



2019 - 2020 COURSE CATALOG

7th – 9th Grades

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information _____	PAGE 2
Graduation Requirements _____	PAGE 3
Grading Scale _____	PAGE 4
English Language Arts Course Descriptions _____	PAGE 5
Mathematics Course Descriptions _____	PAGE 7
Science Course Descriptions _____	PAGE 9
Social Studies Course Descriptions _____	PAGE 10
World Languages _____	PAGE 12
Health and Physical Education _____	PAGE 13
Electives Course Descriptions _____	PAGE 14

General Information

State Assessment Requirement

Valor Preparatory Academy of Arizona (VPA) administers the required end of course state standardized assessments. Students are not permitted to review any portion of a state test prior to the test administration. In order to ensure fairness and reliability of the test scores, students are not permitted to discuss test questions or share any information regarding the content of these tests at any time. Any student caught sharing information regarding state tests will be subject to disciplinary action.

VPA students during the 2019-20 school year will take the following Arizona State Tests:

	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
7 th Grade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8 th Grade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9 th Grade	English I (English 9)	Algebra I	

Grade Level Placement

VPA will place students at the appropriate grade level based on a transcript evaluation, cohort year and/or MAP Growth assessment. At the beginning of each year students will take the initial MAP Growth assessment as an instructional and placement diagnostic tool.

Promotion/Retention

The promotion (advancing to the next grade) and retention (staying in the current grade) of students enrolled with VPA is based on the degree of success the individual student achieves in completing the educational program designated to meet his/her needs.

VPA has high standards for promotion. Students must earn their promotion to the next grade level by demonstrating mastery of the grade level's rigorous standards, as set forth by the Arizona State Board of Education. Decisions to retain a student are to be made by the entire team (Principal, Teacher and Parent/Guardian).

The Governing Body may review the decision of the team to promote or retain a student upon request to do from the parent/guardian. The parent/student will have the burden of proof to overturn the team's decision and shall demonstrate to the Governing Body that the student has mastered the academic standards adopted by the Arizona State Board of Education. If the Governing Body overturns the decision to promote or retain the student, the Governing Body shall adopt a written finding that the student has mastered the academic standards. All reviews by the Governing Body shall be conducted in executive session unless the parent/guardian requests that the review be conducted in an open meeting.

Graduation Requirements

A student must complete the following courses and one pathway as described below to graduate from Valor Preparatory Academy of Arizona.

Required courses and credits needed:

Course	Credits
English	4 Credits
Algebra 1	1 Credit
Geometry	1 Credit
Algebra 2	1 Credit
4 th Year Math	1 Credit
Science	3 Credits
World History/Geography	1 Credit
American History	1 Credit
American Government	.5 Credit
Economics	.5 Credit
Physical Education	.5 Credit
Health	.5 Credit
Career Tech Ed/Voc Ed/Fine Arts	1 Credit
Electives	6 Credits
Civics Test (Per House Bill 2064)	Pass
CPR Requirement	Complete
Total	22 Credits

Notes:

English (4 credits) – This requirement will be met by completing the following courses or courses that are equivalent to: English 9A, English 9B, English 10A, English 10B, English 11A, English 11B, English 12A and English 12B. Some ELD courses may meet English requirements for graduation.

Math (4th year Math) – This requirement may be met by completing 1 credit of the following Valor Preparatory Academy courses: Advanced Math A - Trigonometry, Advanced Math B, Pre-Calculus, Business Math A, Business Math B, or any math course transferred from another accredited high school that contains significant high school math content. Qualifying students may complete a personal curriculum math plan. Students receiving a personal math plan must complete one credit in mathematics that includes significant math content during their senior year.

Science (3 credits) – This requirement will be met by earning three credits in science, one of which must be Biology or a Life Science.

Students in Grades 9-12 must annually complete an Education and Career Action Plan.

Grading Scale

Grades are determined by student performance on teacher-graded activities, computer-graded assignments, quizzes, exams within each course, observations/participation during in-person small group and individual instruction. Students may view their grade for each assignment through their grade book.

The grading scale is as follows:

Percentage		Letter Grade	GPA- Unweighted	GPA-Honors Weighted
93-100%	=	A	4.0	5.0
90- 92%	=	A-	3.7	4.6
86-89%	=	B+	3.3	4.1
83-85%	=	B	3.0	3.8
80-82%	=	B-	2.7	3.4
76-79%	=	C+	2.3	2.9
73-75%	=	C	2.0	2.5
70-72%	=	C-	1.7	2.1
66-69%	=	D+	1.3	1.6
63-65%	=	D	1.0	1.3
60-62%	=	D-	0.7	0.9
0-59%	=	F	0.0	0.0

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

ENGLISH 7A

In this course, students will improve their reading and writing skills, helping them become communicators that are more effective. Students will organize their ideas and prepare structured essays based on various topics such as personal experience and persuading others. Students will learn and practice effective research techniques as they, prepare, complete and polish reports and essays. This course will also provide interactive activities, readings and PowerPoint presentations to extend learning beyond the textbook. Students participate in discussions that will include teacher feedback on a daily basis throughout the course.

ENGLISH 7B

The purpose of this course is to build upon the basics of English 7A and enhance the ability of students to read literature of a wide variety. Students continue to develop their writing through unit projects and the application of the Six Traits of Writing to the processes of prewriting, organizing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing. Students will complete six units of varying topics, comprised of five lessons each.

PRE-REQUISITE: English 7A

ENGLISH 8A

In this course, students will read and analyze literary and informational texts. These texts will come from several genres and from a number of sources, including short stories, novels, myths, poems, magazine articles, and autobiographies. Through the presentation of these types of reading selections, the course demonstrates ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, central idea, and figurative language. They will read the novel *The Call of the Wild* and short stories, such as "The Lottery," "A Sound of Thunder," and "The Tell-Tale Heart." They will examine informational texts to better your understanding of the Yukon, the Klondike Gold Rush, dog sledding, and wolves. In addition, students will encounter numerous infographics and videos that build on the instruction.

As students read the selections in this course, they will practice ways to use supporting evidence, identify central ideas, make inferences, analyze word choice, and identify figurative and connotative language in both literary and informational texts. In addition, they will learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, including phrases and clauses, sentence structures, ellipses, dashes, and commas. Students will also review context clues to determine word meaning and learn about Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots.

PRE-REQUISITE: English 7B

ENGLISH 8B

In this course, students will read and analyze both literary and informational texts. These texts come from several genres and from several sources, including short stories, novels, poems, Internet articles, and political speeches. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and implicit information, theme, central idea, and figurative language, among other ideas and concepts. They will read parts of the novels *Fahrenheit 451*, *Hatchet*, and *Black Beauty*, as well as short stories such as "How the World Was Saved," "Harrison Bergeron," and "All Summer in a Day." As they read the selections in this course, they will practice ways to use supporting

evidence, identify central ideas, make inferences, analyze word choice, and identify figurative and connotative language in both literary and informational texts.

Students will also learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation, including phrases, clauses, sentence structures, verbals, mood, and active and passive voice. They review context clues to determine word meaning and will learn various vocabulary words and more about Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes, and roots. In addition, students will learn the elements of informational and argument writing so that they can plan, create, write, revise, and edit their own informational and argumentative essays.

PRE-REQUISITE: English 8A

ENGLISH 9A

In this course, students read and analyze both literary and informational texts, including autobiographies, personal memoirs, newspaper and magazine articles, and poetry. Students understand explicit and inferred meaning and identify support for them. They also learn how figurative language impacts the text. In addition, students learn about basics in grammar, usage, and punctuation. They also learn vocabulary words, and Greek and Latin affixes, and roots. In addition, they learn the elements of writing so that they can plan, write, revise, and edit their own personal memoir and literary analysis. Through the lessons provided in this course, they master techniques that will help them achieve a deeper appreciation of literary and informational texts.

PRE-REQUISITE: 8th Grade English

ENGLISH 9B

In this course, students read and analyze both literary and informational texts. These texts take many different forms, including biographies, short stories, newspaper and magazine articles, poetry, and influential historical documents. The course's reading selections demonstrate ways to understand explicit and inferred meaning through textual evidence; theme, central ideas, and details that support them; and structural elements and their influence on style, among other ideas and concepts. Throughout this course, you will read the novel *Anthem* by Ayn Rand. They will also examine informational texts to better understanding of historical moments throughout the history of the United States, including presidential speeches and a famous letter written by Martin Luther King Jr. during his imprisonment in a Birmingham jail at the height of the civil rights movement. As they read the selections in this course, students practice ways to recognize textual evidence, identify themes and central ideas, make inferences, and identify figurative and connotative language in a variety of texts. In addition, students review information on context clues and word nuances, and learn about spelling conventions, style manuals, phrases clauses, parallel structure, semicolons, and colons. Students also learn the definitions, parts of speech, and etymology of various vocabulary words you will see throughout the reading selections. In addition, they learn the elements of writing so that you can plan, write, revise, and edit informational essay and argument essays.

PRE-REQUISITE: English 9A

MATHEMATICS

MATH 7A

Students begin with adding and multiplying rational numbers by using number lines, rules, and properties. Then, they move their focus to proportional relationships given in tables, diagrams, graphs, equations, and verbal descriptions. They also learn how to solve problems by finding and comparing unit rates. Next, they rewrite expressions using properties, as well as write and solve simple linear equations by using different methods. The next area of study is probability and statistics, where they will interpret and calculate simple probabilities, as well as learn about populations and samples. Finally, they move on to geometry and learn how to solve problems about scale drawing, circles, and angle relationships and draw some geometric shapes.

MATH 7B

This second half of Math Basics will continue to expand the student's math skills in preparation for algebra and geometry. All concepts are presented in multimedia presentations allowing the student to learn in their own style. This course provides multiple opportunities for the student to learn new concepts, as well as reaching mastery level of basic math skills.

PRE-REQUISITE: Math 7A

MATH 8A

In this course, students begin with the fundamentals of algebra, where they compare, order, and perform operations on rational and irrational numbers, use inverse operations to solve for a variable in one- and two-step equations, write and solve two-step equations from contextual situations, and analyze properties of functions, focusing on linear functions. The next area of study is very large and very small numbers, where they will solve expressions involving powers of a common base, convert numbers to and from scientific notation, and perform operations on numbers in scientific notation. They will then move on to geometry, where they will perform rigid transformations on figures and prove congruence of figures through a series of rigid transformations.

PRE-REQUISITE: Math 7B

MATH 8B

Math 8B helps students move from simple mathematics to the exciting worlds of algebra, geometry, and statistics. Students build basic skills within each of these three branches of mathematics, as well as the connections between them. In this course, students learn to find multiple solutions, and to read a graph to help find solutions. Students also learn the many ways that graphs can help to quickly and accurately turn algebraic symbols into easy-to-interpret real-life meanings. Students experiment and interact with concepts, such as performing transformations and calculating measurements of three-dimensional figures, which helps them build a solid foundation for future studies. The course wraps up with a study of statistics and probability, which helps students to see how the world works and to discover some of the interesting ways that math is used to describe the world.

PRE-REQUISITE: Math 8A

Algebra 1A

Students in Algebra 1A begin by looking at the relationships between quantities, and by reasoning with equations. They proceed to study linear and exponential relationships, with the focus in this first course on linear relationships. They also spend some time analyzing descriptive statistics. Algebra 1A represents the first half of first-year algebra aligned to the rigorous standards. Algebra 1A helps students build a strong foundation of traditional algebra concepts. Students will delve deep into algebraic problems and apply their knowledge to real-life situations. In this course, students learn the properties of different forms of linear equations and inequalities and their graphs. Students also learn how to define a function and how to relate linear equations and functions. Students will solve systems of equations and systems of inequalities and interpret their solutions mathematically and contextually. The course concludes with a study of statistics, which helps students to discover some of the interesting ways that math is used to describe the world. Later, in Algebra 1B, students set the basis for understanding quadratics, as well as learning more about the logical progression of mathematics, which sets the students up for success in Geometry and Algebra 2.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Algebra 1B

Students in Algebra 1B begin by exploring quadratic equations and quadratic functions, and then move on to factoring expressions. Next, they work on exponential functions and their graphs. Students conclude the course by looking at functions that fall into other categories. Algebra 1B is the second half of first-year algebra aligned to the rigorous standards. In this course, students explore the fundamentals of Algebra. Algebra 1B extends students' algebraic skills and knowledge to five new types of functions: quadratic, exponential, absolute value, piecewise, and step. In this course, students will learn the properties and key features of nonlinear functions, including quadratic functions and exponential functions. Students will identify key features and interpret functions presented as equations, graphs, tables, and verbal descriptions. Emphasis will be placed on how different families of functions compare to one another, and transformations of functions will be performed for all function types presented. The course will conclude with an introduction of "other" functions, including absolute-value functions, piecewise functions, and step functions.

PRE-REQUISITE: Algebra 1A

Geometry 1A

The content in each lesson of Geometry A is interwoven, in a story-telling style, with the adventures of Geomethor, a superhero who strives to save his world through the use of geometry. Students explore congruence, proofs, and constructions in the first three units before they continue on to study similarity, additional proofs, and trigonometry in the next two units. Students conclude their studies by extending to the third dimension. Geometry A is the first half of the full Geometry course. Students in this course develop a deep understanding of the logical and rigorous proving system of geometry. Students begin by looking at congruence, proofs, and constructions. In doing so, they define and use the basic geometric terms, then advance to proving statements about lines, angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals. Students apply the knowledge they have of planar transformations to learn a formal definition for similarity, and then they use that definition to write proofs and construct figures.

PRE-REQUISITE: Algebra 1B

Geometry 1B

The lessons in Geometry B are all written in a story-telling style, following the adventures of Hypatia, a hero of Geometry, as she helps save her world through the use of Geometry. Students will explore connections between algebra and geometry, through coordinates, circles with and without coordinates, and applications of probability. Geometry B is the second half of the Geometry course. Students will continue to apply the rigorous proofs that were a part of Geometry A as well as look at coordinates and how they can be analyzed to produce certain figures and relationships. Students will start by proving simple geometric theorems algebraically and translating between geometric descriptions and equations of conic sections. Then, students will learn and apply theorems about circles, find arc lengths and areas of sectors, and apply geometric concepts in modeling situations. Finally, students will look at probability and rules of independence and dependence, conditional probability, compound events, and outcomes while also examining probability models. Students will have the opportunity to apply their basic understanding of geometric figures they achieved in middle school mathematics and Geometry A to elements of probability as well as analysis. Students will also incorporate algebraic concepts into formal proof methodology. In so doing, students will be better prepared for the complexity of Algebra 2 and also have a basis for understanding the concepts of Calculus and advanced mathematics.

PRE-REQUISITE: Geometry A

SCIENCE

Science 7A

Science 7A focuses on the basics of Earth Science are introduced. These topics are tested and applied to the student's everyday life. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic Earth science topics, in preparation for high school General Science.

Science 7B

This is the second course for 7th grade science. One unit on Environmental Science is discussed, along with five units of Astronomy. These topics are tested and applied to the student's everyday life. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic science topics in preparation for a high school level General Science course.

PRE-REQUISITE: Science 7A

Science 8A

Science 8A focuses on life science concepts from biology, ecology, and environmental science. Science 8A also explores the nature of science and has engineering and technology practices threaded throughout the course. This course begins with an introduction to scientific processes.

PRE-REQUISITE: Science 7B

Science 8B

Science 8A focuses on life science concepts from biology, ecology, and environmental science. Science 8A also explores the nature of science and has engineering and technology practices threaded throughout the course. This course begins with an introduction to scientific processes.

PRE-REQUISITE: Science 8A

Integrated Science A

Integrated Science A provides an introduction to the world of chemistry. The course begins by providing an introduction to science as a whole and the basic methods and tools that scientists use to produce meaningful results. Students then explore the structure and properties of matter and how it changes in response to energy. Next, students practice reading and interpreting the information on the periodic table as well as chemical names, formulas, equations, and models. Students also discover the types and the properties of reactions, mixtures, solutions, acids, and bases. Finally, students examine both the scientific principles and the human applications of nuclear reactions. Throughout the course, students explore the historical perspectives and modern social implications of the course topics. This course uses a multimedia format that includes text, videos, animations, interactive activities, and group discussions. In self-check activities and quizzes, students practice what they learn and correct misconceptions or uncertainties before taking assessments. Students complete a unit exam and deliver a unit project in each unit. Teacher feedback is provided throughout the course.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Integrated Science B

Integrated Science B provides an introduction to the world of physics. The course starts out by building a foundation of what it means to be scientific by describing the ways scientists think, communicate, and do their jobs. Next, students cover important aspects of motion and force, including the motion of fluids and how motion relates to Newton's laws. Building up from these fundamentals, students then explore the topics of thermodynamics, energy, work, and machines. The nature and properties of waves are covered next, and then the course ends by examining electricity and magnetism. Throughout the course, students parallel their investigation into the scientific method with a course project that introduces them to the field and processes of engineering. This course uses a multimedia format that includes text, videos, animations, interactive activities, and group discussions. In self-check activities and quizzes, students practice what they learn and correct misconceptions or uncertainties before taking assessments. Students complete a unit exam and deliver a unit project in each unit. Teacher feedback is provided throughout the course.

PRE-REQUISITE: Integrated Science A

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 7A

Medieval and Early Modern Times. This is a course that will take students on a historical journey to Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas from about the first to the fifteenth century. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover the past, they study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing at the same time throughout the world during medieval and early modern times.

Social Studies 7B

In this second segment of the course, students will study the Renaissance, Reformation, and the Age of Exploration, examining the growing economic interaction among civilizations. Students will learn about the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by

the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today.

PRE-REQUISITE: Social Studies 7A

Social Studies 8A

In this course, students will learn about the history of American Indian cultures before the arrival of Europeans through the presidency of Andrew Jackson. They will also study the development of the British colonies, democracy, the American Revolution, the Constitution, social and political developments during the early period of the United States, and economic changes of the early Industrial Revolution.

PRE-REQUISITE: Social Studies 7B

Social Studies 8B

In Early American History, students will work with materials that show the problems and issues America experienced as a young nation and their solutions. Students will explore the diverse challenges facing Americans from the 1800s to the early-1900s. The causes, events, and consequences of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery are a special focus of the class. Throughout the course, students will study primary and secondary sources, textbook readings, biographies, period literature, and related materials that will paint a picture of American history. Each lesson has several activities that will encourage students to explore American history. Activities and discussions will challenge students to think creatively and critically about each topic. In addition, the class includes two projects designed to develop and sharpen students' research and writing skills.

PRE-REQUISITE: Social Studies 8A

WORLD HISTORY A

World History A explores the key events and global historical developments from hunter-gatherer societies to the Industrial Revolution. It begins with analysis of early prehistoric people from the Paleolithic era to the Agricultural Revolution. Students follow the rise and fall of early empires and then consider the fall of the Rome Empire and its aftermath. Continuing through the Middle Ages, students analyze the Crusades, feudalism, the plague, and Asian empires. They explore the impact and effects of the Renaissance and Protestant Reformation on human culture and analyze conflicts between the Roman Catholic Church and Protestant and Catholic reformers. Examining the Age of Exploration, students study European explorers seeking out new trade routes to Asia, the discovery of the Americas, the rise of joint-stock companies, the slave trade, and emergence of the American colonies. Students analyze important revolutions in history, including the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment, the American and French Revolutions, South American Revolutions, and the Industrial Revolution.

Throughout the course, students examine and analyze materials that describe historical periods and interact with primary and secondary sources, readings, biographies, and other materials that paint a picture of world history and encourage students to explore historical topics. Discussions with peers help students think creatively and critically about topics. The projects that span the course are designed to develop and sharpen the students' writing skills.

PRE-REQUISITES: None

WORLD HISTORY B

World History B picks up where World History A concluded with examining revolutions in the world and the establishment of European colonies around the globe. This course begins by exploring European colonies and the impact of European imperialistic desires on those colonies, in some instances leading to rebellions and in others to war crimes. Students trace the thwarting of the Napoleonic Empire and how imperialism led to great wealth for many nations. They analyze how this promoted cultural differences and led to nationalism, eventually resulting in World War I. Students analyze the effects of the First World War, including the Great Depression and internal colonial rebellions, and how this set the stage for the Second World War. Students then examine the two spheres of influence that emerged after World War II, resulting in a 45-year Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, with global effects on political, cultural, and economic realms. The course explores the power vacuum that emerged following the Cold War and how its end affected various nations in the world.

Analyzing modern-day concerns, students learn about the impact of increased communications, news, and social media, economic globalization, environmental and energy issues, and technological advances and threats associated with them.

Students examine and analyze materials that describe historical periods and interact with primary and secondary sources, readings, biographies, and other materials that paint a picture of world history and encourage students to explore historical topics. Discussions with peers help students think creatively and critically about topics. The projects that span the course are designed to develop and sharpen the students' writing skills.

PRE-REQUISITES: World History A

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 1A (9th Grade)

Spanish is spoken in 21 countries, making it one of the most commonly spoken languages in the world. Knowing Spanish will enable the student to connect with a wider range of people in their daily life, perhaps even leading to a job where speaking another language is an advantage, as in medicine or business. This course teaches the student how to greet others, describe their friends and family, exchange telephone numbers, and talk about their daily life, including school and home.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Spanish 1B (9th Grade)

Spanish is spoken in 21 countries, making it one of the most commonly spoken languages in the world. Knowing Spanish will enable students to connect with a wider range of people in their daily lives. It will open doors that may even lead to a job where speaking another language is an advantage, as in medicine or business.

PRE-REQUISITE: Spanish 1A

HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health (Grades 7th – 8th)

This course will help students understand the importance of making decisions that will affect their physical, emotional, mental and social health. This course will provide students with the knowledge and resources they will need to make responsible, informed decisions about their health. Students will have an opportunity to evaluate their own values, opinions and attitudes about health.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Physical Education (Grades 7th – 8th)

This course will help the student understand the importance of developing and maintaining an active lifestyle. Students will engage in daily physical activities. They will maintain nutrition and activity logs, as well as learn how to make positive choices to improve their health and fitness.

PRE-REQUISITE: Physical Activity Required

Health A (9th Grade)

This course provides an overview of how behavior affects health. The broad range of topics include nutrition and physical activity; growth, development; injury and safety prevention; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; mental, emotional, and social health; and personal and community health. Students will explore how the choices they make about their bodies affect both their present and future. They will also be given the tools to make informed decisions to better their health.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Physical Education 1A (9th Grade)

This course teaches students about the importance of physical activity and personal fitness, aspects of sport and recreation, and healthy eating habits. Throughout the course students are expected to evaluate their own fitness, design an exercise plan, and track their results.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Physical Education 1B (9th Grade)

In this course, you'll explore key concepts that will lead to improved fitness, wellness, and overall health. You'll learn about the human body, including topics like anatomy, physiology, and nutrition. You'll also explore practical applications for these topics, including metabolism manipulation, correct exercise form, and effective programming that's tailored to fit your goals. Throughout the course, you'll also have access to discussion boards, where you can talk about what you've learned and trade tips on exercise programming with your peers. This all leads to a lifetime of health and wellness.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

ELECTIVES

Computer Basics – Keyboarding and Basic Skills (Grades 7th – 8th)

This course will help the student learn the basics of computer skills. The student will work with basic software programs such as word processing, spreadsheets and presentations. Students can also improve their keyboarding speed and accuracy.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Gaming Unlocked (Grades 7th – 8th)

Games have been played for thousands of years. Man has loved to find ways to entertain himself. In this course, the student becomes the game master! Students will learn the basics of gaming: from what makes a game fun to what makes a game work. Students will explore all types of games in this course, from mental games to board games to video games. The focus of the course is on developing a student's ability to recognize good game play mechanics as well as the steps necessary to produce a game. This course will NOT require students to know or learn a programming language. The emphasis is on the history of games and the design of games, as well as learning about the different careers available in the game industry.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Photography (Grades 7th – 8th)

In Middle School Photography: Drawing with Light, you'll learn how to take photographs, the basics of using a camera and how to avoid common photography mistakes. Once you get the hang of this process, you'll be taking photos that will amaze your friends and have them wondering how you do it.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Character Education (9th Grade)

Character Education is an overview of performance and ethical principles. The six units encourage and educate students to be lifelong learners, think through problems, be diligent and capable, interact positively in social settings, respect others, assume responsibility, act ethically, and live according to a noble purpose.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Photography Basics (9th Grade)

In Photography Basics, students will learn how to correctly explain the setup and proper use of basic photography equipment. Through projects and research activities embedded in the course, students will create and present a portfolio of work. In addition, students will be able to describe professional habits, etiquette, and technology essential to creating a photograph. Students will not need access to photography equipment in order to take the course; opportunities to practice with digital simulations and theory will be present throughout the course. This course is designed for any beginner interested in learning about photography and what it could take to make a career out of their interest in this exciting, dynamic field of study. Photography Basics is designed for students in ninth grade or higher with no background in photography.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Computer Basics (9th Grade)

This course will help the student learn the basics of computer operations. The student will work with basic software programs such as word processing, spread sheets, and presentations. Students will also have the opportunity to improve their keyboarding speed and accuracy.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Intro to Fashion Design (9th Grade)

Fashion Design is an introductory course to the fashion design industry and its careers. It is written for high school aged students; designed in a way that it is accessible for any level from first-year students on. This course is an introductory course, so will not be as rigorous as a required course.

PRE-REQUISITE: None

Intro to Interior Design (9th Grade)

In this course, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of interior design. The course will start with a look at what interior design is, what careers are available in the field, and how to go about working towards a career in the interior design field. Then, students will dive into the fundamental principles of interior design, including analyzing color and design elements, environmental concerns, and setting up rooms with furniture and decorations.

PRE-REQUISITE: None