



Curriculum Guide

2025 - 2026

Middle School Required Courses of Study and Course Options

Middle School Course Requirements			
Rolling Hills Prep Program Requirements		Renaissance Program Requirements	
Years of Study	Subject	Years of Study	Subject
3	English	3	English
3	World Language	3	Support Block
3	Social Studies	3	Social Studies
3	Sciences	3	Sciences
3	Mathematics	3	Mathematics
3	Arts	3	Arts
3	Physical and Health Education	3	Physical and Health Education

Rolling Hills Prep Program Middle School Courses

Subject	Grade Level		
	6th	7th	8th
English Language and Literature	English 6	English 7	English 8
World Language OR Support	Spanish 6	Spanish 7	Spanish 8 or Spanish I
	Support Block	Support Block	Support Block
Social Studies	Social Studies 6 Ancient Societies	Social Studies 7 Geography	Social Studies 8 United States History
Science	Science 6	Science 7	Science 8
Math	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8 or Integrated Math I
Arts	Music 6 and Visual Arts 6 (one semester of each)	Music 7 and Visual Arts 7 (one semester of each)	Drama 8
Physical and Health Education	Physical and Health Education 6 / Team Sports	Physical and Health Education 7 / Team Sports	Physical and Health Education 8 / Team Sports
Non-Credit Enrichment Activities	Choir, Junior Garage Band		

Additional Middle School Requirements

- 15 hours of documented Service Learning per year.

Upper School Courses of Study and Course Options

The table below represents the *minimum* requirements that must be fulfilled to earn a high school diploma. In most cases, students exceed these outlined minimum requirements. Year-long courses count for 10 credits.

Upper School Graduation Requirements					
Rolling Hills Prep Program Diploma Requirements		Renaissance Program Diploma Requirements		REACH Program Diploma Requirements	
Credits	Subject	Credits	Subject	Credits	Subject
40	English	40	English	30	REACH English
30	History and Social Sciences*	30	History and Social Sciences*	30	REACH History and Social Sciences
30	Mathematics - Must include Algebra II	30	Mathematics - Must include Algebra II	20	REACH Mathematics
30	Science - Must include Biology and either Physics or Chemistry	20	Science - - Must include Biology and either Physics or Chemistry	20	REACH Science
20	World Languages - Must include a minimum of 2 years in one language**	20	World Languages - - - Must include a minimum of 2 years in one language	10	Visual Arts
20	Visual and Performing Arts	20	Visual and Performing Arts		
20	Physical and Health Education	20	Physical and Health Education	20	Physical and Health Education
30	Elective	20	Elective	20	Life Skills, Electives
220	Total Credits	200	Total credits	150	Total Credits

* United States History; World History; a one-semester course in American government, and a one-semester course in economics are all required.

** Students are recommended to take three years of a world language to prepare for college/ university or up to a level three language.

Additional Upper School Requirements

- 30 hours of documented Service Learning per year
- Delivery of a Senior Speech in Grade 12
- Successful completion of a 50-hour Senior Internship in Grade 12

RHP, Renaissance, and REACH Programs award credit for classes where a “D” is earned; however, many colleges do not accept coursework at the “D” level to meet their entrance requirements. Students who earn a “D” can retake a class to earn a higher grade before applying to colleges.

Specialized Diploma Programs

Rolling Hills Preparatory School offers specialized diploma programs offering students the opportunity to focus on a particular interest. These programs go above and beyond our standard graduation requirements and may include summer programs or travel, participation in subject-specific clubs and service opportunities, specific course requirements, and teacher recommendations. More information about the STEM, Arts, and Global Studies & World Languages programs is available through the Dean of Curriculum & Instruction.

RHP and Renaissance Programs Upper School Courses

Subject	Grade Level			
	9th	10th	11th	12th
English	English I Renaissance English I	English II Honors English II Renaissance English II	English III AP English Literature* Renaissance English III	English IV AP English Language and Composition* Renaissance English IV
World Languages	Spanish I, Spanish II and Honors Spanish II, Spanish III, and Honors Spanish III, Spanish IV and Honors Spanish IV Renaissance Spanish I and Renaissance Spanish II American Sign Language I and American Sign Language II			
History and Social Sciences	World History Renaissance World History	AP European History/AP Human Geography* (These AP courses are offered alternate years)	US History AP US History* AP European History/AP Human Geography* Ethnic Studies	Government and Economics Honors Government and Economics AP European History/AP Human Geography* AP Psychology* Ethnic Studies
Sciences	Conceptual Physics Honors Conceptual Physics Intro to Engineering Design Principles of Biomedical Science	Chemistry Honors Chemistry Renaissance Chemistry Intro to Engineering Design	Biology Honors Biology Renaissance Biology Intro to Engineering Design Environmental Science	Intro to Engineering Design AP Biology* AP Chemistry* AP Environmental Science* Physics

	Intro to Zoology	Principles of Biomedical Science Intro to Zoology	AP Environmental Science* Conceptual Physics Honors Conceptual Physics AP Computer Science: Principles* Principles of Biomedical Science Intro to Zoology	Honors Conceptual Physics Biology Renaissance Biology Honors Biology AP Biology* Chemistry Honors Chemistry Renaissance Chemistry AP Computer* Science: Principles Environmental Science AP Environmental Science* Principles of Biomedical Science Intro to Zoology
Mathematics	Integrated Math I Geometry, Algebra II, Honors Pre-Calculus, Intro to Data Science, Honors Calculus, Introduction to Computer Science, AP Computer Science A*			
Visual & Performing Arts	Visual Arts: Drawing and Painting I, Drawing and Painting II, Studio Art, Mixed Media, Photography I, Photography II, Design for Publications I/II/III/IV, Graphic Design, Digital Animation AP Drawing*, AP 2-Dimensional Art and Design* AP Art History* Performing Arts: Applied Music Lab I/II/III/IV, Theatre I/II/III, Advanced Acting Honors, Film as Literature, Voice I/II, III, IV Specialized Diploma: Arts Diploma Independent Study			

Physical and Health Education	Physical and Health Ed 9 Athletic Study Hall	Physical and Health Ed 10 Athletic Study Hall	n/a
Additional Non-Credit Options	Learning Support	Learning Support	Learning Support Study Hall** Free Block (12th grade only)***
Additional Non-Credit Enrichment Activities	Choir, Junior Garage Band, Garage Band, Associated Student Body, National Honors Society Clubs (sample list): Advocates for Diversity, Film Club, Activism and Empowerment Club, Black Student Union		

*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.

** Students in 11th & 12th grade may sign up for only one Study Hall block per eligible year.

*** Students in 12th grade may sign up for only one Free Block per eligible year.

Upper School Course Descriptions

All Upper School courses described below are year-long classes. Enrollment in an honors or AP level course requires a strong work ethic and teacher recommendations. Courses offerings are dependent on student requests/ placement, enrollment, and staffing; not all courses listed here are guaranteed to run in the 2025-2026 school year.

History and Social Science

World History/Renaissance World History (*Grade 9*)

Students in grade nine study major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the late eighteenth century 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. They extrapolate from the American experience that democratic ideals are often achieved at a high price, remain vulnerable, and are not practiced everywhere in the world. Students develop an understanding of current world issues and relate them to their historical, geographic, political, economic, and cultural contexts. Students consider multiple accounts of events to understand international relations from a variety of perspectives.

AP European History (*Grades 10-12*)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

AP European History is an introductory college-level European history course. Students cultivate their understanding of European history through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like interaction of Europe and the world; economic and commercial developments; cultural and intellectual developments; states and other institutions of power; social organization and development; national and European identity; and technological and scientific innovation. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

AP Human Geography (*Grades 10-12; next offered in 2026-27*)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

The purpose of the AP course in Human Geography is to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

Ethnic Studies (*Grades 11-12*)

Ethnic Studies is a course designed to introduce students to the histories, cultures, and experiences of diverse racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Through a variety of texts, discussions, and

activities, students will learn about the contributions and struggles of people of color in the United States, with a particular focus on the experiences of African Americans, Latino/a/x Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders/Desi Americans, and Indigenous/Native Americans. The course will also explore issues of power, privilege, and inequality, and students will have the opportunity to engage in critical discussions about current events and social justice issues.

This course aims to empower students to continue to become socially responsible, informed and active members of their communities and to promote greater understanding and appreciation of diversity and living in a multicultural society. It will challenge students to think critically about the ways in which race and ethnicity shape our society, and to consider their own roles in creating a more just and equitable world.

United States History (Grade 11)

Prerequisite: World History

This course focuses on the changing nature of the role of government from the Puritans to the Constitutional Convention to the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Industrial Revolution to the 20th Century and today. Students wrestle with the competing impulses of the “ability to…” and the “right to…” and how those impulses have shaped the function of government, the inclusion of various groups into the American fabric, and the relationship of the government to its people. Critical thinking, writing analytical essays, and close reading of primary and secondary sources are stressed throughout the year.

AP United States History (Grade 11)

Prerequisites: World History and teacher recommendation

This is a survey course of American history from the age of exploration to the present day and offers an exciting opportunity to examine US history through many lenses and concepts. This course challenges students to grapple with the complex matrix of economic, social, and political patterns to help define the role America has played in the world throughout its history. Various types of project-based learning, essay assignments, research assignments, and in-class discussions/debates stress critical thinking and analytical skills that prepare students for the AP exam. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

Government/Economics (Grade 12)

Prerequisite: World History and US History or AP US History)

The government course explores the ideas of liberty, justice and equality in the context of the nation’s founding and how the principles of government are meant to protect those rights. By examining the founding documents, the modern political process, and the issues that face the country today, students understand the importance of being an active citizen in a democratic government. The economics course is designed to provide students with the basic tools and concepts of economics to evaluate and analyze not only economic events and policies, but happenings in their own lives. The class relies on simulations, experiments, debates, discussions and case studies to explore supply and demand, the stock market, game theory, and other micro/macro economic ideas.

Honors Government/Economics (Grade 12)

Prerequisites: US History or AP US History and teacher recommendation

Honors students supplement their regular curriculum with additional class time, independent reading and writing assignments designed to deepen their understanding of the concepts studied.

AP Psychology (Grade 12)

The AP Psychology course is designed 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 within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice in preparation for the AP exam. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

English

English I (Grade 9)

Over the course of the year in English I, students will develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and presenting in a variety of contexts. They will read a wide variety of literature, representing different eras, genres, cultures, and formats. Besides providing a context to study vocabulary, grammar, and the craft of writing, readings will allow students to explore larger concepts and make connections to their own lives, other subject areas, and the outside world. Students will do a variety of writing assignments: analytical and persuasive essays, reflections, creative pieces, responses to literature, and a research project. Much of the writing will be done during class in a workshop format so that students can receive immediate feedback from peers and the teacher as they draft, revise, and edit. These assignments will stretch both their analytical and creative writing skills and encourage students to develop their own style and creative inner voice.

Renaissance English I (Grade 9)

Renaissance English I uses literature to build fundamental writing skills, develop analytical thinking, and investigate social thinking. Students gain confidence in their writing abilities as they become critical readers and writers while improving their vocabulary through grammatical lessons and stylistic guidelines. Students develop strong oral skills during class discussions that stem from the literature studied. Writing assignments, and social cognitive thinking, give students the opportunity to craft analytical essays, as well as to discover their own styles and approaches through personal responses and creative essays. Students demonstrate their knowledge both through writing assignments and creative projects. Renaissance English I focuses on building a strong foundation of skills and habits conducive to academic success in high school and beyond.

English II (Grade 10)

Students of English II engage in close analytical readings of a variety of texts. Students are encouraged to examine characters' motivations and emotional states, with the hope that a thorough understanding of these texts will encourage students to make responsible decisions as they continue to grow and impact the world. In English II, students refine the skills necessary for close reading and insightful writing, both essential to literary analysis and communication. The importance of tone, mood, figurative language, and proper punctuation are highlighted throughout the course. Students produce a variety of creative projects and analytical essays.

Renaissance English II (Grade 10)

Renaissance English II includes a review of grammar skills, the teaching of intermediate composition skills, and an examination of various literary genres that include the short story, non-fiction, and novels. Emphasis in both semesters will be placed on vocabulary development, composition skills, critical reading, and critical writing skills. Students will apply literary techniques to their writing, and be exposed to research, narrative, creative, and expository essays.

Honors English II (Grade 10)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Students of Honors English II engage in close analytical readings of novels, a variety of essays, poetry, and short stories. In Honors English II, there is an increased exploration of how regional and historical contexts influence the author's style, beliefs, and message. In Honors English II, students are encouraged to examine characters' motivations and emotional states as well. A thorough understanding of these texts will encourage students to make responsible decisions as they continue to grow and impact the world. Each core text is paired with a variety of relevant essays to help aid discussion and make the material "come alive;" students are expected to respond to both the core text and the supplemental material. In this course, students refine the skills necessary for close reading and insightful writing, both essential to literary analysis and communication. Students of Honors English II are encouraged to become more independent in developing and defending their beliefs in a variety of persuasive essays. There is an increased emphasis on proper punctuation and thoughtful syntax in Honors English II, granting students the ability to really shape their personal writing style.

English III (Grade 11)

Themes in American literature and culture from colonial days to the present are the focus of English III. Students read selected poems, short stories, and essays, as well as novels and plays. Students strengthen vocabulary, and improve their writing of analytical essays. Studies also reinforce grammar, mechanics, and revision strategies.

Renaissance English III (Grade 11)

Renaissance English III focuses on building higher order reading and writing skills. Students will deepen their knowledge of US History with the concurrent study of American literature through multiple cultural lenses. This course continues to build on the study of the dynamics and structure of the English language, including the essential skills of composition development, writing style, critical reading, writing and analysis, academic vocabulary, grammatical structure and rules, and academic

verbal discussion. Through these components students will enhance their ability to critically think, make inferences, be active readers, develop strong writing skills, and become engaged listeners and effective speakers.

AP English Literature and Composition (Grade 11)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This upper-level course prepares students for the AP Exam in English Literature and Composition as well as provides them with the foundational expertise for future college classes. Students refine critical reading and analytical writing skills. Studies also reinforce grammar, mechanics, and revision strategies. Classic and contemporary poetry, as well as modern and classic literature, are examined in-depth. By the end of the year, students will become stronger readers, writers, and thinkers.

Primary texts include *Of Mice and Men*, *Ethan Frome*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Great Gatsby*, *All the Pretty Horses*, *Ceremony*, and *Black Boy*. Additional American novels may be read or substituted. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

English IV (Grade 12)

Senior English involves intensive analytical reading as well as creative and expository writing with emphasis on nonfiction and personal essays during the first semester. The first half of the second semester focuses on responding to and analyzing both classic and contemporary short stories. The second half of the semester focuses on comedy, culminating in a final project on a comedic subject. Students work on organization, logic, and critical thinking as well as elements of style in reading, writing, and presenting.

Renaissance English IV (Grade 12)

Renaissance English IV focuses on non-fiction reading and writing. Students focus on creating memoirs/autobiographies, and practice writing that focuses in the non-fiction genre. Students complete a career research project as their culminating essay of the year.

AP English Language and Composition (Grade 12)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

In this upper-level course, students read a variety of nonfiction from a range of disciplines and historical periods and analyze their rhetorical elements and effects. They focus on writing argumentative essays, some of which require the synthesis of outside sources, and rhetorical analyses. They work on the craft of writing to develop their own style and voice. This course prepares students for the AP English Language and Composition exam, but perhaps more importantly, students will leave AP Language and Composition thoroughly prepared for other college-level courses in the humanities. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

Language Lab I & II (*Grades 9-10*)

In Language Lab I & II, students receive small-group targeted instruction in reading comprehension and fluency. They read one-on-one with a reading interventionist who helps them decode text and progress to visualizing what they are reading. In conjunction, different reading strategies such as making connections, visualizing events, making inferences, asking questions, and learning to synthesize new information to form new ideas and thoughts are practiced. Students also continue to develop their writing skills by practicing new strategies within the writing process. Practicing spelling, brainstorming, drafting, revising, and the application of grammar skills is deepened and developed upon by individual student needs.

Mathematics

Integrated Math I (*Grade 9*)

Integrated Math 1 is the first of three required years of college-preparatory mathematics. This class creates a solid foundation needed for future mathematics courses. Topics include: Constructions and Rigid Transformations, Congruence, One-Variable Statistics, Linear Equations and Systems, Coordinate Geometry, Two-Variable Statistics, Linear Inequalities and Systems, Functions, and an introduction to Exponential Functions.

Geometry (*Grades 9-11*)

This course provides students with a solid foundation in geometry. Emphasis is placed on reasoning, visualization, and application. Topics covered include geometric figures, parallel lines and transversals, properties and area of polygons, right triangle trigonometry, similarity and congruence.

Algebra II (*Grades 9-12*)

Algebra II provides a logical continuation of Algebra I. It is a comprehensive review and expansion of topics in algebra, such as solving equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, graphing, exponents, and solving quadratic equations. This course also includes in-depth analysis of more advanced algebraic topics such as quadratic, polynomial, and rational functions, the application of functions to real world problems, and complex numbers. Technology applications and projects are used to support and promote the learning of concepts.

Honors Pre-Calculus (*Grades 11-12*)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Honors Pre-Calculus is designed to help students prepare for future studies in calculus and higher-level mathematics. The course topics include Polynomial and Rational Functions, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Trigonometric and Polar Functions, Vectors, and Matrices. Students who are interested may take the AP Precalculus test, but this is optional.

Introduction to Data Science (Grade 12)

Prerequisite: Algebra II; can be taken in 11th grade concurrently with Pre-Calculus)

This course introduces students to the main ideas in data science. Emphasis is placed on project-based learning and inquiry. Students will explore and develop their understanding of data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, probability, modeling with data, making and evaluating data-based arguments, and the power of data in society. This course is only open to 12th graders and has Algebra II as a prerequisite.

Honors Calculus (Grades 11-12)

(Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus and teacher recommendation)

Honors Calculus is focused on giving students a foundation in the core concepts of calculus. The course topics include Limits, Differentiation, Functions, and Integration. Students who are interested may take the AP Calculus AB test, but this is optional.

Introduction to Computer Science (Grades 9-12)

This course exposes students to the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, coding and programming. Students will learn to code through hands-on assignments which include game design, lab completion, independent projects, and pair programming. This course serves as both an introduction to, and foundation for, further study in computer science.

AP Computer Science A (Grades 10-12)

(Prerequisites: AP Computer Science Principles and teacher recommendation)

This course expands on the information learned in Computer Science Principles by teaching students the Java programming language. Students will learn the syntax of the language and practice applying their newfound skills with hands-on programming projects. *(Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.)*

Science

Conceptual Physics (Grades 9-12)

This lab-based course studies the phenomena that govern the workings of the physical world. Students explore content using a conceptual framework, while developing their problem solving and mathematical abilities in science. Students also gain substantial experience in designing experiments and collecting and analyzing their data. The class aims to cover the wide breadth of topics that physics encompasses and so we will study Motion, Energy, Properties of Matter, Waves and Sound, Light and Optics, Heat Transfer, Newton's Laws and Forces, and Electricity and Magnetism.

Honors Conceptual Physics (Grades 9-12)

(Prerequisite: Algebra 1)

The Honors Conceptual Physics course will cover the same units as the regular course, but will look at each in more depth and with an increased rigor. The problems will be more challenging than the

regular course and require a greater depth of understanding. The course will also offer a greater focus on mathematical reasoning in science, including quantitative analysis of lab investigations. As such, a strong background in Algebra 1 is required.

Chemistry (*Grades 10-12*)

Chemistry is the study of matter and the changes that matter undergoes. The course covers methods of measurement, atomic theory and structure, gas laws, periodic table arrangement and periodicity, solution chemistry, thermochemistry, bonding, types of reactions, acid base chemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory work is a major part of the course. The coursework relies heavily on quantitative data collection and calculations.

Renaissance Chemistry (*Grades 10-12*)

Renaissance Chemistry is an introductory chemistry course to help develop foundational science skills. Experiments and activities are used to introduce concepts such as composition of matter, atomic models/structures, the periodic table, analyzing chemical reactions, and thermodynamics. The Renaissance Chemistry course is designed to provide neurodiverse students with access to the content and activities through a scaffolded approach tailored to the specific learning needs of the students in the class. Guided notes and modeling of processes allow diverse learners to successfully apply chemistry concepts.

Honors Chemistry (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and teacher recommendation)

Honors chemistry covers the same breadth of curriculum topics as the general chemistry course, with an emphasis on further depth of concepts for each topic and exposure to more advanced calculations. The material is also covered with a higher level of rigor, as it is geared to prepare students for the AP Chemistry course. Students can expect to perform more complex calculations and be required to answer free response questions requiring a greater depth of understanding of the concepts.

AP Chemistry (*Grades 11 & 12*)

(Prerequisites: Honors Chemistry and successful completion or current enrollment in Pre-calculus)

The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of a general chemistry course usually taken during the first year of college. Students who take this course will develop advanced inquiry and reasoning skills, and a readiness for the study of advanced science topics in subsequent college courses. The course covers the following topics: Structure of Matter, Bonding and Intermolecular Forces, Chemical Reactions, Kinetics, Thermodynamics, Chemical Equilibrium, Atomic Structure, Bonding, States of Matter and Intermolecular Forces. *(Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.)*

Biology (*Grades 10-12*)

Biology is a study of the interaction of living systems that make up the world in which we live. In this course students explore and discover the intricacy of chemical reactions that support a single cell, the

integration of multiple cells in the formation of an organism, the interaction of organisms with their environment, and the processes over time that have contributed to the diversity of life we find on earth today. Hands-on experimentation provides an opportunity for students to test theories presented in each major topic of study.

Honors Biology (*Grades 10-12*)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This course supplements the regular curriculum with a deeper focus on molecular and cellular biology. The course builds skills in labs and research to develop a greater understanding of the current trends in science. Students are expected to complete in-depth research projects as well as tests and a final project in Semester 2.

AP Biology (*Grades 11 & 12*)

(Prerequisites: Chemistry and Honors Biology and/or teacher recommendation)

AP Biology prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam and is a comprehensive study of biology at a college level. Students cover topics in biology from the level of molecular interactions to global ecological systems. The emphasis throughout the course is science as a process and the relationship of structure to function. This is a hands-on lab course with authentic laboratory investigations requiring well-developed analytical and data collection skills. *(Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.)*

Environmental Science (*Grades 11 and 12*)

(Prerequisites: Chemistry and Biology)

The Environmental Science course provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. It provides the opportunity 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 or preventing them. The course covers the following topics: Earth Systems, Biodiversity and Biomimicry, Environmental Toxins and Pollution, and Climate Change. Students should be prepared to conduct labs and research projects throughout this course.

AP Environmental Science (*Grades 11 & 12*)

(Prerequisites: Chemistry and Biology, Algebra 1)

The AP Environmental Science course covers the same content as would be taught in a typical one-semester introductory college course. Like the standard Environmental Science class, this course provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. It provides the opportunity 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 or preventing them. The course covers these topics: Earth Systems and Resources, The Living World, Population, Land and Water Use, Energy Resources and Consumption, Pollution and Global Change. While this is still a project-based class, there is a significantly larger focus on Laboratory and field investigations than in

the standard Environmental Science class, and the content will be covered in much more depth in order to prepare for the AP Examination in May. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

AP Computer Science Principles (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation)

This course offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

Robotics (*Grades 9-12*)

Students will build foundational skills in engineering, programming, and electrical wiring, as they are exposed to practical science applications. Using the Arduino platform, students will learn to use the various components available which allow technology to interact with the real world. This class requires no previous knowledge of robotics or programming.

Introduction to Engineering Design (*Grades 9-12*)

Students are introduced to the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to identify and design solutions to a variety of real problems. They work both individually and in collaborative teams to develop and document design solutions using engineering notebooks and 3D modeling software.

Introduction to Zoology (*Grades 9-12*)

This course will examine the physical and biological components of the aquatic and terrestrial environments. The study will include evaluating the characteristics and classification of aquatic and terrestrial organisms, both vertebrates and invertebrates. Evidence for the evolution of life on earth and taxonomy of all organisms will be considered. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of various animal groups, from invertebrates to vertebrates, through lectures, hands-on activities, and research projects. A key component of the course includes dissection labs, where students will examine the internal and external structures of different species, enhancing their understanding of comparative anatomy and physiological adaptations. These labs offer a unique, hands-on approach to learning, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting.

Principles of Biomedical Science (*Grades 9-12*)

(Corequisite biology recommended)

Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) serves to provide foundational knowledge and skills in fields such as biology, anatomy & physiology, genetics, microbiology, and epidemiology as well as engage

students in how this content can be applied to real-world situations, cases, and problems. Through both individual and collaborative team activities, projects, and problems, students will tackle real-world challenges faced by biomedical professionals in the field. They will work with the same tools and equipment used in hospitals and labs as they engage in relevant hands-on work. Students will develop skill in technical documentation to represent and communicate experimental findings and solutions to problems. In addition, students will explore how connections to other disciplines such as computer science and engineering shape the future of medicine and practice collaboration techniques that will help them connect with professionals across any field.

World Languages

American Sign Language I (*Grades 9-12*)

This course offers extensive fingerspelling instruction while emphasizing both receptive and expressive communication skills. Students learn extensive ASL vocabulary words as well as the correct ASL word order for simple sentences and dialogues. Syntax, semantics and deaf idioms are all taught, and practical conversation skills are developed through structured dialogues. Throughout the year, students learn about deaf culture and history.

American Sign Language II (*Grades 10-12*)

This course offers continued vocabulary development and more complex dialogues and sentence types. Students begin to transliterate stories from English into ASL. The ASL grammar includes complex declaratives, negations, “wh” questions, and yes/no questions. Past, present perfect and future tenses are taught.

Spanish I (*Grades 9-12*)

In this class, students learn to communicate in Spanish as they are introduced to Spanish grammar and vocabulary. As the year progresses, they develop reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and learn about the Spanish speaking world through an imaginative and varied curriculum taught in the target language.

Renaissance Spanish I (*Grades 9-12*)

Renaissance Spanish I introduces students to Spanish language and culture with a focus on real-world communication. Throughout the year, students focus on developing their speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills as they also learn practical vocabulary and cultural topics. A variety of teaching strategies and resources are used to allow diverse learners to feel confident communicating effectively.

Spanish II (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish I)

Students build on the skills mastered in Spanish I by learning more complex grammar and additional vocabulary. In addition to learning all major tenses, students study the formation and uses of the

present subjunctive. They learn to communicate effectively in real-life situations, write dialogues and compositions, and develop their ability to analyze language patterns.

Renaissance Spanish II (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish I)

Students in Renaissance Spanish II continue their study of Spanish language and culture, adding additional grammar and vocabulary as they hone their communication skills. Building on previous knowledge and skills, students continue to use a variety of resources to focus on strategies which allow them to communicate successfully. The inclusion of additional tenses and practical vocabulary allows them to converse about real-life topics.

Honors Spanish II (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisites: Spanish I and teacher recommendation)

Spanish II Honors attend additional classes and are held to more comprehensive standards on their work in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading comprehension. Honors students are required to write longer compositions, amass additional vocabulary, and learn more technical nuances of grammar. They are required to read books independently and then do additional research, writing, and presentational projects on the cultural topics presented.

Spanish III (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish II)

This course allows students to utilize and expand upon the skills and vocabulary learned in Spanish I and II and improve their overall proficiency. While reviewing all previous tenses, students also focus on the subjunctive and its various tenses and uses. Spanish literature provides students with opportunities to improve their reading comprehension, augment their vocabulary, and learn more about the Spanish-speaking world. Students develop their writing and speaking skills as they practice communicating in real-life situations.

Honors Spanish III (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisites: Spanish II and teacher recommendation)

Spanish III Honors students attend additional classes and are held to more comprehensive standards on their work in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading comprehension. Honors students are required to write longer compositions, amass additional vocabulary, and learn more technical nuances of grammar. They are required to read books independently and then do additional research, writing, and presentational projects on the cultural topics presented.

Spanish IV (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish III)

Emphasizing all previous skills learned in Spanish, this course focuses on honing reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Working individually and with others, students engage in

communicative activities, write stories and poems, and create projects. As they analyze more complex grammar and expand their vocabulary base, students are able to communicate with more confidence and ability.

Honors Spanish IV (9-12)

(Prerequisite: Spanish III and teacher recommendation)

Spanish IV Honors students attend additional classes and are held to more comprehensive standards on their work in terms of speaking, writing, listening, and reading comprehension. Honors students are required to write longer compositions, amass additional vocabulary, and learn more technical nuances of grammar. They are required to read books independently and then do additional research, writing, and presentational projects on the cultural topics presented.

Visual and Performing Arts

Drawing and Painting I (Grades 9-12)

This is an introductory level course designed to provide students with an opportunity to explore and express their ideas visually, by learning to draw and paint. Students learn how to use a wide variety of media in black and white and color, and experiment with different genres. The course is focused on developing powers of observation, learning to see correctly, and using a visual vocabulary to articulate ideas. Students explore creative approaches to problem solving while learning about important art movements and artists of the past and present, preparing each student with the tools to continue on his or her journey of artistic appreciation and expression.

Drawing and Painting II (Grades 10-12)

(Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting I)

A continuation of Drawing and Painting I, this class places more emphasis on the development of a personal statement of expression. Students pursue individual and group projects in various media leading to the development of a rich and diverse portfolio. As artists, we will continue the skills and techniques introduced in Drawing & Painting I with more emphasis placed on independent work and collaborative projects. We will explore art-making techniques with contemporary and historical art history, discuss aesthetics, peer critiques, and personal assessments to further the student's artistic vision. Each student will keep a journal/sketchbook during the course and will have opportunities to participate in art installations and events!

Mixed Media (Grades 9-12)

This introductory level course is designed for students to explore, experiment, create, combine and manipulate various media and techniques utilizing the elements of art and principles of design. Students explore the use of more than a single kind of material in each work of art including 3D and assemblage. Each student is required to keep an art journal/sketchbook to communicate thoughts and feelings to solve artistic problems from early conception ideas and sketches through to the finished project.

Digital Animation (Grades 9-12)

This class focuses on developing basic drawing, animation and storytelling skills. Students will learn how to construct scenes and characters. They will also develop animation skills including squash and

stretch, key framing, motion tweening along with syncing sounds and music to actions. Students will create short animations using appropriate software that tell simple and developed storylines.

Photography I (*Grades 9-12*)

Photography I is an introductory class devoted to gaining an understanding of the fundamental principles of digital photography. We will explore camera techniques such as aperture, shutter speed, exposure, and composition and examine the work of both early and contemporary photography. Project based assignments will introduce students to different styles of photography such as landscape, portraiture, architecture and documentary, and post-production processes in Photoshop/Lightroom. Students in this class are strongly encouraged to provide a DSLR or mirrorless camera, a memory card, and a computer capable of handling Adobe software. Software will be provided.

Photography II (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Photography I)

Photography II is an advanced level photography class devoted to learning innovative techniques both in traditional and digital image making. As this is an advanced class, students are expected to work more independently than in Photography I, commit more time to pre-conception of ideas and begin to develop long-range goals in respect to their art. While still strengthening technical skills, and developing creative style, projects in this class are based around the duality of photography as art and photography as record. As we explore the development of personal narratives in the darkroom and digital darkroom, we will also be examining the use of photography in the media and the ways in which we can use our art to further social discussion. Students must have their own camera (digital and/or film), a memory card, and a computer capable of handling Adobe software.

Design for Publications I, II, and III (*Grades 10-12*)

Prerequisite: Photo I or Graphic Design

This class is devoted to learning about, creating, and producing quality published 2-dimensional work. Over the course of the class, students will learn the basics of graphic design, layout and typography and will utilize those skills both through the production of his/her own projects as well as the production of both the yearbook and all-school literary magazine. Through this course work, students will gain an understanding of Adobe software. This is a time-intensive class. Students are expected to meet regular deadlines, which at times may require work on or off campus during lunch, after school or even on weekends.

Graphic Design (*Grades 9-12*)

Students will learn foundational digital art techniques through the study of graphic design, typography, illustration, and integrated graphic elements. Students will be introduced to industry standard software and digital workflows through digital editing platforms Photoshop and Illustrator. The course will explore the historical and cultural dimensions within the graphic arts and printing industry, in addition to the elements of art and principles of design. Through project based assignments, students will create original artworks for their culminating digital art portfolio.

Studio Art (*Grades 11 & 12*)

(Prerequisites: Drawing and Painting II and teacher recommendation)

This is an advanced art class that is designed for the highly motivated student who is seriously interested in the study of visual art and concerned with quality, concentration, and content. Each student experiments with various media, such as acrylic painting, pastel, charcoal, graphite

drawings, and mixed media, Emphasis is placed on process and broadened exploration of technique and style. Students will experiment, reflect, and question with a personal art journal and prepare a portfolio of original artwork. Additionally, all students are expected to assess and honor their work with a submission to the Annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition.

AP Drawing (Grade 12)

(Prerequisites: Studio Art, teacher recommendation, and successful completion of summer assignment for portfolio review)

The AP Drawing class is only for students who wish to pursue serious study in the arts. Students work on direct assignments and individual assignments in and out of the classroom emphasizing process: critical thinking, decision making and supporting aesthetic choices. Students will continue to work with a variety of materials, processes, and ideas including drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media to further develop their artistic knowledge and self-expression. While students work in their individual style, all students will focus on completing the requirements for the AP drawing portfolio exam in May. Students will be given a number of assignments to guide their work, making use of their previous knowledge to inform their choices in media and technique. *(Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.)*

AP 2-Dimensional Art and Design (Grades 11-12)

(Prerequisite: successful completion of summer assignments for portfolio review, and/or teacher recommendation.)

The AP Studio Art: 2-Dimensional Art and Design class is the most advanced photography and design class offered and is devoted to fully developing the student's personal style and skill of expression through imagery. While students work in their unique styles, all work is driven towards the completion of the final AP exam portfolio in May. Additionally, all students are expected to complete a cohesive portfolio for submission to the Annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. Students will be given several assignments to guide their work, making use of their previous knowledge to inform their choices in media and technique. The course will focus on decision making as an artist and the proper application of skills and materials to communicate the chosen message. *(Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.)*

AP Art History (Grades 11 and 12)

This course engages students in an investigation of art and architecture throughout place and time and fosters an understanding of the discipline of art history. Content will be grouped thematically, and each trimester will explore Big Ideas and Essential Questions. Students will develop knowledge and skills necessary to pass the AP Art History exam in the spring. The curriculum includes hands-on learning, essential visual images, and contextual knowledge of the 10 content areas: Global Prehistory, Ancient Mediterranean, Early Europe and Colonial Americas; Later Europe and Americas; Indigenous America; West and Central Asia, South, East, and Southeast Asia; The Pacific; and Global Contemporary. *(Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.)*

Applied Music Lab I, II, III, and IV (Grades 9-12)

(Prerequisites: Play an instrument and/or read sheet music.)

Applied Music Lab is designed to enrich high school students' musical performance experience by composing and arranging for instruments and voices. The focus of the class is largely based on

students' own interests. Music theory and ear training are intensely studied and developed throughout the course along with music history and global music styles. Throughout the course students learn to compose in different musical styles, produce concerts, and develop musical skills such as analysis, notation, improvisation, orchestration, sight singing, and conducting. The course involves the study of folk music, art music, and pop music. Members of the class are strongly encouraged to participate in Garage Band. Individual students may also be recommended for membership in CAIS Honor Band and Orchestra, which meets in February.

Voice I, II, III, and IV (*Grades 9-12*)

Students learn a variety of songs in different styles from around the world, largely based on students' own interests. Students learn the basics of breath control and healthy singing through daily warm-ups and personalized instruction. The entire class learns several songs together, and each student learns additional solos. Ear training and sight-singing skills are developed. Students learn to identify and critique different vocal types and styles. Performing at school-wide events is required. Each student will also attend the CAIS Honor Choir in February. Members of Voice are highly encouraged to participate in the Spring Musical.

Choir (*Grades 5-12*)

(Non-credit elective)

Students rehearse together in this vocal ensemble. Students learn music from around the world and throughout history. From global folk songs to modern pop and musical theater selections, students can expect a wide variety of selections. Choir performs at school-wide events and allows students the opportunity to join the CAIS Honor Choir held in February.

Garage Band (*Grades 9-12*)

(Non-credit elective)

Students can hone their rock band skills in Garage Band. Guitar and bass players are welcome, along with drummers, keyboard players, and singers. Brass, woodwind, and string players are welcome to join as well. This group rehearses once or twice a week and performs at school-wide functions.

Theatre I (*Grades 9-12*)

Theatre I is designed to familiarize students with the basic elements of theatre and performance. The class uses improvisation, acting exercises, and scene work to enhance their creativity, as well as their critical thinking, focus, memorization, and problem-solving skills. These skills are utilized in performances throughout the year. Theatre I students experience how to work as an ensemble on stage and off, while developing listening skills, verbal expression, self-awareness and self-confidence. Theatre I class provides a safe environment to discover theatre and one's personal artistic expression. Students in theatre classes are strongly encouraged to participate in on-campus theatrical productions.

Theatre II (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Theatre I)

Theatre II is held in conjunction with Theatre I and students in the class continue to build skills learned in Theatre 1 through improvisation, theatre games and scene work. Students work at an intermediate level and are held to higher standards in all assignments and activities. They are

expected to be class leaders and in addition to acting, have an opportunity to direct scenes, monologues and/or one-acts. Theatre II students' acting and/or directing skills are showcased in performances throughout the year. Students in theatre classes are strongly encouraged to participate in on-campus theatrical productions.

Theatre III (*Grades 11 and 12*)

(Prerequisites: Theatre I and Theatre II)

Theatre III is designed for those students that have added to their experience by participating in performances outside of the classroom. In this class, students build on the skills taught in Theatre I & II. They study both contemporary and classical plays and playwrights through research projects and more in-depth performance selections. They delve into the cultural history of different time periods, as well as the social and political aspects of theatre and plays. Students are challenged to reach higher artistic standards in their own work. Theatre III students are expected to be leaders in the classroom and are encouraged to participate in productions on campus. Theatre III students' acting & directing skills are showcased in performances throughout the year. Students in theatre classes are strongly encouraged to participate in on-campus theatrical productions.

Advanced Acting Honors (*Grade 12*)

(Prerequisite: Theatre I, II, and III, and teacher recommendation.)

This is a year-long course for students ready for an advanced focus on acting and performance preparation. Students are expected to build upon skills acquired in previous theatre classes and productions held on campus. This is a studio performance course that will focus primarily on acting and theatrical analysis, with students crafting their own performance piece through research and rehearsal. Course focus will include preparing for audition, critical breakdown of scenes and plays through both the character's and the audience's point of view, rehearsal methodology and protocol, and production preparation. Advanced Acting Honors students' work is showcased in performances throughout the year. Students in theatre classes are strongly encouraged to participate in on-campus theatrical productions.

Film as Literature (*Grades 11 and 12*)

This is an elective course designed to show students that movies, like literature, can be "read." By viewing classic and modern films, students will develop an approach to the medium that is similar to their study of literary texts: they will learn to recognize, identify, and evaluate familiar narrative elements including plot structure, theme, characterization, point of view, and symbolism. As students examine cinematic works in a different, thoughtful manner, they will also develop a knowledge of and appreciation (and possible application) for the many facets of filmmaking. This course will also familiarize students with cinematic history, genres, terminology, and techniques as well as encourage critical analysis of this unique storytelling form.

Arts Diploma Independent Study (*Grades 11-12*)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and mentor approval

The Independent Study block is designed specifically for students who have an abundant commitment to the Arts on and off campus. The goals are to provide students with time for pursuing those activities over and above those required for class but that are necessary for the completion of arts diploma requirements. Under the supervision of the teacher, students will be expected to participate in setting goals and timelines as well as meeting deadlines. Each student will have regular one-on-one meetings with the teacher to discuss progress, meeting goals, and planning future work.

Physical and Health Education

Physical and Health Education 9 *(required for all Grade 9 students)*

The physical and health education program is designed to introduce students to a variety of physical activities with the goal of both mental and physical improvement. Students will learn to work together in order to accomplish a common goal within the field of athletics. The overall objective of the program is to promote a healthy lifestyle and accommodate the development and growth of our students. Teamwork and good sportsmanship are a large part of our program. Fitness, movement, and health serve as the cornerstones for the physical education and health program.

Physical and Health Education 10 *(required for all Grade 10 students)*

The physical and health education program is designed to introduce students to a variety of physical activities with the goal of both mental and physical improvement. Students will learn to work together in order to accomplish a common goal within the field of athletics. The overall objective of the program is to promote a healthy lifestyle and accommodate the development and growth of our students. Teamwork and good sportsmanship are a large part of our program. Fitness, movement, and health serve as the cornerstones for the physical education and health program.

Independent Physical and Health Education *(Grades 9 and 10)*

(Prerequisite: Approval by the Dean of Curriculum & Instruction)

This course is available for elite athletes who train off campus and can document a minimum of four hours per week with their coach or trainer. Students should see the Dean of Curriculum and Instruction for the application.

Study Hall

Athletic Study Hall *(Grades 9 and 10)*

(Prerequisite: Commitment to year-round participation on school sports teams and training programs)

Study hall is a non-instructional, supervised learning block within the schedule where students are expected to complete tasks relating to their other courses of study. Students may only sign up for one study hall block in each eligible year.

Study Hall *(up to one per year for Grades 11 & 12)*

Study hall is a non-instructional, supervised learning block within the schedule where students are expected to complete tasks relating to their other courses of study. Students may only sign up for one study hall block in each eligible year.