics. This will allow them to have a better understanding of how our system works, and how it interconnects globally. They will learn to make reasoned decisions on economic issues as citizens, workers, consumers, business owners/managers, and members of civic groups. Students will add to economic concepts they acquired in previous grades and apply tools (such as interpreting graphs and economic indicators) which are learned in other subject areas and relate it to our economic system. This is a 5 credit class paired with Government. The APEX online learning version of this course is NOT NCAA approved. APEX course description can be found here: [APEX Economics Course Description](#)

## **AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Grade 12**

**Prerequisite: US History**

**Recommended: A or B in US History**

**Meets graduation requirement: SS**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

The AP Government & Politics: United States course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality. This is a 5 credit class paired with Economics.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES**

### **WORLD GEOGRAPHY**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirement: EL**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a**

---

The World Geography course is designed to teach students the different facets of our world from the physical to the cultural. Students will be able to identify the five themes of geography which include regions, locations, places, movements, and human environment interaction. They will learn about climate and ecosystems and how that interrelates to human culture. Students will understand the cause and effect relationship of resources upon population, hunger, and the environment. Students will also examine a variety of cultural aspects of the world such as clothing, food, religion, and language as we tour each continent.

### **AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Recommended: A or B in English and social science course**

**Meets graduation requirement: EL**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: a**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

AP Human Geography focuses on the distribution, process, and effects of human population on the planet. Emphasis is placed on geographic models and their applications. Case Studies from around the globe are compared to the situations at local, regional and national scales. Internet activities, field excursions, and videos are used to explore certain topics.

# English Course Descriptions

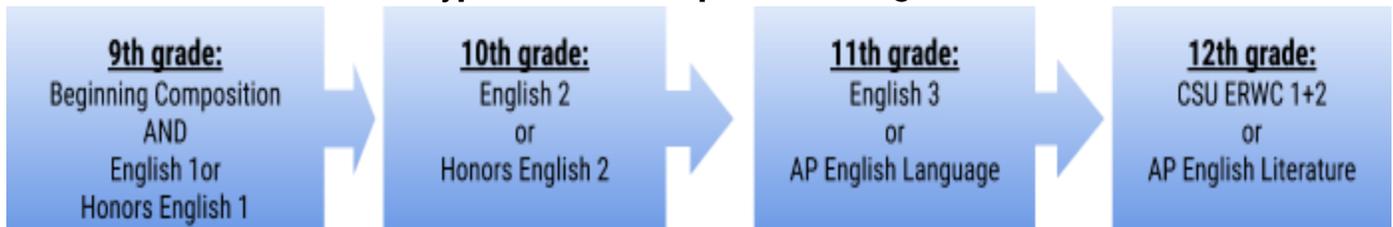
Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 40 credits

Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: 40 credits

## Core Courses in this department:

English 1	English 2	English 3	CSU ERWC 1+2
Honors English 1	Honors English 2	AP English Language	AP English Literature
English Foundations			
Beginning Composition			

## Typical Course Sequence for English:



## ENGLISH 1

Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

English 1 is the first year, required course for high school curriculum relating to the development of oral and written communication skills. A specific emphasis is placed on enhancing reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through the critical interpretation of literature. Students will read and analyze literature, gain and refine a more complicated voice in their essay writing, and develop the speaking and listening skills needed in discussion.

## HONORS ENGLISH 1

Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Recommended: A or B in 8<sup>th</sup> grade English course

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Honors English 1 is a combination of the first year required course for high school curriculum relating to the development of oral and written communication skills and a more advanced level of study designed to prepare students who intend to take Advanced Placement courses in later grades. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills are emphasized through the critical interpretation of literature. Students will read and analyze literary works, gain and refine a more complicated voice in their essay writing, and develop the speaking and listening skills needed in discussion. While enrolling in Honors English 1 does not guarantee admission to AP classes, the more rigorous training in analytical reading and writing will prepare students for a more advanced level of curriculum. Honors English courses follow the same standard and curriculum plan as regular English courses. The rate, depth, and complexity of material differ; honors students will read more novels and literary works, and write and analyze with greater sophistication. This course requires summer reading. This course is not given an extra grade point in the GPA.

## ENGLISH 2

Grade 10

Prerequisite: English 1

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

---

English 2 is the second year course for the secondary language arts curriculum. Emphasis is placed on higher levels of student performance with more complex assignments. Students will more keenly develop higher level thinking skills, as well as be able to demonstrate the ability to critically analyze specific writing styles and more sophisticated pieces of literature. Closely following the California language arts content standards, students will hone their writing, reading, and oral language skills in English 2. Students will develop the speaking skills needed in both small- and large-group discussions; write essays of greater length and level of sophistication; demonstrate the proper use of the MLA format for all assignments; do research of a more in-depth nature with a broader range of sources and an original thesis; and read and analyze a higher level of literature in terms of language, literary elements, and thematic content.

## HONORS ENGLISH 2

Grade 10

Prerequisite: English 1

Recommended: A or B in English 1

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

---

Honors English 2 is an intensified program that focuses on the areas of literary analysis, composition, and critical thinking. Instruction focuses on developing student proficiency in critical thinking, problem solving, creative thinking, and application of skills. The greatest differentiations between Honors English 2 and English 2 curriculum are its pacing and complexity, which combine to challenge students capable of higher-level thinking. In addition, summer reading and writing assignments are mandatory. Emphasis is placed upon state language arts content standards. Students will develop the speaking skills needed in both small- and large-group discussions; write essays of greater length and level of sophistication; demonstrate the proper use of the MLA format for all assignments; do research of a more in-depth nature with a broader range of sources and an original thesis; and read and analyze a higher level of literature in terms of language, literary elements, and thematic content. This course is not given an extra grade point in the GPA.

## ENGLISH 3

Grade 11

Prerequisite: English 2

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

---

English 3 is the third year required course for high school curriculum relating to the development of oral and written communication skills. Emphasis is placed on higher levels of student performance with more complex assignments and materials. Students will read and analyze literature of higher levels of difficulty in terms of language use and thematic content, use more precise language, do research of a more in-depth nature, develop the speaking skills needed in discussions, and write essays of greater complexity. Through their study of literature, students will also develop knowledge of and an appreciation for American literary traditions. The APEX online learning version of this course is a-g approved but NOT NCAA approved. [APEX English 3 Course Description](#)

## AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Grade 11

Prerequisite: English 2

Recommended: A or B in English 2 or Honors English 2

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

The AP English Language and Composition course is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Students are expected to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May.

## CSU ERWC 1+2

Grade 12

Prerequisite: English 3

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

---

The goal of the Expository Reading and Writing Course is to prepare seniors for the literacy demands of higher education. Through a sequence of rigorous instructional modules, students in this yearlong, rhetoric-based course develop advanced proficiency in expository, analytical, and argumentative reading and writing. The cornerstone of the course the assignment template presents a process for helping students read, comprehend, and respond to nonfiction and literary texts. The APEX online learning version of this course is a-g approved but NOT NCAA approved. [APEX English 4 Course Description](#)

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE

Grade 12

Prerequisite: English 3

Recommended: A or B in English 3 or AP English Language

Meets graduation requirements: E

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

This course earns students a weighted grade

---

The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students can deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students should consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. An Honors/AP course is differentiated from regular course in terms of student expectancies by the breadth and complexity of material covered in the course. Students are expected to take the AP English Literature and Composition test in May. This course requires summer reading.

## ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS 1,2,3,4

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Placement based on iready score and CAASPP test

Meets graduation requirements: E

---

This course provides a foundation that supports the needs of students whose academic performance, including proficiency in English language arts and literacy in reading and writing, is two or more years below grade level. The materials in this program are designed so students receive grade-level instruction while providing a rich curriculum supporting the five themes of the California ELA/ELD Framework: Meaning Making, Language Development, Effective Expression, and Content Knowledge. This course also includes a particular emphasis on academic vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension, fluency, and foundation skills, if necessary.

## BEGINNING COMP

Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirement: EL

---

This course is a 9th grade required course designed to help students become skilled writers by engaging them in thoughtful writing that will extend across the content areas. Because the course is designed to integrate thinking, reading, and writing, students will become aware of writing as a process and deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to convey specific ideas. Students will learn skills necessary to write on demand with an awareness of structure, tone and word choice. Students will learn to choose strategies for specific writing prompts and become aware of the importance of audience. The course will include intensive study of essay structure and format, how to support a thesis statement, and how to integrate evidence into thoughtful commentary for various writing prompts.

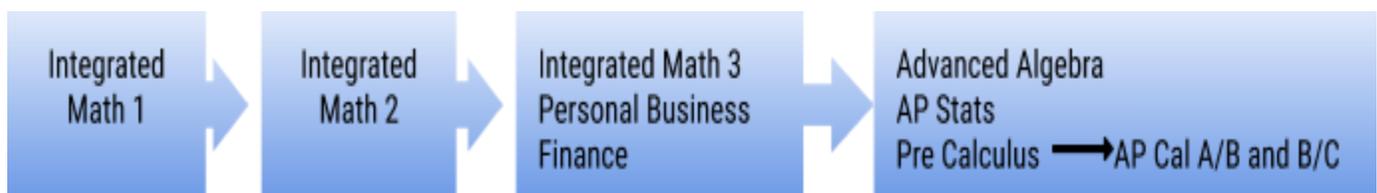
# Math Course Descriptions

Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 30 credits (must include IM2 and enrollment during 11th grade)

Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: 30 credits including IM3

Core Courses in this department:	
Integrated Math 1 Foundations <b>Integrated Math 1</b>	<b>Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications</b>
Integrated Math 2 Foundations <b>Integrated Math 2</b>	<b>Pre-Calculus</b>
Integrated Math 3 Foundations <b>Integrated Math 3</b>	Personal Business Finance <b>AP Statistics</b> <b>AP Calculus AB</b> <b>AP Calculus BC</b>

## Typical Course Sequence for Math:



### INTEGRATED MATH 1 FOUNDATIONS

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Automatically enrolled in course with i-Ready score of below 492. Must also take IM1 following term.

Meets graduation requirements: M

Math Foundations is designed for students who are not yet ready for Integrated Math 1. This is a non-college prep course designed to build the concepts and skills necessary for high school mathematics. Instructional time will focus on the following topics from the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: ratios and proportional reasoning, operations with rational numbers, linear expressions and equations, linear systems, functions, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students are automatically enrolled in Integrated Math 1 for Term 2.

### INTEGRATED MATH 1

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in previous math course and i-Ready score of 493 or higher

Meets graduation requirements: M

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Math 1 is an integrated math course designed to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The standards are based on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and include topics from the conceptual categories: Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Instructional time will focus on six critical areas: (1) extend understanding of numerical manipulation to algebraic manipulation; (2) synthesize understanding of function; (3) deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships; (4) apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend; (5) establish criteria for congruence based on rigid motions; and (6) apply the Pythagorean Theorem to the coordinate plane.

### INTEGRATED MATH 2 FOUNDATIONS

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: D in IM1

Meets graduation requirements: M

This is a non-college preparatory course designed for students who have passed Integrated Math 1, but may not be ready for the rigor of Integrated Math 2. The course is structured around problems and investigations that build spatial visualization skills, conceptual understanding of geometry topics, and an awareness of connections between different ideas. Students are encouraged to investigate and conjecture to develop their reasoning skills. Lessons are structured for students to collaborate actively by working collaboratively with peers. The course will focus on the foundational geometry standards that students will learn in Integrated Math 2, without engaging in formal proofs. The big ideas of the course are presented in an integrated algebra/geometry context. (www.cpm.org)

## **INTEGRATED MATH 2**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in IM1 or IM2 Foundations**

**Meets graduation requirements: M/G**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c**

---

Integrated Math 2 is designed to extend the mathematics that students learned in Integrated Math 1 to the family of quadratic expressions, equations, and functions. The standards are based on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and include topics from the conceptual categories: Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Instructional time will focus on five critical areas: (1) extend the laws of exponents to rational exponents; (2) compare key characteristics of quadratic functions with those of linear and exponential functions; (3) create and solve equations and inequalities involving linear, exponential and quadratic expressions; (4) extend work with probability; and (5) establish criteria for similarity of triangles based on dilations and proportional reasoning.

## **INTEGRATED MATH 3 FOUNDATIONS**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: D in IM2**

**Meets graduation requirements: M**

---

This is a non-college preparatory course designed for students who have passed Integrated Math 2, but may not be ready for the rigor of Integrated Math 3.

## **INTEGRATED MATH 3**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in IM2**

**Meets graduation requirement: M**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c**

---

Integrated Math 3 is designed to extend and apply the mathematics learned in previous math courses. The standards are based on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and include topics from the conceptual categories: Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) apply methods from probability and statistics to draw inferences and conclusions from data; (2) expand understanding of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions; (3) expand right triangle trigonometry to include general triangles; and (4) consolidate functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems.

## **ADVANCED ALGEBRA WITH FINANCIAL APPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL ALGEBRA)**

**Grades 11-12**

**Prerequisite: C in IM3**

**Meets graduation requirements: M/EL**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c**

---

Advanced Algebra with Financial Applications is a college-preparatory course that will use sophisticated mathematics to give you the tools to become a financially responsible young adult. The course employs algebra, pre-calculus, probability and statistics, calculus and geometry to solve financial problems that occur in everyday life. Real-world problems in investing, credit, banking, auto insurance, mortgages, employment, income taxes, budgeting and planning for retirement are solved by applying the relevant mathematics. Field projects, computer spreadsheets, and graphing calculators are key components of the course.

## **PRE-CALCULUS**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in IM3**

**Meets graduation requirements: M/EL**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c**

---

Pre-calculus covers many of the same topics as previous courses such as solving and graphing polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions, but in greater depth. It also expands upon the basic trigonometry and includes graphing trig functions, proving identities as well as applying trigonometry with the Law of Sines, Law of Cosines, and finding the area of a triangle. Topics such as matrices, polar coordinates, graphs of polar equations, parametric equations, and basic ideas regarding limits are studied in this course.

## **AP STATISTICS**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: IM3**

**Recommended: C in IM3 and most recent English course**

**Meets graduation requirements: M/EL**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

The topics of AP Statistics are divided into four major themes: exploratory analysis, planning and conducting a study, probability and statistical inference. Exploratory analysis of data makes use of graphical and numerical techniques to study patterns and departure from patterns. Probability is the tool used for anticipating what the distribution of data should look like under a given model. Statistical inference techniques include confidence intervals and a variety of hypothesis test techniques. There is extensive reading and writing required. This course prepares students to pass the AP exam. The Advanced Placement Statistics exam is expected of all students in this course.

## **AP CALCULUS A/B**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus**

**Recommended: B in Pre-Calculus**

**Meets graduation requirements: M/EL**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

AP Calculus is a course in differential and integral calculus, equivalent to one semester of calculus at most universities. Topics include: functions, limits and continuity, derivatives, integrals, anti-derivatives, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and an introduction to differential equations using slope fields. There is an emphasis on the application of these concepts as well as working with functions represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The TI-89 graphing calculator is used extensively throughout the course. The Advanced Placement Calculus AB exam is expected of all students in this course.

## **AP CALCULUS B/C**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: AP Calculus A/B**

**Recommended: B in AP Calculus A/B**

**Meets graduation requirements: M/EL**

**Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: c**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

This course is a continuation of the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus course, and is comparable to a second semester Calculus course in colleges and universities. The course will include: techniques of integration, improper integrals, indeterminate forms, multiple integration, applications of integration, infinite series, parametric equations, polar integration, differential equations, and applications of hyperbolic functions. The Advanced Placement Calculus BC exam is expected of all students in this course.

## **PERSONAL BUSINESS FINANCE**

**Grades 12**

**Prerequisite: IM2**

**Meets graduation requirements: M/EL**

---

This course is a non-college prep option intended to provide students an overview of the basics of personal and business finances. The focus on the course is application of basic math skills in real life financial scenarios.

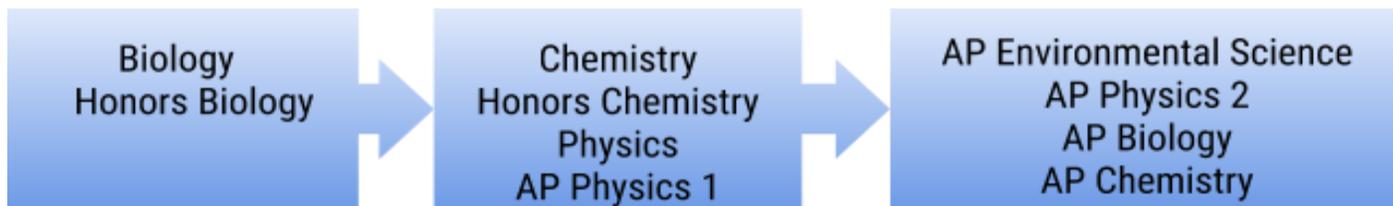
# Science Course Descriptions

Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 20 credits (10 credits Biology/10 credits physical science)

Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: 20 credits Lab Science (10 physical/10 life)

Core Courses in this department:	Elective Courses in this department:
<b>Biology</b> <b>Honors Biology</b> <b>Chemistry</b> <b>Honors Chemistry</b> <b>Physics</b> <b>AP Physics</b> <b>AP Physics 2</b> <b>AP Environmental Science</b> <b>AP Biology</b> <b>AP Chemistry</b>	<b>Forensics</b> <b>Human Anatomy and Physiology</b> <b>Medical Biotechnology</b> <b>Advanced Medical Biotechnology</b>

## Typical Course Sequence for Science:



### BIOLOGY: THE LIVING EARTH

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: none

Meets graduation requirements: S

Meets UC a-g requirements: d

Biology is the first course in the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) Three Course Model, and includes the Disciplinary Core Ideas related to Life Science and integrates a selection of the Earth and Space Science concepts. This course also incorporates the eight Science and Engineering Practices and seven Crosscutting Concepts related to the NGSS. In this course, students will explore concepts related to the interactions within ecosystems, energy dynamics, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, history of the earth's atmosphere, natural selection, inheritance of traits, structure and function of organisms, system stability and response to change. Students should learn an appreciation for all living things and the critical importance of maintaining the delicate balance required for all living things to interact and live successfully.

### HONORS BIOLOGY: THE LIVING EARTH

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: Recommended: i-ready minimum scaled scores of 605 in Reading and 515 in Math.

Meets graduation requirements: S

Meets UC a-g requirements: d

This course is designed to prepare students for success in upper level advanced college level science courses. The course is based on the CA Next Generation Science Standards and includes the Disciplinary Core Ideas related to Life Science and integrates a selection of the Earth and Space Science concepts. This course also incorporates the eight Science and Engineering Practices and seven Crosscutting Concepts related to the NGSS. Students taking Honors Biology will explore amplified and enriched Biology concepts related, but not limited to: the interactions within ecosystems, energy dynamics, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, history of the earth's atmosphere, natural selection, inheritance of traits, structure and function of organisms, system stability and response to change. Elements of critical thinking are required of students throughout the course. This course is not given an extra grade point in the GPA.

## **CHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH'S SYSTEMS**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in IM1**

**Meets graduation requirements: S/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: d**

---

Chemistry of the Earth System is a course in the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) three course model and includes disciplinary core ideas related to Physical Science and integrates a selection of the Earth and Space Science concepts. This course also incorporates the eight Science and Engineering Practices and seven Crosscutting Concepts related to the NGSS. In this course, students will explore the structure and properties of matter, conservation and transfer of energy, chemical reactions and processes in everyday life, and chemical changes in Earth systems. Engineering Core Ideas are used to explore applications of chemistry concepts. Students apply algebraic processes to describe and predict phenomena.

## **HONORS CHEMISTRY OF THE EARTH'S SYSTEMS**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Biology and IM2**

**Recommended: IM3**

**Meets graduation requirements: S/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: d**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

Honors Chemistry of the Earth System is a course in the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) Three Course Model and includes Disciplinary Core Ideas related to Physical Science integrating a selection of the Earth and Space Science concepts. This course also incorporates the eight Science and Engineering Practices and seven Crosscutting Concepts related to the NGSS. The following core ideas from Chemistry in the Earth System will be amplified in this course: structure and properties of matter, conservation and transfer of energy, periodic trends and organization, chemical bonding, chemical reactions and processes in everyday life, and chemical equilibrium and its role in Earth Systems. In addition, core ideas in engineering are used to explore applications of chemistry concepts, along with Algebraic processes to describe and predict phenomena. There will also be a strong math component in this course.

## **PHYSICS IN THE UNIVERSE**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in IM1**

**Meets graduation requirements: S/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: d**

---

Physics in the Universe is a course in the California Next Generation Science Standards (CA NGSS) Three Course Model and includes the Disciplinary Core Ideas related to Physical Science and integrates a selection of the Earth and Space Science concepts. This course also incorporates the eight Science and Engineering Practices and seven Crosscutting Concepts related to the NGSS. In this course students will explore the following core ideas: forces and motion, energy transfers and conservation, the properties of waves, and the electromagnetic spectrum, and use these ideas to understand the processes that shape earth and space systems. Engineering Core Ideas are used to explore applications of Physics concepts.

## **AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**Grade 10-12**

**Prerequisite: two terms of science, IM2, concurrent enrollment in IM3**

**Recommended: Biology/H Biology and Chem/H Chem**

**Meets graduation requirements: S/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: d**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. This course prepares students to pass the AP exam. ACE approved. 11th and 12th grade students may be eligible for lower division college credits with approved applications.

## **AP BIOLOGY**

**Grade 10-12**

**Prerequisite:** Biology or H Biology, Chemistry or H Chem and IM1

**Recommended:** H Chem, AP Chem, IM2, AP Stats, APES and Human Body Systems

**Meets graduation requirements:** S/T/EL

**Meets UC a-g requirements:** d

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. Essential concepts include a grasp of science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. Topics include molecules and cells, heredity and evolution and organisms and populations. This course prepares students to pass the AP exam.

## **AP CHEMISTRY**

**Grade 10-12**

**Prerequisite:** Chemistry or Honors Chemistry and IM3

**Recommended:** Honors Chem strongly recommended

**Meets graduation requirements:** S/T/EL

**Meets UC a-g requirements:** d

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

AP Chemistry is an alternative to college Chemistry 1A. It is designed strictly for advanced or gifted students who wish the opportunity to gain college credit for courses while in high school. The course applies advanced algebra to chemical principles. The course not only stresses the theoretical aspects of qualitative and quantitative chemistry but also emphasizes laboratory practices applying the theory. This course prepares students for the AP Chemistry exam.

## **AP PHYSICS 1**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite:** IM3 or concurrent enrollment in IM3

**Meets graduation requirements:** S/T/EL

**Meets UC a-g requirements:** d

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

AP Physics is equivalent to the first semester of an introductory college-level algebra-based physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry based investigation as they explore topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion): work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and an introduction to electrical circuits. This course will prepare the students to take the AP Physics 1 exam.

## **AP PHYSICS 2**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite:** AP Physics 1, concurrent enrollment in pre-calculus

**Meets graduation requirements:** S/T/EL

**Meets UC a-g requirements:** d

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

AP Physics 2 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. This course is useful for potential engineering, pre-med, science, and computer science majors, as well as anyone interested in Physics. The course covers fluids; thermodynamics; electrical force, field, and potential; electric circuits; magnetism and electromagnetic induction; geometric and physical optics; and quantum, atomic and nuclear physics. This course will prepare the student to take the Advanced Placement Examination for Physics 2. AP Physics allows time for thorough, in-depth, student centered inquiry activities allowing students to carry out careful experiments and design laboratory practical work to answer real world questions.

## SCIENCE ELECTIVES

### FORENSICS

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: C in two years of science and C in IM1

Meets graduation requirements: S/T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: g

---

Forensics is a third year science for students that are college bound and/or interested in the field of forensics. This class will introduce students to the fields of forensic science and provide a general overview of the forensic sciences. Students will participate in many qualitative hands-on labs and simulations that develop the practical and theoretical aspects of forensics. This class will integrate previous science courses and demonstrate to the students the relevance of science education for practical use.

### HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Biology

Meets graduation requirements: S/T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: d

---

This course is designed for the student intending to pursue a career in either the health or fitness related field. The course will focus on the integration of structure and function of body systems needed to maintain homeostasis. It will integrate topics related to health and fitness such as nutrition, exercise, and kinesiology. It will also integrate specific topics related to the medical field. The course will require microscopy work as well as laboratory work involving dissections. Computers will be used to supplement laboratory work. This is primarily a laboratory science class that will cover anatomy and physiology pertaining to health and fitness.

# World Language Course Descriptions

**Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 10 credits of World Language or Visual and Performing Art**

**Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: 20 credits of the same language through the 2nd level**

## FRENCH 1

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in English recommended

Meets requirements: WL

Meets UC a-g requirements: e

---

This course provides an introduction to the French language and culture using the total immersion method of instruction. Students learn basic grammar and vocabulary application through listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

## FRENCH 2

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in French 1

Meets requirements: WL

Meets UC a-g requirements: e

---

This course offers continued study of the French language and culture using the total immersion method of instruction. Students continue to develop their skills in grammar and vocabulary application through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be held accountable for increased self-directed learning.

## FRENCH 3

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in French 2

Meets requirements: WL

Meets UC a-g requirements: e

---

This course is designed to give students advanced level instruction in the French language using the total immersion method of instruction. Emphasis is on oral and written proficiency. Students will be held accountable for increased self-directed learning. ACE approved. 11th and 12th grade students may be eligible for lower division college credits with approved applications.

## FRENCH 4

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in French 3

Meets requirements: WL

Meets UC a-g requirements: e

---

French 4 is a course designed to prepare students to pass the Advanced Placement Exam in French Language. It is intended for those who have chosen to further develop their proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It is assumed that most students will be in the final stages of their secondary school training and will have had substantial course work in the language. The course emphasizes the use of French for active communication. ACE approved. 11th and 12th grade students may be eligible for lower division college credits with approved applications.

## AP FRENCH LANGUAGE

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: French 3 or French 4

Recommended: C in French 3 or French 4

Meets requirements: WL

Meets UC a-g requirements: e

---

Students who enroll in AP French Language should already have a good command of French grammar and vocabulary and have competence in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Although these qualifications may be attained in a variety of ways, it is assumed that most students will be in the final stages of their secondary school training and will have had substantial course work in the language. ACE approved. 11th and 12th grade students may be eligible for lower division college credits with approved applications.

## **SPANISH 1**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in English recommended**

**Meets requirements: WL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: e**

---

This course provides an introduction to the Spanish language and culture using the total immersion method of instruction. Students learn basic grammar and vocabulary application through listening, speaking, reading and writing.

## **SPANISH 2**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C (B recommended) in Spanish 1 or C in Spanish 1A and 1B in FCUSD middle school**

**Meets requirements: WL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: e**

---

This course offers continued study of the Spanish language and culture using the total immersion method of instruction. Students continue to develop their skills in grammar and vocabulary application through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be held accountable for increased self-directed learning.

## **SPANISH 3**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C (B recommended) in Spanish 2 or C in Spanish 2A in FCUSD middle school**

**Meets requirements: WL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: e**

---

This course is designed to give students advanced level instruction in the Spanish language using the total immersion method of instruction. Emphasis is on oral and written proficiency. Students will be held accountable for increased self-directed learning. ACE approved. 11th and 12th grade students may be eligible for lower division college credits with approved applications.

## **SPANISH 4**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in Spanish 3**

**Meets requirements: WL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: e**

---

This course is designed to give advanced student continued instruction by total immersion in Spanish language. Emphasis will continue in areas of oral, written, speaking and reading proficiency. Students will be held accountable for continued increase in self directed learning. ACE approved. 11th and 12th grade students may be eligible for lower division college credits with approved applications.

## **AP SPANISH LANGUAGE**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Spanish 4**

**Recommended: B in Spanish 4**

**Meets requirements: WL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: e**

---

Students who enroll in AP Spanish Language should already have a good command of Spanish grammar and vocabulary and have competence in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. It is assumed that most students will be in the final stages of their secondary school training and will have had substantial course work in the language. This course is intended for those who have chosen to further develop their proficiency in all four-language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course is designed to prepare students to pass the AP Exam. ACE approved. 11th and 12th grade students may be eligible for lower division college credits with approved applications.

# Visual and Performing Arts Course Descriptions

**Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 10 credits of Visual and Performing Art or World Language**

**Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: 10 credits of a Visual and Performing Art**

## ANIMATION

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: Any beginning art, drawing or media course recommended

Meets graduation requirements: FA/T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental skills that are common to all animation styles. Students will learn about the history of the art and how animation works. Students will plan and write a script and create a storyboard. Students will learn to express character through movement, synchronize the sound and image, and shape and pace action sequences. Students will approach the art of animation from simple, inexpensive methods such as stop-action hand animation and cut out animation to the more complex commercial studio techniques using Macromedia Flash. Students will create professional portfolios, which includes sketchbooks, storyboard examples and a video of student work.

## ANIMATION 2

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: Animation 1

Meets graduation requirements: FA/T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

This course is designed to encourage students to further develop and explore skills they acquired in Animation 1. Students will continue to learn about the history and cultural significance of animated art. In addition, students will learn about the business practices and industry of animation. They will continue to refine their skills as storytellers through the planning and writing of scripts and creating storyboards using professional formats. Students will learn advanced techniques in both traditional and experimental animation to express character and movement, synchronize the sound and image, and pace action sequences. Students can choose to create a final semester project by using a simple, inexpensive method such as stop-action cut out and clay animation or a more complex commercial studio technique using Adobe Flash and AfterEffects. Students will create professional portfolios, which includes sketchbooks, storyboard examples, video of student work, and a written reflection of their experience with animation.

## BEGINNING DANCE

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: FA/PE/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

See course description in PE section.

## INTERMEDIATE DANCE

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Beginning Dance or Instructor approval

Meets requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

This course will include an emphasis on intermediate to advanced skill development throughout the study of various technique and styles of dance (Jazz, Ballet, Contemporary, Lyrical, and Musical Theater and African). Students will have the opportunity to choreograph with the different styles of dance demonstrating the qualities and elements of dance. Students will showcase their cumulative knowledge in a recital at the end of the term. Intermediate Dance satisfies the Visual and Performing Arts requirements.

## CERAMICS

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

Students will develop an understanding of the basic techniques of the use of clay as an art form. They will learn to form pinch, slab, coil, sculpture, and wheel-throw pottery. They will develop and expand aesthetic perceptions in order to form a base for making informed aesthetic judgments. Students will also acquire knowledge of the historical and cultural development in Ceramics. In addition to classroom projects, a sketchbook and ceramics notebook will be required. A checklist of requirements will be given to students at the beginning of each semester.

## CERAMICS 2

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: C in Ceramics 1

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

Ceramics 2 emphasizes the use of the potter's wheel both as a tool for functional pottery and sculptural forms. Advanced handbuilding and sculpting techniques are also emphasized. Students will explore areas of decoration, design, form, glazing, and related technical problems. Students work more independently and make decisions of an artistic nature. Students will also gain the ability to analyze and respond to various ceramic pieces including their own. Students will continue to be introduced to numerous cultural and historical styles and motifs. A sketchbook and notebook will be required.

## CERAMICS 3

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite: C in Ceramics 2

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

Ceramics 3 covers special problems in wheel throwing, and hand building techniques, with an emphasis on size and form. Students will explore areas of decoration, furthering their work with oxides, stains, and engobes. Students work more independently and make decisions as to areas of preference. Students will continue to gain the ability to analyze, and respond to various ceramic pieces, including their own. Students will be introduced to numerous cultural, historical styles, and motifs, and will explore areas leading to originality, and good workmanship in his/her work. Students will compile enough work to demonstrate their abilities through the use of a portfolio, which can be used for college entrance, or employment in a visual art field.

## CONCERT BAND

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

This class is devoted primarily to concert style music and broadening of the student's musical interests and abilities. There is no audition necessary for this ensemble. Students must play a band appropriate instrument. Students in Concert Band will participate in concerts, clinics, master classes, and music competitions. Concert Band focuses on preparing student musicians in the areas of ensemble balance and blend, tone production, individual technique on their instrument and general musicianship. **This course can be repeated for all four years of high school.**

## CONCERT CHOIR

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

This course is designed to provide vocal instruction and general musicianship skills for all choral students. There is no audition necessary for this ensemble. Instruction will include continuing music literacy and music theory and will emphasize differences in musical styles as they relate to the history of music and the interpretation of specific pieces. Emphasis will be placed on improved ensemble singing skills such as pitch matching, tone production, reading rhythms and ear training. Students will be required to attend one local performance during the year as audience members. Course requirements include at least two evening concerts and one adjudicated festival per year. Students will perform two, three and four-part music at levels 3.0 to 4.0. **This course can be repeated for all four years of high school.**

## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Previous experience and audition by instructor

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

This is a performing arts class where the emphasis is on performance. Students from the guitar program, band, orchestra, and choir can learn how to perform in small ensembles that address the growing trends in our music world today. This course is designed to provide continuing and more challenging musical instruction to new and existing music students. Students will learn how to apply their previous musical ability and knowledge in more contemporary ensembles. The course will present a strong emphasis on live performance, improvising, song writing, song arranging, editing and recording. Students will learn applicable music theory that

accompanies being a successful member of a smaller music ensemble. The course will also present the history and significance of music found in our contemporary music world.

### **DRAMA 1**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Drama 1 is an introductory theatre class. We will be studying theatre not only from an actor's perspective, but we will also be studying the many diverse aspects of theatre production such as theatre history, set design, lighting, costuming, make-up, script writing, script analysis, and directing.

### **DRAMA 2**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in Drama 1**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Students will enhance their knowledge of stage presence, stage movement, technical design and theory. They will demonstrate skills in acting, stagecraft and technical design through in-class and public presentations and plays. Evening performances may be required.

### **DRAMA 3**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: C in Drama 2**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Students will enhance their knowledge of stage presence, stage movement, technical design and theory. They will demonstrate skills in acting, stagecraft and technical design through in-class and public presentations and plays. Evening performances may be required.

### **DRAMA 4**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: C in Drama 3**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Students will enhance their knowledge of stage presence, stage movement, technical design and theory. They will demonstrate skills in acting, stagecraft and technical design through in-class and public presentations and plays. Evening performances may be required.

### **MUSICAL THEATRE**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Experience in drama/choir preferred**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: pending**

---

Students will examine the history of Musical Theatre from the 1920s through the present, paying close attention to cultural shifts in both storyline and music composition. Students will examine and analyze all aspects of musical theatre production—lyricism, composition, choreography, staging, production, and technical elements. Because theatre is an experienced art, students will have the opportunity to work both independently and collaboratively on the planning and execution of musical theatre numbers. In preparation for real-world experience, students will build an audition repertoire, write a resume, and participate in master classes and workshops. In keeping with the performance nature of theatre, students will end the year with a showcase of musical theatre solos, duets, and ensemble numbers.

## **DRAWING AND PAINTING**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Students will develop an understanding of the basic elements of art and principles of design by examining important works of art and experimenting with various techniques of drawing and painting. They will develop and expand aesthetic perceptions in order to form a base for making informed aesthetic judgments. Students will also acquire knowledge of the historical and cultural development in the visual arts. In addition to classroom projects, a sketchbook and notebook will be required. A checklist of requirements will be given to students at the beginning of each quarter.

## **DRAWING AND PAINTING 2**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in Drawing and Painting 1**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Students will further develop knowledge and skills of the visual arts through completion of advanced projects. Students will continue to refine their skills and techniques and will begin to develop their own artistic style. Students will continue to expand aesthetic perceptions in order to make informed aesthetic judgments. Students will deepen their historical and cultural knowledge of the visual arts. Units on art criticism, printmaking and graphic design will also be introduced. In addition to classroom projects, a sketchbook and a notebook will be required.

## **DRAWING AND PAINTING 3**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: C in Drawing and Painting 2**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Students will continue to explore the visual arts through advanced projects in drawing, painting, and printmaking. The course could provide students with an additional year of preparation prior to taking AP Studio Art. The assignments are more open-ended than in Drawing and Painting 2, and the quantity of work required is less than in AP Studio Art.

## **AP DRAWING**

**Grade 11-12**

**Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting 3**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

**This course earns students a weighted grade**

---

The AP Drawing program provides an opportunity for the visually gifted to excel and receive recognition on a national scale. It also makes it possible for highly motivated high school students to do college-level work. AP Drawing is not based on a written exam; instead the student is asked to submit a portfolio of work, either general or drawing, for evaluation toward the end of the school year. Portfolios are graded with a score of 0-5. Students receiving a score of 3 or better may receive college credit. A panel of specially trained high school and university art instructors evaluates the portfolios anonymously. Each of the three sections of the portfolio is graded separately and then combined into the final composite score.

## **FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

This course is a visual art class where the emphasis is on approaching the world of photography as a means of artistic expression. Students who have nothing to "say" artistically will have a difficult time in this class. Students will study the masters of traditional and digital photography and learn to understand and evaluate photography as a creative art form. Through photography and the creative process, students will explore the elements of art, principles of design, composition, digital photography equipment, digital darkroom techniques, lighting and a variety of methods, techniques and processes used in fine art photography.

## **FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY 2**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: Fine Art Photography or teacher approval**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Advanced Fine Art Photography is designed for students who enjoyed their experience in the beginning Fine Art Photography class and would like to challenge themselves with a much more advanced study in the art of digital photography. As with Fine Art Photography, the emphasis is on approaching the world of photography as a means of artistic expression. Students who have nothing to "say" artistically will have a difficult time in this class. In this ADVANCED class, students will be concentrating on producing a "body of photography work" that represents their own artistic vision. Students will also be expected to advance their knowledge of the technical aspects of photography with the goal that the camera will eventually become such a natural tool for them that they can concentrate wholly on the art making process of photography.

## **GUITAR**

**Grades 9-10**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Students will study the many styles and techniques that are found in guitar playing. Students will learn how to read music notation, guitar tablature, play chords, accompany other musicians, as well as improvise. Students will also learn applicable music theory that accompanies being a successful guitarist. There will also be a strong songwriting and recording component.

## **INTERMEDIATE GUITAR**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Guitar or instructor approval**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

This course is a performing arts course where the emphasis is on learning how to play the guitar. Students will continue to read music notation, guitar tablature, play chords, accompany other musicians, as well as improvise. Students will also learn applicable music theory that accompanies being a successful guitarist at a more advanced level. The course will also continue to present the history of the guitar, its significance in the music world, and how the instrument is featured in many of the music cultures around the world. There will also be a strong songwriting and recording component. Students will be able to further grow and explore through the guitar curriculum by performing in small ensembles that are relevant to the guitar player.

## **ADVANCED GUITAR**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Intermediate guitar or teacher approval**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

This is a performing arts class where the emphasis is on performance. Students will be performing various repertoires that are found in guitar ensembles or guitar orchestras. Students will further their study of the many styles and techniques that are found in guitar playing. Students will continue to read music notation, guitar tablature, play chords, accompany other musicians, as well as improvise. Students will also learn applicable music theory that accompanies being a successful guitarist at a more advanced level. The course will also continue to present the history of the guitar, its significance in the music world, and how the instrument is featured in many of the music cultures around the world. There will also be a strong songwriting and recording component. Students will be able to further grow and explore through the guitar curriculum by performing in small ensembles that are relevant to the guitar player.

## **MASTER GUITAR ENSEMBLE**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Audition with Instructor**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

Master Guitar Ensembles is a performing arts class where the emphasis is on performance. Students will be performing various repertoires that are found in guitar ensembles or guitar orchestras. Students will further their study of the many styles and techniques that are found in guitar playing. Music students will be able to expand their knowledge and technique by being part of this larger ensemble as well as smaller ensembles. This course is designed to provide continuing and more challenging musical instruction to new and existing music students. This course will present a strong emphasis on live performance, improvising, song writing, song arranging, composing, and recording. Students will continue to read music notation, guitar tablature, play chords, accompany other

musicians, as well as improvise. Students will also learn advanced music theory that accompanies being a successful guitarist at a more advanced level. The course will also continue to present the history of the guitar, its significance in the music world, and how the instrument is featured in many of the music cultures around the world. Students will be able to further grow and explore through the guitar curriculum by performing in small ensembles that are relevant to the guitar player.

## ORCHESTRA

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: f

---

This string ensemble provides the student with an opportunity to review and expand technique and music reading as well as the production of musical tone on the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Music listening skills and music appreciation will be included, and musical heritage will be explored. Emphasis is placed on individual and ensemble performance. Local performances are an important component of the grade for the course. **This course can be repeated for all four years of high school.**

# College Preparatory Electives

## AP PSYCHOLOGY

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Biology

Meets graduation requirement: EL

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

This course earns students a weighted grade

---

The purpose of Advanced Placement Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields and perspectives within psychology. The course is designed to introduce students to a college level psychology course while developing advanced skills in reading, writing, reasoning, evaluating critically, and scientific inquiry.

## CREATIVE WRITING

Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

---

Creative Writing is an elective composition course which introduces students to techniques aimed at developing the creative writing process. Students will experiment with expressive and poetic modes of writing, including the writing in the genres (and sub-genres) of fiction, non-fiction, plays and poetry. Class and individual readings of mentor texts will expose students to a wide variety of writing styles and provide examples of the strategies used by successful authors to convey meaning and engage the interest and appreciation of their reading audience.

## CRITICAL APPROACHES TO CINEMA

Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: G

---

This college-preparatory English elective calls for students to analyze directorial intent, to derive purpose and meaning from the rhetorical elements embedded in works of art—in this case, storytelling through cinema. Students will move beyond a plot-level understanding of story to interpret how structures of film— sound and lighting, framing and camera angles—create meaning. Students will also learn theoretical frameworks common of a typical advanced English course: a deconstructive approach, a social/political approach, a feminist approach, and a mythological approach. Each of these frameworks will give the students a more critical eye when viewing film. Because film tends to be a complex gathering of technique, storytelling, art, ideas and viewer interpretation, this argument-centered, discussion-based class will ask students to study film techniques and archetypes, learn vocabulary to further a more nuanced, critical discussion, look for ambiguous or complex interpretations, and find evidence of directorial or writer intent while considering audience interpretation. Students will read, discuss, and write daily, offer formal and informal analysis of individual film frames, selected clips and full-length films, as well as participate in formal discussion and debate.

## HUMANITIES 1: CRITICAL THINKING WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE (ACADEMIC DECATHLON)

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: EL

Meet UC a-g requirements: g

---

This course is designed to teach students how to see context and make connections across the humanities. Students will piece together the cultural history of the world by studying and critically analyzing various sections of art, music, history and literature. The course will encourage students to focus and think critically about the cultural artifacts of the past and the importance on today's society. Students in this class will use this material to prepare for the local Academic Decathlon competition. The purpose of the United States Academic Decathlon is to develop academic competitions, curriculum, and assessment to promote learning and academic excellence through teamwork among students of all achievement levels. The goal of this class is to enhance students' critical thinking and reasoning skills by using selected reading pieces from the humanities and having students respond in writing, through discussions and with prepared speeches. Although each year the topic changes as detailed by USAD, United States Academic Decathlon, the basic humanities' components remain the same. Each area of study will have a component related to the assigned theme.

## PEER LEADERSHIP

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

---

Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, the Peer Leadership course is open to grades 10 through 12. This course is designed to teach the process of helping another person through peer assistance leadership. Students will enter into one-to-one helping relationships; they will learn about and assume leadership roles, advise and tutor students in need of help, participate in peer counseling, conflict management, peer mediation, team building and other interpersonal helping roles. Students will also learn about community building and design projects with the aim to build a stronger surrounding community. This course may be repeated for credit.

## SCIENCE FICTION AS LITERATURE

Grades: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: EL

Meet UC a-g requirements: g

---

Science Fiction as Literature is class where students will define, analyze, and interpret the genres of Science Fiction through influential works in novels, short stories, and films. This class will include expository, persuasive, and descriptive writing as well as analysis of both fiction and non-fiction materials related to the overall genre of Science Fiction. Students are expected to respond to course works critically and creatively as well. Students will do outside of class reading from an approved list, generally aligned to the sub-genres being studied. By the end of the course, students are expected to have an understanding of the genres, be able to engage critically with science fiction texts, and to identify their broad cultural impact.

## SOCIOLOGY

Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: None, Recommended overall GPA 2.5

Meets graduation requirement: EL

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: pending approval for g

---

This is a college-level preparatory class designed as an overview of the field of sociology. It is intended to strengthen general study skills (e.g., analytical reading, expository writing, and oral communications), provide students an opportunity to begin work that could lead directly into a major program of study, and expose students, at some depth, to new disciplines that might form the basis for future major or minor studies at the University level. Students will be introduced to the 4 major domains of the National Standards for High School Sociology including but not limited to sociological concepts, theories, and procedures in the areas of collective behavior, crime, politics, race, ethnicity, education, health, gender, culture, and societal controversies.

## SPEECH AND DEBATE 1

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: g

---

With a combination of theory, skills practice, and competency evaluation, students (1) learn to understand the major concepts of communication theory and research, (2) are able to recognize those concepts in their own experiences and those of others, (3) have access to a range of choices concerning their communication behavior, thus increasing communication competence. In addition, students can export acquired information, and begin a process of lifelong learning about effective communication skills. Students will study the fundamentals of written and oral communication, will experience a variety of writing opportunities and participate in numerous interactive simulations.

## SPEECH AND DEBATE 2

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in Speech and Debate 1

Meets requirements: FA/EL

Meets UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

---

Improved skills in observing, analyzing, participating in, and critically examining rhetoric's power form the course's primary aim, the achievement of which hinges on substantial, integrated written work. Students will study the fundamentals of written and oral communication, will experience a variety of writing opportunities and participate in numerous activities. This course extends and builds upon principles, performances, and ideas addressed in Speech and Debate 1. The course emphasizes the theory and practice

of rhetorical criticism. Criticism is the “systematic process of illuminating and evaluating” human discourse designed to induce identification or persuasion. Students of criticism should develop an appreciation for both the diversity of rhetorical experiences studied and the multiple approaches available for their analysis.

## College Preparatory CTE Elective

**Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 10 credits or a 3rd year of science OR a CTE course**

**Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: None**

### ENGINEERING AND DESIGN PATHWAY

---

#### INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

Engineering design is an introductory course in which students develop problem-solving skills, with emphasis placed on three-dimensional solid models. Students will work from sketching simple geometric shapes to applying a solid modeling computer software package. They will learn a problem solving design process and how it is used in industry to manufacture a product. The Computer Aided Design System (CAD) will also be used to analyze and evaluate the product design.

#### PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in Introduction to Engineering Design

Meets requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

This is a course designed to create an interest in engineering as a career goal and provide hands-on instruction in a variety of related technologies. Scientific principles, mathematical concepts and communication skills are taught through an activity-oriented approach. All students will explore robotics, electronics, and hydraulics, pneumatics and computer design technologies.

#### AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: C in Principles of Engineering

Meets requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

The major focus of this course is to expose students to the world of aeronautics, flight, and engineering. Students will be introduced to the activity-based, project based, and problem-based learning by exploring the world of aerospace engineering. They will employ engineering and scientific concepts in solving aerospace problems. The entire curriculum sequence will include experiences from the diverse fields of aeronautics, aerospace engineering and related areas of study.

### SOFTWARE AND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

---

#### AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: IM1

Meets graduation requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

This course earns students a weighted grade

The AP Computer Science A course is an introductory course in computer science. Because the design and implementation of computer programs to solve problems involve skills that are fundamental to the study of computer science, a large part of the course is built around the development of computer programs that correctly solve a given problem. These programs should be

understandable, adaptable, and, when appropriate, reusable. At the same time, the design and implementation of computer programs is used as a context for introducing other important aspects of computer science, including the development and analysis of algorithms, the development and use of fundamental data structures, the study of standard algorithms and typical applications, and the use of logic and formal methods. In addition, the responsible use of these systems is an integral part of the course.

## AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: AP Computer Science Principles

Meets graduation requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

This course earns students a weighted grade

---

Computer Science A emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with an emphasis on problem solving and algorithm development and is meant to be the equivalent of a first-semester college course in computer science. It also includes the study of data structures and abstraction.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

---

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND GUIDANCE

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Meets requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

---

This introductory course prepares students to understand children's physical, mental, emotional, social growth and development as well as provide for their care and guidance. Instruction includes prenatal developments, inherited characteristics, health and safety, guidance and discipline, cultural diversity, child abuse and neglect. This course provides a solid foundation in any career that involves working with children, including childcare and education.

### DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY OF CHILDREN

Grades 10-12

Prerequisite: Child Development and Guidance

Meets requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

---

This concentration course is a study of the physical, perceptual, cognitive, personality, and language developmental stages of children from conception through adolescence, including the principle theories of development and their application. The need for an understanding of how children develop and what influences their development is an important component of contributing to the demands of our complex society. Students will develop an understanding of children and the developmental process through readings, case studies, observations, individual research projects and group project work. This course will examine the major theories of child development and their application.

### CAREERS WITH CHILDREN

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Child Development and Developmental Psychology of Children

Meets requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g

---

This Capstone course is designed to provide students with knowledge of careers in the field of child development and teaching professions. Students will learn child development through classroom instruction as well as developing and presenting age appropriate activities to children. Career preparations standards, which include basic academic, safety, communication, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills, are integrated throughout the course. Active class participation is enhanced by fieldwork at school sites under the guidance of a mentor teacher. Community internships include placement in preschools, elementary schools, and middle schools. **All students are required to provide their own daily transportation to this internship.** This course helps prepare students for entry into college or university teacher-training programs.

## ADVANCED CAREERS WITH CHILDREN

Grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Careers with Children

Meets requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirement: g-pending

---

This Capstone course is designed to provide students with knowledge of careers in the field of child development and teaching professions. Students will learn child development through classroom instruction as well as developing and presenting age appropriate activities to children. Career preparations standards, which include basic academic, safety, communication, interpersonal, and problem-solving skills, are integrated throughout the course. Active class participation is enhanced by fieldwork at school sites under the guidance of a mentor teacher. Community internships include placement in preschools, elementary schools, and middle schools. **All students are required to provide their own daily transportation to this internship.** This course helps prepare students for entry into college or university teacher-training programs.

## PRODUCTION AND MANAGERIAL ARTS PATHWAY-MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION PATHWAY

---

### MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTION

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: C in English

Meets graduation requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: g

---

This elective, a foundational CTE pathway course, is open to ninth through twelfth grade students who wish to learn about the basics of digital communications and journalistic writing. Students will develop their skills in the art of writing for media, business, marketing, and journalism; copy editing; interviewing techniques; internet publishing with Wordpress; journalistic photography and editing; graphic design for the workplace; broadcasting production; podcasting production; Adobe PremierPro, Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign training for various work purposes; and community and character development through media. Students will also learn about career opportunities in media and the design arts industries, the history of media, ethical and legal issues in communications, as well as how the media impacts individuals and society as a whole. Most importantly, students will be exposed to the real-world experiences of working within the Media and Design Arts industry.

### ADVANCED GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Multimedia Production

Meets graduation requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: g

---

This elective, a CTE pathway course, is open to ninth through twelfth grade students who wish to advance their learning and exploration of communications, journalism, leadership and digital media, and can be taken multiple times for editorship and management experience. Students will further develop their skills in the art of writing for media, business, marketing, and journalism with a heavy focus on AP Style; copy editing; investigative research skills; interviewing techniques; online publishing with Wordpress; journalistic photography and editing; layout design; broadcasting production; podcasting production; Adobe PremierPro, Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign usage for various work purposes; and community and character development through media. Students will also serve as editors (section, copy or editor-in-chief) or managers (for broadcast production, video production, graphic design, photography services, or podcast production). Most importantly, students will be exposed to the real-world experiences of working within the Media and Design Arts industry.

### ADVANCED PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Advanced Graphic Communication

Meets graduation requirements: T/EL

Meets UC a-g requirements: g

---

This capstone course will allow students to advance their managerial and production skills in the workplace as they take on key lead roles with younger students in the pathway of Production and Managerial Arts. Students will also focus on specific careers in this industry sector, significant historical events in media and media production, ethical and legal issues in communications, as well as in the workplace, and how media shapes communities and governments.

## DESIGN, VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS PATHWAY-FILM/VIDEO

---

### VIDEO PRODUCTION 1

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: f**

---

See course description in Visual and performing arts department. Also earns CTE credit.

### VIDEO PRODUCTION 2

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: C in Media Production 1**

**Meets graduation requirements: FA/T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: g**

---

This is an intermediate course in which students will continue to develop an understanding, appreciation, and a more personal approach to expression in film. Students will expand their abilities with practice of advanced video equipment, lighting and story possibilities. Collaboration with school clubs and community organizations will influence some projects; emphasis will be placed on the development of creative depth and meaning.

### VIDEO PRODUCTION 3

**Grades 12**

**Prerequisite: C in Media Production 2**

**Meets requirements: FA/T/EL**

---

This capstone class will challenge and engage students to develop in-depth stories with advanced editing techniques in the pursuit to creatively articulate a personal vision through the development of a professional portfolio. Advancement in studio practices utilizing professional equipment will enable students to fully explore individual goals. The students may create videos for the school and community needs with job shadowing and community documentaries.

## BIOTECHNOLOGY PATHWAY

---

### BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Biology and Integrated Math 1**

**Meets graduation requirements: T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: "d" pending approval**

---

The major focus of the Medical Biotechnology course is to train students in scientific concepts and laboratory research techniques currently used in the field of biotechnology. Students will be introduced to the major concepts from the areas of molecular biology, genetics and genomics, DNA/RNA technology, bioinformatics, recombinant technologies, and bioethics. Lessons will engage students in conducting laboratory experiments, collecting and analyzing real data, researching and communicating scientific information, and critically discussing the ethical and social issues surrounding the use of biotechnology in today's society. This course aims to produce technically sound scientists who can apply their newfound knowledge in an academic, commercial, or a medical laboratory setting.

### ADVANCED BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite: Biomedical Technology**

**Meets graduation requirements: T/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirements: "d" pending approval**

---

Advanced Medical Biotechnology course is a continuation of Introduction to Medical Biotechnology. Students will continue to learn the tools and techniques of DNA and protein manipulation and analysis that they can apply in an academic, commercial, or a medical laboratory setting. Lessons will engage students in conducting laboratory experiments, collecting and analyzing real data, researching and communicating scientific information, and critically discussing the ethical and social issues surrounding the use of biotechnology in today's society.

### Other courses that earn CTE credit:

Kinesiology  
Fine Art Photo 1  
Fine Art Photo 2  
Animation 1  
Animation 2

## Physical Education Course Descriptions

**Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 20 credits of Physical Education (must include Fit 1)**

**Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: None**

### FITNESS 1

Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Meets graduation requirements: PE

---

This course provides an introduction to proper movement and nutrition. Students will learn and participate in a variety of activities, vigorous physical exercise and develop skills for lifelong health and well-being.

### FITNESS 2

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite: Fit 1

Meets graduation requirements: PE

---

This course will provide the foundation for high school instruction. Students develop proficient movement skills in each area of combatives, running, and team activities. They expand their capabilities for independent learning and they examine practices that allow for sound decision making to enhance successful participation in movement activities.

### FITNESS 2: FIT FOR LIFE

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite: Fit 1

Meets graduation requirements: PE/EL

---

Fit for Life utilizes yoga, group exercise, body weight training, ROMWOD (Range of Motion Workout of the Day), TRX, games/activities and running to develop the skills, fitness and knowledge for lifelong health. The Headspace app and mindfulness training will be used to expand mental well-being. The foundation of lifelong health is nutrition so students will be engaged in nutrition lessons and meal planning. Upon completion of this course, students can expect to have achieved improvements in physical and mental well-being. This class can be taken to satisfy the second year of the physical education requirement and can be taken multiple times.

### COURSE 4: CROSSFIT

Grade 9-12

Prerequisite: Fit 1

Meets graduation requirements: PE/EL

---

CrossFit is an intense and challenging class with a focus on improving fitness. The course expands students' understanding of nutrition and functional movement. The CrossFit prescription of "constantly varied, high-intensity, functional movement" is applied to the structure of the class with a combination of metabolic conditioning, weightlifting and sport to help students achieve their fitness potential. Students will leave the CrossFit class with a proficiency in Olympic Weightlifting (Clean and Jerk + Snatch). ROMWOD (Range of Motion Workout of the Day) and HeadSpace (Mindfulness Training) are utilized to develop flexibility and mental well-being. The hard work that goes into this class is rewarded with exceptional results. This class can be taken to satisfy the second year of the physical education requirement and can be taken multiple times.

### COURSE 4: ADVANCED CONDITIONING

Grade 10-12

Prerequisite: Fit 1

Meets graduation requirements: PE/EL

---

The content articulates the knowledge, skills, and confidence students need to maintain meaningful physical activity throughout their lifetime. The course sequence provides a blueprint for delivering the content in a manner that equips students to make a successful

transition from physical education instructional programs to participation in physical activity during adulthood. The adult lifestyle demands that individuals initiate and monitor their own participation in a physical activity.

This course is a combination of strength, speed, agility, and aerobic development. It is developed for intermediate, to the advanced weight lifter, emphasizing Olympic style lifts. The strength training phase will involve a program designed to improve strength, quickness, power, and speed. The speed development phase will include plyometric training, agility training, basketball skills and drills, football skills and drills, and competition. The aerobic phase will include activities that will increase cardiovascular fitness and muscular endurance. Students will have the ability to develop their own physical fitness plan and have the opportunity to assess their own level of fitness and adjust their workout strategies for achieving their lifetime fitness goals. This course is recommended for varsity football players.

### **COURSE 3: WEIGHT TRAINING**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Fit 1**

**Meets graduation requirements: PE/EL**

---

This is a challenging course based on developing proper mechanics and functional movement. Students will learn the fundamentals of weight training and participate in functional strength training. Metabolic conditioning and Olympic Weightlifting will also be developed. The participant's goal should be to gain strength, speed and endurance through the term while understanding how nutrition can provide a foundation for improvement. This class can be taken to satisfy the second year of physical education requirement and can be taken multiple times.

### **BEGINNING DANCE**

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets requirements: FA/PE/EL**

**Meets UC a-g requirement: f**

---

In Beginning Dance, students will be introduced to dance as an art form, a physical activity, a language, and an academic discipline. The focus will be on the development of beginning to intermediate skills through the study and performance of various techniques and styles of dance including Latin, Afro Jazz, Contemporary, Lyrical, Character, and Hip-Hop. Influences from famous dancers and choreographers will be emphasized. Students will have the opportunity to choreograph using the qualities and elements of dance and will showcase their cumulative knowledge in a recital. This course combines the practice of dance technique with the history of dance, as well as the scientific foundations of movement and can be used to satisfy either the Visual and Performing Arts or the second year Physical Education requirement for graduation.

## **Health and Safety Course Descriptions**

**Requirements for FCUSD graduation: 5 credits of Health**

**Requirements for UC/CSU a-g completion: None**

### **HEALTH**

**Grade:10**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: H**

**NOTE: This is a one semester course designed to be paired with Driver's Education or PSP**

---

This course includes the following units of instruction: wellness, nutrition, appearance, stress, emotions, substance abuse, and chronic and disabling diseases. Family Life Education incorporates adolescence, the male and female reproductive systems, sexuality, common concerns of adolescents, pregnancy prevention options/alternatives, parenthood, STD/ AIDS education, birth defects, and prenatal growth and development.

### **DRIVER'S EDUCATION AND CAREERS**

**Grade 10**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

**NOTE: This is a one semester course designed to be paired with Health**

---

Driver Education is an overall analysis including rules of the road, drinking and driving, speeding, distractions, and being a responsible and courteous driver. The second half of the course includes a Career unit. The Career unit includes career/occupation reports, vocational, military, college, and university information, Work Experience Programs, and guest speakers.

## PERSONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (PSP)

Grade 10

Prerequisite: None

Meets requirements: EL

NOTE: This is a one semester course designed to be paired with Health

---

In this course, students will develop a Personal Strategic Plan (PSP) based on self-reflection and analysis and short and long term goals. The purpose of the PSP is to guide students in determining what is truly important in their lives and how make choices and decisions that will help them reach their goals. Units of study will focus on issues and choices faced by today's adolescents and how these issues and decisions can affect their future success. Students will explore their own character and sense of identity, how to establish positive relationships and avoiding negative influences. Topics such as diversity, dating, gender roles, stereotypes and the influence of media on teens will be discussed. Students will explore and learn about a variety of career options by planning and presenting a Career Research Project. Students will use the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* and as they develop their PSP in order to determine priorities, make educational and career choices, and create more balance in their school, home and social life.

# General Elective Course Descriptions

## PEER ACADEMIC TUTOR

**Grades 11-12**

**Prerequisite: 2.0 GPA and teacher approval**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

---

This course is designed for students that have proven mastery of academic standards to provide support for their peers enrolled in the requested and previously mastered course. Peer Academic Tutors work under the supervision of the classroom teacher, providing additional assistance and instruction to students in need. Peer Academic Tutors typically work one-on-one with students to assist with understanding and apply principles taught by the classroom teacher. Peer Academic Tutors circulate around the classroom while students are completing assignments and assist students who are struggling with their work. Peer tutors are able to explain, model and provide support for mastery of new concepts or techniques being taught by the classroom teacher.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

---

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to design, implement, research, reflect upon, and present a project based on community service, leadership, group process, team building, time management, and project planning. It affords the student the opportunity to develop and balance personal, academic and community responsibilities, as well as demonstrate effectiveness, appropriateness, and competency in a variety of skills relevant to the real world. The student will have the opportunity for personal development in self-esteem, stress management, and sense of humor, and grow in preparation for his/her future.

## INTRO TO KINESIOLOGY

**Grade 11-12**

**Prerequisite: Fitness 1**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

---

Foundations of Kinesiology explore the multifaceted world of kinesiology: the study of human movement and the body's response to exercise. It examines the systems, factors, and principles involved in human development within the context of society. Relevant fields in the study of kinesiology include anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, nutrition, motor learning and control, and sport psychology, sociology, and philosophy. The relevant career options available to students in the field are also examined.

## OFFICE/TEACHER'S ASSISTANT

**Grade 9-12**

**Prerequisite: 2.0 GPA and teacher approval by application**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

---

Students work in the office assisting staff with clerical duties or a teacher in the classroom. Attendance is critical for passing grade.

## SAT PREP / COLLEGE EXPLORATION

**Grade 11**

**Prerequisite: 2.5 GPA or instructor approval**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

---

The SAT Prep / College Exploration course is an elective course designed for students who intend on attending a 4 year college or university. The course will help students develop and experience targeted subject content and skills review to prepare them for the SAT exam. In addition to preparing students for the SAT exam, the course will guide students through choices they must make about pursuing higher education, deciding on a career, and determining what schools are right for them. Students will also explore the college application process and ways to pay for college.

## **SPORTS MEDICINE**

**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisites: Kinesiology or Teacher Approval**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

---

Sports medicine is the branch of medicine that addresses the prevention and treatment of injuries occurring to both athletes and the active population. Basic human anatomy and physiology theory provide the framework of study, within which the field of Sports Medicine will be explored. Students will learn how the body systems function and interact through physical activity, and develop a thorough understanding of the musculoskeletal system. Students will include care and prevention of injuries, protective wrapping techniques, stretching methods, and overall wellness. This knowledge will serve as a baseline for understanding the physiological response to injury and improving performance. This course provides a strong academic foundation for students interested in pursuing majors in sports medicine, pre-medical, pre-dental, or a variety of allied health programs at the university level.

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT / LEADERSHIP**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: Elected or appointed**

**Meets requirements: EL**

---

This is a required course for all elected or appointed student body or class officers. The course is designed to teach the basic concepts of democratic government, leadership skills, group process, team-building, time management, and project planning. It affords students the opportunity for personal development in self-esteem and stress management. From team-building to the personal development section of the curriculum, students will have opportunities to grow in preparation for the future. This course requires a two term commitment.

## **YEARBOOK**

**Grades 9-12**

**Prerequisite: 2.0 cumulative GPA; B in previous years' English classes**

**Meets graduation requirements: EL**

---

The yearbook is a memory book, a historical documentation of the year, a resource/reference book, and a pictorial representation of contemporary school life. Students are responsible for developing layouts, writing copy, computer desktop publishing, taking and developing photos, video production, proofreading, and selling ads in the community. To ensure a quality publication, time commitment is essential; therefore, students may be required to give extra time during lunch, after school, at night, and occasionally on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Yearbook is a commitment for the entire school year. This course is a two term commitment.