



Curriculum Guide

2026 - 2027

Middle School Required Courses of Study and Course Options

Middle School Course Requirements			
Rolling Hills Prep Requirements		Rolling Hills Prep with Learning Support Requirements	
Years of Study	Subject	Years of Study	Subject
3	English	3	English
3	World Languages	3	Learning Support
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 Languages OR Learning Support	Spanish 6 ASL 6	Spanish 7 ASL 7	Spanish 8 or Spanish I ASL 8
	Learning Support	Learning Support	Learning Support
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 7	Math 8 Integrated Math 1
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, Acoustic 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 each earn 10 credits.

Upper School Graduation Requirements					
Rolling Hills Prep Diploma Requirements		Rolling Hills Prep with Learning Support Requirements		REACH Program Diploma Requirements	
Credits	Subject	Credits	Subject	Credits	Subject
40	English	40	English	30	Language Lab
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	Foundations of Math
30	Science**	20	Science**	20	Foundations of 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 and Performing 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	Electives	20	Electives	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.

**Must include a minimum of one Life Science Lab (LSL) course and one Physical Science Lab (PSL) course for graduation.

*** Students are recommended to take three years of a world language to prepare for college/university or up to a level three language. Note that some colleges and universities may not accept American Sign Language to fulfill world language requirements.

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 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 academic 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 Exploration, Arts, and Global Studies & World Languages programs is available through the Upper School Division Head.

Rolling Hills Prep Upper School Courses

Note: Renaissance classes may be recommended for students who are in our Learning Support Program. In these classes, teaching and pedagogy are customized to meet the varying needs of students.

Subject	Grade Level			
	9th	10th	11th	12th
English	<p>English 1</p> <p>English 1 (Renaissance)</p> <p>Multilingual Learner</p>	<p>English 2</p> <p>AP Seminar*</p> <p>English 2 (Renaissance)</p> <p>Multilingual Learner</p>	<p>English 3</p> <p>AP English Literature*</p> <p>English 3 (Renaissance)</p> <p>Multilingual Learner</p>	<p>English 4</p> <p>AP English Language and Composition*</p> <p>English 4 (Renaissance)</p> <p>Multilingual Learner</p>
World Languages	<p>Spanish 1, Spanish 2 and Honors Spanish 2, Spanish 3, and Honors Spanish 3, Spanish 4 and Honors Spanish 4 Spanish 1 (Renaissance) and Spanish 2 (Renaissance) American Sign Language 1, American Sign Language 2, American Sign Language 3 Mandarin 1</p>			
History and Social Sciences	<p>World History</p> <p>World History (Renaissance)</p>	<p>AP European History/ AP Human Geography* (These AP courses are offered alternate years)</p>	<p>US History</p> <p>AP US History*</p> <p>AP European History/ AP Human Geography*</p> <p>Ethnic Studies</p>	<p>Government and Economics</p> <p>Honors Government and Economics</p> <p>AP European History/ AP Human Geography*</p> <p>AP Psychology*</p> <p>Ethnic Studies</p>
Sciences	<p>Conceptual Physics (PSL)</p> <p>Honors Conceptual Physics (PSL)</p>	<p>Chemistry (PSL)</p> <p>Honors Chemistry (PSL)</p> <p>Chemistry</p>	<p>Biology (LSL)</p> <p>Honors Biology (LSL)</p> <p>Biology (LSL) (Renaissance)</p>	<p>AP Biology (LSL)*</p> <p>AP Environmental Science*</p> <p>AP Chemistry</p>

	<p>Intro to Zoology (LSL)</p> <p>Intro to Engineering Design</p> <p>Robotics</p> <p>AP Computer Science: Principles*</p>	<p>(Renaissance) (PSL)</p> <p>Intro to Zoology (LSL)</p> <p>Intro to Engineering Design</p> <p>Robotics</p> <p>AP Computer Science: Principles*</p>	<p>Intro to Zoology (LSL)</p> <p>Conceptual Physics (PSL)</p> <p>Honors Conceptual Physics (PSL)</p> <p>AP Chemistry (PSL)</p> <p>AP Computer Science: Principles*</p> <p>Intro to Engineering Design</p> <p>Robotics</p>	<p>(PSL)*</p> <p>AP Computer* Science: Principles</p> <p>Environmental Science</p> <p>Intro to Zoology (LSL)</p> <p>Intro to Engineering Design</p> <p>Robotics</p> <p>Conceptual Physics (PSL)</p> <p>Honors Conceptual Physics (PSL)</p> <p>Biology (LSL)</p> <p>Biology (Renaissance) (LSL)</p> <p>Honors Biology (LSL)</p> <p>Chemistry (PSL)</p> <p>Honors Chemistry (PSL)</p> <p>Chemistry (Renaissance) (PSL)</p>
Mathematics	<p>Integrated Math 1</p> <p>Integrated Math 2, Algebra 2,</p> <p>Honors Precalculus,</p> <p>Intro to Data Science, Honors/AP Calculus*,</p> <p>Introduction to Computer Science, AP Computer Science A*</p>			

Visual & Performing Arts	<p style="text-align: center;">Visual Arts: Drawing and Painting 1, Drawing and Painting 2, Studio Art, Mixed Media, Photography 1, Photography 2, Design for Publications 1/2/3/4, Graphic Design, AP Drawing*, Performing Arts: Applied Music Lab 1/2/3/4 Theatre 1/2/3, Advanced Acting Honors, Film Studies 1, Film Studies 2, Voice 1/2/3/4 Specialized Diploma: Arts Diploma Independent Study</p>		
Physical and Health Education	Physical and Health Ed 9th Fall Sport Spring Sport	Physical and Health Ed 10th Fall Sport Spring Sport	Fall Sport Spring Sport
Additional Non-Credit Options	Learning Support	Learning Support	Learning Support Study Hall** Free Block (Semester 2 of 12th grade only)***
Additional Non-Credit Enrichment Activities	Choir, Acoustic Band, Garage Band, Intro to Woodworking and Metalworking, 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 apply for one Free Block in the second semester.

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 as well as summer work. Course offerings are dependent on student requests/placement, enrollment, and staffing; not all courses listed here are guaranteed to run in the 2026-2027 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; next offered in 2027-28*)

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*)

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 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 the 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 1 (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 1 (Grade 9)

Renaissance English 1 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 2 (Grade 10)

Students of English 2 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 2 (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.

English 2 | AP Seminar (Grade 10) **NEW!!!**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

In this AP course, students explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues through multiple perspectives. They will analyze a variety of texts, including articles, research studies, and literature. They may also analyze other media such as speeches, broadcasts, artistic works, and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to develop critical thinking, analytic writing, collaboration, and academic research skills that prepare students for advanced courses in high school and beyond. (*Students who take an AP course are required to take the official AP exam in May of that school year.*)

English 3 (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. Students also reinforce grammar, mechanics, and revision strategies.

Renaissance English 3 (Grade 11)

Renaissance English 3 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; Grade 12 upon completion of AP Lit)

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 may 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 4 (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 4 (Grade 12)

Renaissance English 4 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; Grade 11 when schedule conflicts with AP Lit)

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 1, 2, 3, 4 (Grades 9-12)

In Language Lab, 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 addition, 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 are deepened and developed upon by individual student needs.

Multilingual Learner (*Grades 9-12*)

This course is our beginning level academic English class for English Language Learners. This is a multi-skills course designed to review and teach English grammar, expand students' basic and academic vocabulary through reading academic texts and literary works (including graphic novels), build students' writing skills and experience with writing styles and conventions of academic English, promote language fluency and comprehension, and increase student confidence when speaking in English. This course uses a communicative approach and requires students to actively use the language on a daily basis.

Mathematics

Integrated Math 1 (*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.

Integrated Math 2 (*Grades 9-11*)

Prerequisite: Integrated Math 1 or equivalent

Integrated Math 2 is the second of three required years of college-preparatory mathematics. Topics include: Probability, Quadratic Functions and Equations, Complex Numbers and Rational Exponents, Similarity, Right Triangle Trigonometry, and Solid and Coordinate Geometry.

Algebra 2 (*Grades 9-12*)

Prerequisite: Geometry

Algebra 2 provides a logical continuation of Algebra 1. 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 Precalculus (*Grades 11-12*)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

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 2 as a prerequisite.

Honors / AP Calculus AB (Grades 11-12)

(Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus and teacher recommendation)

Honors/ AP 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 physical science 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 and teacher recommendation)

The Honors Conceptual Physics course is a physical science lab course that 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. This physical science lab 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 physical science lab-based 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 is a physical science lab course that covers the same breadth of curriculum topics as the general chemistry physical science lab 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 physical science lab 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 life science lab 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 life science lab 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*)

(Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and successful completion of a life science lab course)

AP Biology is a rigorous, college-level laboratory life science course that explores the core concepts and processes that govern living systems. Students investigate topics such as cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution, energy and metabolism, communication and regulation, and ecological interactions. The course emphasizes scientific reasoning and inquiry through hands-on labs, data analysis, modeling, and application of biological principles to real-world phenomena. Students develop skills in experimental design, interpreting graphs and data, and communicating scientific explanations in preparation for the AP Exam and future STEM coursework. *(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)

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary science lab course that 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, and Teacher Recommendation)

AP Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary science lab course that 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; this is an elective course for credit, but it does not count towards science requirements for graduation.

Introduction to Engineering Design (Grades 9-12)

(Pre-requisite: Laptop that can run Autodesk Fusion. Please note that a Chromebook is not powerful enough for Autodesk Fusion and that students will be given a license for the software - do not purchase one.)

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.

Zoology (Grades 9-12)

This life science lab 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. This course can be taken in place of Biology but is not recommended for those interested in pursuing the AP Biology course.

World Languages

American Sign Language 1 (*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 2 (*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.

American Sign Language 3 (*Grades 11-12*)

In ASL 3, students expand their knowledge and ability to communicate with the American Deaf Community with goals of building fluency. Students develop their expressive and receptive skills by utilizing role playing situations taken from everyday life of Deaf individuals. Students learn to recognize and correctly express spatial relationships, facial expressions, body shifting and morphemes. Students gain familiarity with Deaf culture, including history, storytelling, poetry, art, and literature.

Mandarin 1 (*Grades 9-12*)

This course provides an introduction to one of the world’s most widely-spoken languages. Students learn and practice the basics of verbal communication, intonation, and simple calligraphy as they learn vocabulary and study essential Chinese characters. They also gain appreciation of Chinese art and culture.

Spanish 1 (*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 1 (*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 2 (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish 1)

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 2 (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish I)

Students in Renaissance Spanish 2 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 2 (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisites: Spanish I and teacher recommendation)

Spanish II Honors 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 3 (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish 2)

This course allows students to utilize and expand upon the skills and vocabulary learned in Spanish 1 and 2 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 3 (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisites: Spanish 2 and teacher recommendation)

Spanish 3 Honors students 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 4 (*Grades 9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish 3)

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 4 (*9-12*)

(Prerequisite: Spanish 3 and teacher recommendation)

Spanish 4 Honors students 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 1 (*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 2 (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting 1 or Mixed Media)

A continuation of Drawing and Painting 1, 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 1 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.

Photography 1 (*Grades 9-12*)

Photography 1 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 photographers. Project based assignments will introduce students to different styles of photography such as landscape, portraiture, street, architecture and documentary. Students will learn about 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 2 (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Photography 1)

Photography 2 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 1, 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. Students will explore 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 1, 2, and 3 (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Photo 1 or Graphic Design as well as teacher recommendation)

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 individual 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*)

Enrollment limited to 10 students, with priority to upper grades

Students will learn foundational digital art techniques through the study of graphic design, typography, and formal image based principles. 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 2 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 and teacher recommendation)

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.)*

Introduction to Woodworking and Metalworking (Grades 9-12)

(Non-credit elective)

This hands-on course introduces students to the fundamentals of design and fabrication through woodworking, metalworking, and digital tools. Students will gain practical experience using hand tools, power tools, and basic machinery to build functional and creative projects. Emphasis is placed on safety, precision, craftsmanship, and problem-solving. Throughout the course, students explore a wide range of techniques – from measuring and layout to cutting, shaping, fastening, finishing, and 3D modeling. Projects increase in complexity as students develop confidence and skill, culminating in a capstone project that integrates traditional and modern fabrication methods. No prior experience is required.

Applied Music Lab 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Grades 9-12)

(Prerequisites: Play an instrument, skill with a Digital Audio Workstation, and/or read sheet music.)

Applied Music Lab is designed to enrich high school students' musical performance experience through composition and performance. The focus of the class is largely based on students' own interests. Music theory and ear training are studied along with music history and global music styles. Students learn to compose in different styles, produce concerts, and develop musical skills. 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 1, 2, 3, and 4 (*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 support 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 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 music.. Choir performs at school events and allows students the opportunity to join the CAIS Honor Choir held in February.

Garage Band (*Grades 7-12*)

(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 functions.

Theatre 1 (*Grades 9-12*)

Theatre 1 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 1 students experience how to work as an ensemble on stage and off, while developing listening skills, verbal expression, self-awareness and self-confidence. Theatre 1 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 2 (*Grades 10-12*)

(Prerequisite: Theatre 1)

Theatre 2 is held in conjunction with Theatre 1 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 2 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 3 (*Grades 11 and 12*)

(*Prerequisites: Theatre 1 and Theatre 2*)

Theatre 3 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 1 and 2. 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 3 students are expected to be leaders in the classroom and are encouraged to participate in productions on campus. Theatre 3 students' acting and 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 1, 2, and 3 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 Studies 1 (*Grades 9-12*)

Film Studies is an introduction to the study of film history and its evolution. In the first semester students will have weekly film screenings to become familiar with the impact of film across the world and develop an understanding of the basic terminology and elements of filmmaking. Students will have conversations and compare and contrast films in pieces, looking at imagery, the use of symbolism, and the effect of realism, heroism, and fantasy in motion pictures. In the second semester, we will move into the basics of how to make a film, covering the screenplay, directors, designers, crew, technicians and actors. We will continue to watch documentaries and student-made films. Students will conceptualize their own short film, and we will produce and edit them for screening.

Film Studies 2 (*Grades 10-12*) **NEW!!!**

(*Prerequisite: Film Studies 1 and teacher recommendation*)

Film Studies 2 is a more in-depth study of specific film forms, particularly documentary forms, and their history. We will look at some major themes in documentary work across forms and genres. Some narrative exploration will also be included, for example, the situation comedy and its story-telling value. Students will choose their final film format and produce it for all-school viewing. Students must have access to iMovie, CapCut, or other video editing software on their phone or other device.

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.

Upper School Sports (Fall, Spring)

Participation in a complete season of a fall and a spring sport can fulfill the requirement for Physical and Health Education for ninth and tenth grade students.

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

(Prerequisite: Approval by Upper School Division Head)

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 Upper School Division Head 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.

