



PA Distance  
Learning  
CHARTER SCHOOL

## **High School Course Catalog**

## 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

High school students are expected to attend live-learning sessions as listed on his/her online school calendar. There are daily lessons in all high school courses to complete every school calendar day. Pennsylvania public school regulations require every high school student to spend a minimum of 5.5 hours completing school work each day, which equates to spending a minimum of 45 minutes each class.

### High School English Courses

#### **English Language Arts IA & IB**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 English

Curriculum Resources: *Tuesdays with Morrie, Acellus*

In English I, a two-semester, freshman level course, students explore the essential concepts and skills of English Language Arts such as characterization and point of view, style and voice, theme and symbol, and author's purpose. Students will explore these concepts and skills through fiction and non-fiction text as well as in narrative, expository, and persuasive writing. Students will compare how these elements of literature manifest in a variety of genres, including the novel, short story, poem, play and others. Furthermore, students will write in a variety of school and real world genres over the course of the year. Additionally, students will utilize grammatical concepts to deepen their understanding of a text as well as improve written and oral communication.

#### **English Language Arts IIA & IIB (Keystone Course)**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 English

Curriculum Resources: *Fahrenheit 451, Acellus*

English II is a two-semester, sophomore level course. The course focuses on helping students develop both reading and writing skills with an added emphasis on literary terms and concepts. Writing projects are creative, persuasive, and research based. Students will read a variety of literature including a novel, short stories, poems, and dramas. Finally, students will improve their reading and writing skills while analyzing literature and practicing grammatical concepts.

#### **English Language Arts IIIA & IIIB**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 English

Curriculum Resources: *The Crucible, Acellus*

English III is typically suggested for junior level students. In this course, students are exposed to the literary eras of America and the ideas that shaped the writing during those times. Beginning with precolonial literature and culminating with the Modernist Movement, students will analyze and interpret various genres, themes and literary elements. Students will also be exposed to a variety of grammar lessons and writing projects that are informative, reflective, creative and researched based. During the second half of the course, students will complete a Career Project, required for graduation, which entails job shadowing, researching and exploring post-secondary options, and formally presenting their findings.

#### **English Language Arts IVA & IVB**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 English

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

English IV, a senior level course, is a yearlong course that is split between the first and second semester. With an emphasis on reading and analyzing British Literature, English IVA and IVB provide content, activities, and resources to help students excel in reading, writing, and analyzing literature. Highly focused writing activities support students' writing development and literary analysis, while the emphasis on grammar helps them master language skills. Written activities will include writing poetry, writing essays that examine literature, and writing descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and informative pieces based on skills necessary for success in post-secondary education and the workplace.

### **Honors Cultural and Literary Studies: Geography and World Literature A & B (Keystone Course)**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English and 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resources: *Holt Online: Literature Grade 10, The House on Mango Street, Into Thin Air*

Suggested for 10th grade level students, this course is co-taught with an English and Social Studies teacher. The course studies geographic, cultural and literary connections in order to facilitate students gaining greater understanding of the world around them. Students will explore different geographic locations connected to various pieces of world literature set in a variety of time periods. The connection between literature and geography allows the student to develop literary analysis skills, while also making connections to the physical and human geography of each region.

### **Honors English Language Arts IA & IB**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English

Curriculum Resources: *Holt Online: Literature Grade 9, The Hunger Games, Night Honors*

Honors English I is a two-semester, freshman level course dedicated to fostering and encouraging students' higher-level thinking abilities. This course allows students to gain a thorough introductory experience with the essential concepts and skills of English Language Arts such as characterization and point of view, style and voice, theme and Symbol, and author's purpose, paying special attention to how each element of literature manifests across genres (e.g. in film vs a novel; in a short story vs. a nonfiction article). Furthermore, students will write in a variety of genres and for a variety of purposes throughout the year. Additionally, students will utilize grammatical concepts to deepen their understanding of a text as well as improve written and oral communication.

### **Honors English Language Arts II A & B (Keystone Course)**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English

Curriculum Resources: *Holt Online: Literature Grade 10, Fahrenheit 451*

Honors English Language Arts II focuses on helping students develop skills in analyzing literature and writing. The course has an emphasis on discussion and high level thinking skills. In this course, students will read a variety of literature including novel, short stories, poems, and dramas. Students will demonstrate mastery of literature skills through creative projects, presentations, and writing in different genres. Writing projects are creative, persuasive and research based. An independent literature exploration project is required in the second semester.

### **Honors English Language Arts III A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English

Curriculum Resources: *Holt Online: Literature Grade 11, The Great Gatsby*

This is a two-semester course suggested for junior level students. In this course, students are exposed to the literary eras of America and the ideas that shaped the writing during those times. Beginning with precolonial literature and culminating with contemporary literature, students will analyze and interpret various genres, themes and literary elements. Students will also be exposed to a variety of writing projects that are informative, reflective, creative and researched based. During the second half of this course, students will complete a Career Project, required for graduation, which entails job shadowing and exploring post-secondary options, and formally presenting their findings.

### **Honors English Language Arts IV A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English

Curriculum Resources: *Holt Online: Literature Grade 12, Animal Farm by George Orwell*

With an emphasis on reading and analyzing British literature, the senior level Honors English IVA and IVB provide advanced content, activities, and resources to help today's students prepare to excel at the college level. Highly-focused writing activities and critical thinking support students' writing development, while the emphasis on writing conventions helps them solidify superior language skills. Advanced reading and writing skills will be the focus of this challenging course. Written activities will include writing poetry, writing essays that analyze and examine literature, and writing descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and informative pieces based on skills necessary for success in post-secondary education and the workplace. In the first half of the course, students will read, analyze and evaluate literature from The Anglo-Saxon era, The Middle Ages and The Renaissance. In the second half of the course, students will read, analyze and examine literature from The Restoration, The

Romantic Period, The Victorian Period, and the Modern Era. English Language Arts Honors IV is a highly motivated and discussion based class that will help them build the skills necessary to advance English Language and Literature.

### **AP English Literature and Composition A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

AP Literature is a college-level course available to juniors and seniors (recommended for seniors) that ultimately prepares the student for the Advanced Placement exam and college credit. Students will be required to take the AP Literature exam as a part of this course. Students will study and analyze classic and contemporary works of literature in all genres: plays, short stories, poetry, essays, and novels. An emphasis is placed on critical thinking skills necessary for understanding challenging material and composition skills necessary to communicate their understanding effectively. Students will learn to apply critical literary terms as tools for learning, understanding, and communication. Learning activities include close reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Additionally, junior level students will complete a Career Project that will require research and exploring post-secondary options.

### **AP English Language and Composition A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

AP Language is a college-level course available to juniors and seniors (recommended for juniors) that ultimately prepares the student for the Advanced Placement exam and college credit. Students will be required to take the AP Language and Composition exam as a part of this course. Students will primarily study and analyze a variety of prose writing, especially nonfictional pieces. Students' reading and writing skills will make them aware of a writer's purpose and the reader's expectations. The course also focuses on using outside sources to make a reliable and concrete argument about a text. Learning activities include close reading passages, discussions, essays and exams. Additionally, junior level students will complete a Career Project that will require research and exploring post-secondary options.

### **General English**

Course length: Semester

Credit: 0.5 English

Curriculum Resources: *Fences* by August Wilson, *Holt Online: Literature Grade 10*

General English is a semester course suggested for any ninth through twelfth students who want another option to meet English credits. It is suggested that students take General English after they have already taken English I. This course cannot replace the required English courses for the Keystone Exam or the Career Project. The General English course explores a variety of language and literature skills ranging from reading skills to analyzing Shakespeare. Students will improve their literary skills when reading *Fences* by August Wilson, *The Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare, and various nonfiction pieces. Students will also work to improve writing skills as go through the units. Taking this class is beneficial to students looking to improve a wide range of English Language Arts skills.

### **Communications**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 English

Communications is an English course that explores business and technical writing, along with business and professional speaking. Communicating effectively is necessary in all fields of work and in all environments. The coursework focuses on understanding the rhetorical situation, the persuasive technique process, technical writing, such as letters and resumes, the interview process, and formal speeches. Students will be required to speak in class both formally and informally. Students will prepare and present three formal speeches, and they will practice formal speaking skills when participating in a mock interview. Students will work on their real world skills, as well as their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.

## High School Mathematics Courses

### **Math Strategies A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Math

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

Math Strategies is split in two semesters. Math Strategies A is designed to strengthen basic math skills. Topics include simple rational numbers, basic quantitative reasoning, basic statistics, and basic probability. Upon completion, students should be able to perform basic computations and solve relevant mathematical problems. Math Strategies B is designed to provide a solid foundation for Algebra I. Topics include solving equations, linear equations, systems of equations, graphing, basic inequalities, basic functions, and data analysis and probability. Upon completion, students should be able to solve multi-step mathematical problems using technology where appropriate.

### **Algebra IA & Algebra IB (Keystone Course)**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Math

Curriculum Resources: *Pearson Envision, Realize*

Algebra I is a year-long course split into two semesters. In Algebra IA, students will develop a foundational understanding of algebraic concepts that will help them to succeed in future mathematics courses. Aligned with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, topics in this course include: solving equations and inequalities, functions, and systems of linear equations and inequalities. In Algebra IB, students will continue developing a foundational understanding of key algebraic concepts needed for success in future mathematics courses. Topics in this semester include: exponents, polynomials, quadratic functions and equations, data analysis, probability, and exponential, radical, and rational functions. Algebra I allows students to develop skills and knowledge necessary for Geometry and Algebra II. Course assignments include: guided practice problems, quizzes, labs, exams, Keystone Exam preparation, and a final cumulative exam.

### **Geometry A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Math

Curriculum Resources: *Pearson Envision, Realize*

It is strongly suggested that students successfully complete Algebra I before taking Geometry. Geometry is a year-long course split into two semesters. In Geometry A, students will develop geometric skills aligned with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. Students will explore these skills through a variety of means, such as dynamic manipulatives, hands on constructions, online explorations and more! Topics to be studied include: basic tools of geometry, reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, relationships in triangles, and polygons and similarity. Geometry A includes a cumulative midterm exam. Geometry B will build upon skills acquired in Geometry A. Students will explore these skills through a variety of means, such as dynamic manipulatives, hands on constructions, online explorations and more! Subject matter to be studied includes: right triangles and trigonometry, transformations, area, surface area and volume, circles and probability. Geometry B includes a cumulative final.

### **Algebra II A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Math

Curriculum Resources: *Pearson Envision, Realize*

It is suggested that students successfully complete Algebra I before taking Algebra II. Algebra II is a year-long course split in two semesters. In Algebra II A, students will build upon the material learned in Algebra I, gaining a more in-depth understanding of algebraic concepts. Aligned with the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, these topics include: algebraic expressions, linear systems, quadratic functions, polynomials, radical functions and exponential and logarithmic functions. Different types of functions will be introduced, including quadratic, polynomial, exponential and logarithmic functions. Analysis will focus on the algebraic and graphical representations and characteristics of these functions. In Algebra II B Students will continue an in-depth study of different types of functions, including rational and periodic functions. Real-world applications of these concepts will be explored. Other topics include: sequences and series, conic sections, probability and statistics, matrices and trigonometric identities and equations.

### **Precalculus A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Math

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

It is suggested that students successfully complete Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry prior to taking Precalculus. This course is split into two semesters. In Precalculus A, students will develop a strong, in-depth mathematical foundation of functions that is necessary for upper-level mathematics. Students will review equations and graphs, as well as transformations of functions they have previously learned. Aligned to the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, topics include: polynomial functions, power functions, rational functions, exponential functions, logistic functions, logarithmic functions and trigonometric functions. Precalculus B takes a more analytical approach to other topics needed for upper-level mathematics. Students will continue to develop a strong foundation of mathematical concepts to prepare them for calculus. Real-world applications of these topics will be explored. Topics include: analytic trigonometry, vectors, parametric equations, and polar systems, matrices, conics and an introduction to calculus.

### **Consumer Math:**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Math

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

This junior and senior level course is appropriate for all students wanting to learn the math skills necessary for daily life. It is extremely applicable to many facets of independent living and finance. It begins with a review of the four basic mathematical operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division – while applying them to solve real-life problems and then addresses practical applications for math, such as wages, budgeting, taxes, money management, and interest and credit. Projects involving authentic, real-world activities are included that promote cross-curricular learning and higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills.

### **Practical Math**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Math

Practical Math will focus on applying mathematical concepts from Algebra, Geometry and Probability to real-world situations. Students will look into topics such as math in different career fields, making financial decisions based on mathematical analysis, computer skills, cryptography, logic, and constructing virtual escape rooms. Students will develop the math skills necessary for their lives after high school.

### **AP Calculus A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Math

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

This course is a two-part advanced placement course providing students with the curriculum required by the College Board. It is suggested that student successfully complete Precalculus before taking this course. Students completing this course will be able to take the AP Calculus AB exam, enabling them to earn college credit for taking this course while still in high school. Topics include: infinite and finite limits and continuity, differential calculus of algebraic functions, integral calculus of algebraic functions, geometric and physical applications of integration and the calculus of elementary transcendental functions. Success in the course requires advanced mathematics skills. The use of a graphing calculator is considered an integral part of this course. The Advanced Placement Examination is required of all students taking this course.

### **AP Statistics A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Math

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

AP Statistics gives students hands-on experience collecting, analyzing, graphing, and interpreting real-world data. They will learn to effectively design and analyze research studies by reviewing and evaluating real research examples taken from daily life. The next time they hear the results of a poll or study, they will know whether the results are valid. As the art of drawing conclusions from imperfect data and the science of real-world uncertainties, statistics plays an important role in many fields. The equivalent of an introductory college-level course, AP Statistics prepares students for the AP exam and for further study in science, sociology, medicine, engineering, political science, geography, and business. The Advanced Placement Examination is required of all students taking this course.

## High School Science Courses

### **Biology A & B (Keystone Course)**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Biology is the study of living organisms. Biology is learning what makes a hawk fly, how a caterpillar becomes a beautiful butterfly and studying ourselves in this changing world. There are new discoveries made every day in biology, so it is ever-changing and there is always something new to learn. In their first semester of Biology, students will study the scientific process, characteristics of living organisms, ecology, organic molecules, cell structure, and cellular metabolic processes. In Biology A, students will complete a variety of assignments, virtual investigations, as well as live experiments, unit quizzes, assessments and Keystone exam preparation. In Biology B, some of the amazing biological processes that the students will look into are why they have the eye color that they do, why the flowers in front of their homes have different colors on the same flower, and they will investigate why various insects have adapted to pesticides that used to eliminate them. Students will also study the process of cell division, Mendelian genetics, DNA and how it codes for protein synthesis, modern evolutionary theories.

### **Chemistry A & B and Chemistry Lab A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Science and

0.5 Science Lab credit

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Chemistry is full-year course split into two semesters. It is recommended that students take Chemistry after successfully completing Algebra I. Chemistry A introduces various types of matter. Topics include scientific measurements, matter, atoms, the periodic table, compounds, moles, nuclear chemistry, and chemical equations. Students will begin to make connections between chemistry and the world around them. Activities include virtual and hands-on experiments, guided and independent practice, projects, class discussions, quizzes and assessments. Chemistry B is the continuation of the study of matter. Students will apply skills from Chemistry A to life applications in this course. Topics include intermolecular forces, gases, solutions, acids and bases, electrochemistry, and organic molecules. Students will complete virtual laboratory exercises, hands on laboratory exercises, and will analyze results in a formal laboratory report. Students will have live class for Chemistry Lab, a virtual laboratory, guided and independent practice, class discussions, quizzes and assessments.

### **Physical Science A & B**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

Physical Science is split into two semesters, and is typically taken prior to Biology. Students can take Physical Science A without moving on to Physical Science B. In the first semester, students will study matter and its properties. Topics will include the following: the nature of science, matter, atoms, the Periodic Table, and chemical reactions, solutions, forces and motion. Students will be exploring concepts using virtual laboratory software. It is a great introduction to chemistry and the world we live in! In the second semester, students will explore how the universe behaves. Topics include the following: energy, light waves, electricity and magnetism. Students will explore concepts using virtual laboratory software. It is a great introduction to physics and working with basic equations!

### **Physics A & B**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Physics is a full-year course broken up into two semesters. It is recommended that students take Physics after they have completed Chemistry and Geometry. Physics A is designed for college-bound students. Topics include the following: Newton's laws of motion, forces and vectors, work and energy, momentum, vibration and waves, and the study of the characteristics of light. Physics B includes the following topics: light and reflection, refraction, interference and diffraction, electrical forces and fields, electrical energy and current, magnetism and the study of atomic and subatomic physics. In this

course, students will also apply many of the principles learned in geometry and algebra.

### **Environmental Science A & B**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Environmental Science is a course appropriate for learners of all levels and abilities, but is usually taken prior to Biology. Environmental Science is split between two semesters, and students can take one semester without taking the other. Environmental Science A is an introduction to the study the human impact on the environment. Topics studied include earth systems, structure and function of ecosystems, ecological succession, biological populations, agriculture, and human land usage. Environmental Science B is an introduction to the study of the human impact on the environment. Topics studied include the energy crisis, air pollution, water pollution, environmental risk, solid waste disposal, ozone depletion and climate change.

### **Earth Science A & B**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

Earth Science split between two semesters, and students can take Earth Science A without moving on to Earth Science B. It is recommended that students only take Earth Science after successfully completing Environmental Science, Physical Science or Biology, and it is offered to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who do not want to move on to Chemistry or Physics. In Earth Science A, students will explore space, history of Earth and Earth systems. Topics include the following: scientific processes and inquiry, earth and space, technology and space research programs, history of the Earth, Earth processes (such as plate tectonics, and how the Earth's features change over time) study of oceans, and atmosphere. In Earth Science B, students will explore weather and climate, and the human impact on Earth. Topics include the following: the uneven heating of the Earth, mechanics of weather, Earth's structure, climate change, and technology as it applies to monitoring the earth and human impact on the Earth.

### **Anatomy and Physiology A & B**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Pearson: Online Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology*

Anatomy and Physiology is split between two semesters, and it provides general study skills and a firm foundation for students preparing for an education in the medical field. Anatomical instruction is coupled with the investigation of key related terminology dealing with the "what, why and how" of human anatomy. Specifically, students will explore structures, functions and terms related to disease and the body systems. This first semester of Anatomy and Physiology includes the study of directional terms, the body in health and disease, the skeletal, muscular, integumentary, special senses urinary and nervous systems. The second semester includes the study of blood components, the cardiovascular, respiratory, excretory, digestive and the endocrine systems. Students will also study diagnostic procedures, pharmacology, psychiatry, and types of health care professionals are investigated as well. Students will participate in online lab activities, virtual dissections, live dissections and hands on activities in this course.

### **Honors Biology A & B (Keystone Course)**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Students are enriched in Honors Biology by learning beyond what is taught in a general Biology class. Students will participate in several activities to engage their critical thinking skills and challenge their minds with biological processes they may have never heard about. Students will use scientific inquiry to process new skills and learn biological concepts as a research biologist would in order to develop a strong scientific basis. Students will participate in hands-on activities such as virtual labs, live learning labs and activities designed specifically for the students of this class. This rigorous course moves at a quicker pace than the general Biology class. Students will complete a variety of assignments, virtual investigations, unit quizzes, assessments and Keystone Exam preparation. Near the end of the Honors Biology B course, students will be required to take the Pennsylvania Biology Keystone Exam.

### **AP Biology A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits 1.2 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

In AP Biology, students deepen their understanding of biological concepts by comprehensively learning of the four big ideas of AP Biology and all the properties they cover. Big Idea 1: Students will explore the process that evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. Big Idea 2: Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis. Big Idea 3: Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes. Big Idea 4: Biological systems interact and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. AP Biology is an equivalent to an introductory college level biology course. This course prepares students for the AP Biology Exam and for post-secondary study in health sciences. Students are required to take the AP Biology Exam if they are registered in this course.

### **AP Chemistry A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits 1.2 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

AP Chemistry builds students' understanding of the nature and reactivity of matter. After studying the structure of atoms, molecules, and ions, students move on to solve quantitative chemical problems and explore how molecular structure relates to chemical and physical properties. Students will examine the molecular composition of common substances and learn to predictably transform them through chemical reactions. The equivalent of an introductory college-level chemistry course, AP Chemistry prepares students for the AP Chemistry Exam and for further study in science, health sciences, or engineering. Completion of the AP Chemistry Exam is a requirement for this course. Students can expect to spend 10-13 hours per week working in this course.

### **AP Environmental Science A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Science

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

This is a college-level course that ultimately prepares the student for the AP Environmental Exam and college credit. The AP Environmental Science course is designed to provide students with the scientific theories, models, and techniques that will allow them to analyze local, regional and global environmental issues. A strong emphasis is placed on science, stewardship and sustainability. Students will utilize critical, creative, logical and reflective thinking to study and evaluate natural and human induced environmental problems. The number one goal of the course is to provide students with a solid scientific foundation that will allow them to make informed environmental decisions. Completion of the AP Environmental Science Exam is a requirement for this course.

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## **High School Social Studies Courses**

### **Mythology**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

Students interested in learning about mighty heroes, angry gods and goddesses, and cunning animals may find this course appealing. Mythology has been used since the first people gathered around the fire as a way to make sense of humankind and our world. This course focuses on the many myths and legends woven into cultures around the world. Starting with an

overview of mythology and the many kinds of folklore, students will journey with ancient heroes as they slay dragons and outwit the gods, follow fearless warrior women into battle and watch as clever animals outwit those stronger than themselves. Students will spend the later portion of the course focusing on the myths of Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece and the Norse people.

### **History of the Holocaust**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *The Sunflower*

Holocaust education focuses on exploring the “how” and “why” genocides such as the Holocaust are able to occur and continue to occur in our world. “Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night seven times cursed and seven times sealed.” These words, voiced by Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, provide a glimpse into the heart of this course. Students will be encouraged to wonder, question, and analyze as they investigate the origins of anti-Semitism and the rise of the Nazi party. Students will also examine the persecution of various targets of the Nazis and consider the aftermath the Holocaust has left on everyone involved in World War II. Many social studies disciplines, including world history, geography, American history, and civics will be touched, and high school students will gain an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice and indifference, and the potential for government-supported terror, while examining the impact of kindness and humanity in the worst of times: “For the dead and the living, we must bear witness.”

### **World History A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

World History is a full-year course that is split into two semesters. In World History A, students will approach the Renaissance to World War I from new perspectives, with a primary focus on the years 1450-1913. Through the use of documents, artifacts and the study of historical places, they will investigate the contributions of individuals and groups to world events. Students will also discover the impact of imperialism and nationalism, while analyzing the influences of continuity and change around the world. In World History B, students will approach historical world events ranging from World War I to the Modern Era. Additionally, students will explore various geographical locations and investigate their contributions to the modern world. Through the use of documents, artifacts and the study of historical places, they will investigate the contributions of individuals and groups to world events.

### **United States History A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.0 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Broken into two semesters, US History is a survey of historical, cultural, political, economic, and institutional factors and events that have shaped United States. The course takes a chronological approach with an emphasis on major themes throughout history that have impacted the development of our nation by using primary and secondary sources. During the first semester, students will explore topics including the end of the Western Frontier, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, and the New Deal. In the second semester, students will begin with World War II, the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement, and Globalization. Students will view both the positive and negative aspects of history to create a holistic picture of the development of the United States. Students in United States History will complete the Assessment of Civic Knowledge.

### **World Geography**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

Building on the five themes of geography, this course is designed to give students an overview of the distinctive physical, cultural, political, and economic characteristics of the regions of the world. The focus of the course is on spatial relationships between human societies and cultures, the natural environment, and historical changes that have shaped the contemporary world.

## **United States Government**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

U.S. Government is a Pennsylvania required course for graduation that examines the most essential concepts of American government and politics. Students will explore the founding principles and political ideologies our country is based upon, investigate how our government functions on national, state and local levels, and analyze landmark Supreme Court cases that have set the standard for governmental practices that affect our lives each and every day. Students take ownership of their civil liberties by learning about the importance of voting, voicing their opinions to local lawmakers and exploring how laws are created and debated. This course teaches students how to be responsible and active citizens in the world around them. Students will learn the knowledge and tools to understand their civil liberties and apply them so we can all understand the power that each of us hold as a citizen of the United States. Students in U.S. Government will complete the Assessment for Civic Knowledge.

## **Economics**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Economics is a suggested junior or senior level course, but can be taken by any high school student. Students will investigate the individual and societal use of resources to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the business cycle through exploring the concepts surrounding free enterprise. Through the examination of the laws of supply and demand, investment strategies, and personal finance, students will learn how local, state and national commerce affects the decisions they make as consumers. Students will also analyze the economic concepts and systems of international trade and global economics.

## **Sociology**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

In Sociology, students will become investigators of the cultural world by studying various aspects of society. Studying sociology will also allow students to analyze the impact of socioeconomic status on an individual's life chances in American society. By looking at social trends, cultural changes, human development, and social institutions, students will acquire a stronger understanding of the collective behavior of society and the influences society has on the perception we have of ourselves and others.

## **Psychology**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

In this introductory course, students will acquire an understanding of and appreciation for the social and biological aspects of human behavior and interaction. The course will introduce students to basic concepts, problems, and research methods in the science of psychology, including the human life span, the workings of the mind and body, personality and cognitive processes. By examining concepts such as behavior, mental processes, development, gender, and social psychology, students will have a better understanding of themselves and those around them.

## **Social Changes**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

Social Changes will explore and analysis a variety of societal issues that appear in our communities. Social issues affect everyone because they are issues which revolve around governmental policy and enforcement of laws on the civilian population. These laws and policies can have any number of significant outcomes. They can protect minorities and women from discrimination, regulate drug use, give aid to the poor, provide guidelines for education, and much more. Social issues are often controversial and debated, so having the ability to form an educated opinion on them is an important part of your citizenship.

### **Honors World History A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

In Honors World History, students will examine culture and politics of the regions around the world stemming from the Renaissance Era to World War I to the Modern Era. Through the use of documents, artifacts and the study of historical places, students will investigate the contributions of individuals and groups to world events. The course is designed for students who have been very successful in previous history and English courses, as the course requires intensive reading, writing, and research using primary and secondary sources.

### **Honors United States History A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Honors United States History is more rigorous than a traditional United States History course. The course explores the history of the United States from the end of the Western Frontier to modern day. Students will examine how the culture, economics, geography, governance and civics, have changed over time. Students will study important individuals and groups from each major period. Specific social science skills such as map reading, evaluating cause/effect relationships, differentiating fact from opinion, and analysis of primary and secondary sources are included in the course content. Honors work challenges students to be more analytical and creative through advanced reading, extensive writing, expanded assignments, and real-world applications.

### **Honors Cultural and Literary Studies: Geography and World Literature A & B (Keystone Course)**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 English and 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resources: *Holt Online: Literature Grade 10, The House on Mango Street, Into Thin Air*

Suggested for 10th grade level students, this course is co-taught with an English and Social Studies teacher. The course studies geographic, cultural and literary connections in order to facilitate students gaining greater understanding of the world around them. Students will explore different geographic locations connected to various pieces of world literature set in a variety of time periods. The connection between literature and geography allows the student to develop literary analysis skills, while also making connections to the physical and human geography of each region.

### **AP European History A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

AP European History focuses on developing students' understanding of European history from approximately 1450 to the present. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement European History exam as a part of this course. The course has students investigate the content of European history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides five themes (interaction of Europe and the world; poverty and prosperity; objective knowledge and subjective visions; states and other institutions of power; and individual and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

### **AP Psychology A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

This is a college-level course available to juniors and seniors that ultimately prepares the student for the Advanced Placement exam and college credit. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Psychology exam as a part of this course. The course introduces students to systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students will also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students will get the chance to assess some of the differing approaches adopted by psychologists, including biological, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural perspectives. Students will also learn the basic skills of psychology research and develop critical thinking skills.

### **AP United States History A & B**

Course Length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

The course is designed for students who have been very successful in previous history and English courses, as the course requires intensive reading, writing, and research using primary and secondary sources. Students are required to take the AP US History exam as a part of this course. The AP US History course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of U.S. history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes (American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

### **AP World History A & B**

Course Length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.2 Social Studies

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

The course is designed to provide students with a college-level learning experience. Students are required to take the AP World History exam as a part of this course. Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments and processes in four historical periods from approximately 1200 C.E. to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices and methods employed by historians. The course provides themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places.

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## **High School Fine Arts Courses**

### **Art History: Renaissance to Modern Art**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Fine Arts

This course is geared towards students who are interested in learning about the history of art, famous artists, and the art making techniques associated with them. Students will investigate major art movements and artists through the use of class discussion, hands-on projects, videos and quizzes. A few of the notable units of the course include: Pop Art, Cubism, Impressionism, Dada and Modern Art. This class covers a broad spectrum of Art History and requires daily completion of work in order to be successful. Art supplies are provided to complete all assigned projects.

### **Drawing and Painting**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Fine Arts

This course is based on the benchmark PA Art Standards for high school. In Drawing and Painting, each unit will give students the opportunity to learn a new fine art medium. Units include the following: pencils, tempera paints, watercolor, charcoal and pen and ink. Throughout each unit, students will practice using a medium, analyze artworks and share their experiences through class discussion. Students will present work via scanning, photos, or live learning session webcam. Each unit's final project will be based around criteria that best suits that medium. The conclusion to each unit will be a reflective artist statement based on what the student learned and gained from the unit. Students will be required to independently work on projects throughout the course. Projects, videos, and discussion, as well as weekly live learning sessions, will support the subject matter. This class is hands-on and requires students to work on their projects daily in order to be successful. Art supplies are provided to complete all assigned projects.

### **3D Design and Mixed Media**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Fine Arts

This course is based on the benchmark PA Art Standards for high school. In 3D Design and Mixed Media, each unit will focus on a different 3D or multimedia art form. Units include, but are not limited to the following: clay, paper sculpture, origami wire sculpture and printmaking. Throughout each unit, students will practice using a medium, analyze and share their experiences through class discussion. Students will present work via scanning, photos and/or live learning session webcam. Each unit's final project will be based around criteria that best suits that medium. The conclusion to each unit will be a reflective artist statement based on what the student learned and gained from the unit. Students will be required to independently work on projects throughout the course. Projects, videos and discussion as well as weekly live learning sessions will support the subject matter. This class is hands-on and requires students to work on their projects daily in order to be successful. Art supplies are provided to complete all assigned projects.

### **2-D Animation**

Course length:

Semester Credits: 0.5

Fine Arts

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

In this course, students will build upon their prior knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design to study and create two-dimensional animations. This course is geared towards students who are interested in learning about animation or are considering animation as a field of study in post-secondary education. Each unit will focus on different styles of animation and the history behind the development of those styles. Lessons include, but are not limited to: hand drawn animation, computer animation, human anatomy and form, animated motion, and character animation. This course covers a broad spectrum of information and requires students to complete work daily in order to be successful. Software and art supplies will be provided to complete all assigned projects.

### **Digital Photography**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Fine Arts

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

During this course, students will build upon their prior knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design to compose beautiful photographs. Students will also have the chance to expand their knowledge of photography as an art medium by learning about aperture, shutter speed, lighting, and composition. Not only will students follow photography through its history, but they will also gain a basic understanding of camera functions, techniques, and what it takes to shoot quality portraits, close-ups, action shots, and landscapes. Software and art supplies needed to complete assignments will be provided.

### **Music Appreciation**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Fine Arts

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

This class highlights the greatest musical works and composers of each time period from the Middle Ages to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Students will explore the many parts of major compositions during each major period of music history. As students will have daily reading and listening activities, this class will require distraction-free listening and active student participation. Students will also have opportunities from time to time to create and critique music in class. Course grades are based on participation, assignments, quizzes and assessments.

### **Electronic Music**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Fine Arts

Electronic music is focused on the craft of creating. Students will gain the fundamental skills necessary to interact with a digital audio workstation, the mainstay of modern music industry, called BandLab. Students will learn about music analysis, editing, publishing and application of skills to student created projects. This class requires active student participation, critical thinking, collaboration, reading and research. Course grades are based on participation, assignments, quizzes, projects and assessments.

### **Percussion I**

Course length: Semester

Credit: 0.5 Fine Arts

Percussion I is designed for both experienced musicians and those who want to learn more about percussion and playing drums. Students will learn percussion techniques, including the rudiments that are the fundamental building blocks to anything we create. Students should look forward to performing various excerpts alone and with others, as well as listening, evaluating, and discovering where our creativity leads us. Ideally, if you want to create, love music, and are willing to improve your skills on percussion, this is the class for you!

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## **High School World Languages Courses**

### **French IA & IB**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Extempore*

French I is a suggested freshman level course that is split between two semesters. French IA is an introductory course to French language and culture. The course focuses on basic themes such as greetings, family, activities, school and telling time. Students will learn to express themselves through speaking and writing, and will develop their reading and listening skills in the language, using the present tense. The course asks for some participation in group activities, both during live learning sessions, and while doing independent projects. Oral participation is also important to this course as the focus of the first level of any secondary language is oral communication. French IB is a continuation of French IA. Students review some of the vocabulary and language structures that they worked with in French IA, and expand their knowledge of vocabulary, structure and cultural context for language use. Students will also improve their speaking skills. Students will continue to work in the present tense, and be able to recognize the structure of the near future. They will continue to learn using a theme-based approach.

### **French IIA & IIB**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Extempore*

French II is a continuation of French I, so it is suggested that students successfully complete French I prior to taking this course. French II is split between two semesters. In French IIA, students will also continue to work on their writing, listening and speaking skills. Students will learn how to describe daily routine, interact with a salesperson, read recipes and describe their families. In French IIB, students will express themselves in oral and written language, and expanding on their reading, listening and speaking skills both within and outside of class. Students will learn how to use the past tense, talk about planning a party, going to the doctor, playing sports and childhood activities.

### **Honors French III A & IIB**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Extempore*

Honors French III is a year-long course that is split between two semesters. It is recommended that students successfully complete French II prior to taking this course. Honors French IIIA is an honors-level course designed for the motivated French student. The course develops students' grammar and vocabulary competency through stories and themes. Honors French IIIA continues to introduce the student to new grammar concepts, including the future and conditional tenses. This course provides a comprehensive study of the French language and culture at an advanced level.

### **Honors French IV A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 World Languages

It is recommended that students successfully complete Honors French III prior to taking this course. Honors French IV is offered as an independent study course and students must demonstrate proficiency of French at the intermediate level. This course provides a comprehensive study of the French language at an advanced level.

### **AP French: Semesters A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Middlebury Interactive*

The AP French Language and Culture course is a college level advanced language course in which students are directly prepared for the AP French Language and Culture test, which students are required to take as part of this course. It uses, as its foundation, the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive and presentational. The course is conducted almost exclusively in French and is based on the six themes required by the College Board: global challenges, science and technology, contemporary life, personal and public identities, families and communities and beauty and aesthetics.

### **Spanish IA & IB**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Extempore*

Intended as a freshman course, Spanish I is split between two semesters. In Spanish IA, students will be introduced to essential grammar, practical vocabulary, and develop cultural awareness necessary for foundational communication skills in the Spanish language. Students will begin to develop basic proficiency of the Spanish language through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include the Día de los Muertos, describing one and others, asking basic questions, generating descriptions, and constructing present tense sentences. Spanish IB is a continuation of Spanish IA and builds onto previously learned skills such as essential grammar, practical vocabulary, and cultural awareness necessary for fundamental communication skills in the Spanish language. Students will develop basic proficiency through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include popular Mariachi music, addressing groups of people, describing feelings and emotions, and the uses of “ser” and “estar”.

### **Spanish IIA & IIB**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Extempore*

It is recommended that students successfully complete Spanish I prior to taking Spanish II, which is split between two semesters. Spanish IIA provides a review and expansion of the essential skills of the Spanish language through increased grammar, vocabulary, and cultural awareness. Students will increase their development of conversational proficiency through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include exploring the Spanish region of Andalucía, discussing likes and dislikes, using reflexive verbs, giving oral commands and stating physical needs. Spanish IIB will continue to develop the essential skills of the Spanish language through grammar, vocabulary, and cultural awareness. Students will continue to increase their conversational proficiency through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include exploring the Mayan civilization, conjugating stem-changing verbs, using “por” and “para”, and navigation.

### **Honors Spanish III A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Extempore*

Honors Spanish III is a year-long course split into two semesters. This course is for students who have mastered the essentials of Spanish I and II and desire to improve their skills in a semi-immersion context while developing further insight into other cultures and disciplines. In Honors Spanish IIIA, students will begin to develop social proficiency and an increased understanding of the elements of linguistics through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include writing recipes, storytelling, shopping and discussing the games one played as a child. In Honors Spanish IIIB, students will continue to develop linguistic proficiency through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include Argentinian and “gaucho” culture, using various past tenses to relay a story, claiming ownership, and discussing commerce.

### **Honors Spanish IV A & B**

Course length: Full-year

Credits: 1.2 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Extempore*

Honors Spanish IV is a year-long course split into two semesters. This course is for students who have mastered the essentials of Spanish I, II and III, and desire to improve their skills in a semi-immersion context while developing further insight into other cultures and disciplines. In Honors Spanish IV A, students will begin to creatively express themselves with ease and confidence through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include exploring the Aztec Empire, the future tense, commands, and the conditional tense. In Honors Spanish IV B, students will improve upon their abilities to creatively express themselves with ease and confidence through authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking tasks. Example topics include the impact of Fidel Castro on Cuba, the subjunctive, travel, storytelling and narration and world events.

### **AP Spanish A & B**

Course length: Full year

Credits: 1.2 World Languages

Curriculum Resource: *Middlebury Interactive*

This is a college-level course available to juniors and seniors that ultimately prepares the student for the Advanced Placement exam and college credit. Students who enroll in this course are required to take the AP Spanish exam. Students explore culture in contemporary and historical context. Cultural products, practices, and perspectives focused on the six themes, global challenges, science and technology, contemporary life, personal and public identities, families and communities, and beauty and aesthetics.

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## **High School Health, Physical Education and Safety Courses**

### **Health**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Health

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Throughout the Health course, students will be able to meet PA Academic Standards for Health and Safety by being engaged in lessons focused on the following categories: concepts of health, healthful living, safety and injury prevention and physical activity. In this course, students will be learning about topics such as, physical fitness, how your body works, understanding disease, drugs and medicine, adolescence, first aid, hygiene and health care. The students will be assessed in these areas by completing assignments, quizzes and exams.

### **Physical Education A**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Physical Education

Throughout the Physical Education A course, students will be able to meet PA Academic Standards for Safety and Physical Education by being engaged in lessons focused on the following categories: safety and injury prevention, physical activity and concepts, principles and strategies of movement. In this course, students will learn topics such as, the ability to evaluate the benefits, risks and safety factors that are associated with self-selected life-long physical activities, aerobic and anaerobic exercise, goal-setting and team sports. Students will be assessed in these areas by completing assignments, quizzes and exams.

### **Physical Education B**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Physical Education

Throughout the Physical Education B course, students will be able to meet PA Academic Standards for Safety and Physical Education by being engaged in lessons focused on the following categories: safety and injury prevention, physical activity and concepts, principles and strategies of movement. In this course, students will learn topics such as, the ability to evaluate the

benefits, risks and safety factors that are associated with self-selected life-long physical activities, sports safety, effects of physical activity and aging. Students will be assessed in these areas by completing assignments, quizzes and exams.

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## **High School Technology Courses**

### **Technology**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Technology

Technology is a one semester elective intended to introduce the history of technology, current uses of technology, and the future of technology. Students will apply concepts of digital publishing through the use of online editing and publishing software, programming using variables, functions, loops, and conditionals, applications of software for business and personal finance, computer hardware, and best practices for online safety and privacy. At the end of this course, students will also have a general knowledge of careers, companies, and the current status of the tech industry. This class will require participation, attendance to live learning sessions, communication, collaboration, reading, and research. Course grades are based on participation, assignments, quizzes, projects, and assessments.

### **Computer Science IA & IB**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 Technology

Curriculum Resource: *Code HS*

Computer Science I uses a mastery-based coding program, so it recommended that students complete both Computer Science IA and IB. Computer Science part A teaches the foundations of computer science and basic programming, with an emphasis on helping students develop logical thinking and problem solving skills. Once students complete the course, they will have learned material equivalent to a semester college introductory course in Computer Science and be able to program in JavaScript. Computer Science part B builds upon what was learned in part A using project based learning. Students will use the strategies learned in part A to create complex programming projects that will challenge and enhance their knowledge of the programming language JavaScript.

### **Computer Science IIA & IIB**

Course length: Full-Year

Credits: 1.0 Technology

Curriculum Resource: *Code HS*

Computer Science II builds upon the foundations of computer science established in Computer Science I, and since it utilizes a mastery-based coding product, it is recommended that students take both Computer Science IIA and IIB. In Computer Science IIA, students will use the programming language Python. Once students complete the course, they will have learned material equivalent to a semester college introductory course in Computer Science and will be able to program in Python. Computer Science IIB builds upon what was learned in part A, using project based learning. Students will use the strategies learned in part A to create complex programming projects that will challenge and enhance their knowledge of the programming language Python.

### **Game Design**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Technology

Curriculum Resource: *Code HS*

Throughout this Game Design course, students will be able to meet Computer Science and Technology standards by learning the foundations of creating video games in JavaScript. Students will be able to complete units that are broken down into lessons that consist of video tutorials, short quizzes, example programs, and written programming exercises. Each unit will end in a test that will assess the students' mastery of the content. Students will learn about conditional statements, mouse events, arrays, loops and many other Game Design concepts. At the end of the course, students will have had the opportunity to have hands-on programming practice.

## **High School Elective Courses**

### **Keystone Essentials - Algebra**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resources: *Study Island* and *Get More Math*

Keystone Essentials Algebra is a course for students who did not score proficiency on the Keystone Algebra I test, which is a requirement for graduation. Students should take this course if they previously passed Algebra I (or Algebra IB) but need to continue to focus on building algebraic skills. It is recommended that students take this course prior to the retake of the Algebra Keystone exam so they can practice algebraic concepts and acquire strong test-taking skills.

### **Keystone Essentials - Biology**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Study Island*

Keystone Essentials Biology is a course for students who did not score proficiency on the Keystone Biology test, which is a requirement for graduation. Students should take this course if they previously passed Biology (or Biology B). It is recommended that students take this course prior to the retake of the Biology Keystone exam so they can practice biology concepts and acquire strong test-taking skills.

### **Keystone Essentials - Literature**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Study Island*

Keystone Essential Literature is a course for students who did not score proficiency on the Keystone Literature test, which is a requirement for graduation. Students should take this course if they previously passed English II (or English IIB). It is recommended that students take this course prior to the retake of the Keystone Literature exam so they can practice English Language Arts concepts and acquire strong test-taking skills.

### **American Sign Language 1a: Introduction**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

This introductory course will expose you to vocabulary and simple sentences so that the student can start communicating immediately. Importantly, students explore Deaf culture, social beliefs, traditions, history, values and communities influenced by deafness. Students will learn how to introduce themselves, describe their families, and school and express colors.

### **Career Planning**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

It is recommended that 9<sup>th</sup> grade students take Career Planning. In Career Planning, students will receive an overview of many career options and the education, training, and skills required for each. Career paths that will be explored throughout the duration of this course include the following: arts and communication, finance and insurance, law and public safety, scientific research, engineering, and mathematics. Each student will be given the opportunity to practice resume writing, examine career paths that interest them, and research how to achieve their goals.

### **Child Development**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Child Development: Early Stages through Age 12*

Child Development provides an overview of important concepts in development from conception through early adolescence. Course topics include prenatal development, physical, intellectual and social-emotional developmental milestones. Students explore practical application strategies for guiding and caring for children, special needs considerations, and careers in development. Students learn skills and tools required for successful parenthood while gaining a base knowledge of concepts they can use in future career paths. This course is relevant for students interested in pursuing a career in a variety of fields relating to childcare, education, medicine or psychology.

### **College and Career Readiness**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

College and Career Readiness is an elective course intended for students in any high school grade. During this course, students will discover and analyze skills needed to be successful in the real-world, or after high school. Unit topics include the following: planning for career success, planning for college, choosing a career, learning about yourself, creating action plans, self-motivation, time management, financial planning, searching for jobs, and interviewing. At the duration of the course, students will have a better understanding of their career goals and life after high school.

### **Creative Writing**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Creative writing is an elective course that allows students to explore their creative abilities through written expression. In this course, students will develop their skills in writing poetry, short stories, non-fiction and one-act plays. Students will learn the basics of these genres by studying the writing process, keeping a writer's journal, and conducting peer reviews. Once students determine their preferred creative writing form, they will complete an independent writing portfolio project.

### **Criminology: Inside the Criminal Mind**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

Why do individuals receive different punishments for the same crime? What factors shape the criminal case process from arrest to punishment? In today's society, crime and deviant behavior are often one of the top concerns of society members. From the nightly news to personal experiences of victimization, crime seems to be all around us. In Criminology, students will explore the field of criminology or the study of crime. Students will look at possible explanations for crime from the psychological, biological and sociological standpoints, explore the various types of crimes and their consequences for society, and investigate how crimes and criminals are handled by the criminal justice system.

### **Driver's Education**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Pennsylvania Driver's Manual*

This course is the foundation of theory for responsible driving. Emphasis is placed on the mechanics of driving, execution of essential driving techniques, rules of safe driving, and reacting to driving emergencies. This course is closely aligned with the Pennsylvania Driver's Permit and License exams. Any student who wishes to earn a Pennsylvania Driver's License is encouraged to take this course.

### **Entrepreneurship**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

Do you dream of owning your own business? Entrepreneurship gives students a head start in learning about what people will need to own and operate a successful business. Students will explore creating a business plan, financing a business, and pricing products and services.

### **Family and Consumer Science**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Succeeding in Life and Career*

Family and Consumer Science is a broad field of study which encompasses knowledge about the topics of everyday life. Students will study human development, family structures, personal and family finance, housing and interior design, nutrition and wellness, textiles and apparel and consumer issues that will prepare them for the challenges and demands of life after high school.

### **Financial Literacy**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *The Missing Semester*

Do you want to be more prepared for life after high school? This semester course for juniors and seniors will help you learn important skills and knowledge to shape your financial future. The course will provide a toolkit of resources that will empower students to make informed financial decisions about real world topics including income, money management, credit, interest, as well as saving and investing. Students will explore concepts such as budgeting and spending, checking and saving accounts, and planning for the future. The course also teaches sound practices in the areas of finances, types of loans (car, home, student loans, etc.), debt, risk management, taxes, and credit management.

### **Forensic Science I: Secrets of the Dead**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

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

### **Hospitality & Tourism: Traveling the Globe**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

With greater disposable income and more opportunities for business travel, people are traversing the globe in growing numbers. As a result, hospitality and tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. This course will introduce students to the hospitality and tourism industry, including hotel and restaurant management, cruise ships, spas, resorts, theme parks, and other areas. Students will learn about key hospitality issues, the development and management of tourist locations, event planning, marketing, and environmental issues related to leisure and travel. The course also examines some current and future trends in the field.

### **Introduction to Social Media**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

Whether you have already dipped your toes in the waters of social media or are still standing on the shore wondering what to make of it all, learning how to interact on various social media platforms is crucial in order to survive and thrive in this age of digital communication. In this course, students will learn the ins and outs of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Snapchat, and more. Students will also discover other types of social media they may not have been aware of and how to use them for their benefit—personally, academically, and eventually professionally as well. Social media platforms are not just a place to keep track of friends and share personal photos. This course will show students how to use these resources in much more powerful ways.

### **Sports and Entertainment Marketing**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

Have you ever wished to play sports professionally? Have you dreamed of one day becoming an agent for a celebrity entertainer? In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore basic marketing principles and delve deeper into the multi-billion dollar sports and entertainment marketing industry. Students will learn about how professional athletes, sports teams, and well known entertainers are marketed as commodities and how some of them become billionaires as a result. If students have ever wondered how things work behind the scenes of a major sporting event such as the Super Bowl or even entertained the idea of playing a role in such an event, then this course will introduce them to the fundamentals of such a career.

### **Veterinary Science: The Care of Animals**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *eDynamics*

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

### **Principles of Engineering and Technology**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Edmentum Courseware: Plato*

This one-semester course is intended to help students familiarize themselves with engineering systems and technologies. This course will cover the evolution of engineering and technology, careers in engineering and engineering systems and technologies.

### **Reading Foundations**

Course length: Semester

Credits: 0.5 Elective

Curriculum Resource: *Language Live!*

Reading Foundations is an elective course that helps students improve their reading proficiency, fluency, and comprehension. Students must be recommended to take this course by a teacher. The curriculum product used, *Language! Live!*, blends the best of online instruction with the important aspects of teacher-directed instruction to empower struggling readers and close the reading and writing gap. This one program with two levels creates strategic entry points and the ability to accelerate learning. Level 1 focuses on the foundational skills that students may have missed in their earlier reading instruction and enables students to practice critical skills such as basic decoding and spelling. Level 2 enables students to hone the important literacy skills they need to not only become fluent readers but comprehending readers. Syllable types, prefixes and suffixes, and Greek and Latin roots are critical components of Level 2. Both levels include rich comprehension, language, vocabulary, and writing components implemented through teacher-directed lessons, exposing students to complex text and collaborative discussions.