

# Valor Preparatory Academy of Arizona

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## Middle School Course Descriptions

### Typical Middle School Course Progression Path

Middle school students typically follow the course progression outlined in the table below.

Subject Areas	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Math	<i>Math 6A &amp; Math 6B</i>	<i>Math 7A &amp; Math 7B</i>	<i>Math 8A &amp; Math 8B</i>
English	<i>English 6A &amp; English 6B</i>	<i>English 7A &amp; English 7B</i>	<i>English 8A &amp; English 8B</i>
Social Studies	<i>Soc. Stud. 6A &amp; Soc. Stud. 6B</i>	<i>Soc. Stud. 7A &amp; Soc. Stud. 7B</i>	<i>Soc. Stud. 8A &amp; Soc. Stud. 8B</i>
Science	<i>Science 6A &amp; Science 6B</i>	<i>Science 7A &amp; Science 7B</i>	<i>Science 8A &amp; Science 8B</i>
Electives	<i>Two selected per semester</i>	<i>Two selected per semester</i>	<i>Two selected per semester</i>

### English Language Arts

#### ENGLISH 6A

English 6A analyzes informational texts, including biographies, primary documents, instructional documents, film reviews, and persuasive letters. Reading selections include the novel *The Road* by Jack London and informational texts on topics such as the science behind sunsets, the lives of important historical figures, the history of the Olympics, and the process of flotation used by archaeologists. Reading selections demonstrate concepts such as explicit and implicit information, central ideas and key details, and claims and arguments.

#### ENGLISH 6B

English 6B explores literary texts from various genres, including novels, short stories, poems, and plays. Readings include *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum, excerpts from *Little Women* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Frost, and Carl Sandburg as well multimedia readings of several videos of famous poems to demonstrate explicit and implicit information, theme, characters, plot, poetic techniques, and figurative language.

#### 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.

#### 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.

## 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, 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.

## Mathematics

### Math 6A

This course builds on previously learned concepts such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing and deepening knowledge of arithmetic with fractions, decimals, and negative numbers to solve real-world problems. Topics included: statistics, ratios, unit conversions, geometry, writing and evaluating expressions with variables and exponents, and working with equations.

### Math 6B

This course builds on concepts such as positive and negative integers and fractions to learn about rational numbers and how to compare them. Topics included: finding the distance between points on the number line and in the coordinate plane, solving geometry problems, relationships between variables and how to represent them, ratios and unit rates, solving real-world problems, data and how to display and mathematically describe data.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.

## Social Studies/History

### Social Studies 6A

This course explores geographical, social, economic, and political foundations of early civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient Israel, and India as they shift from nomadic societies to agricultural societies. The study of these civilizations includes the impact of geography, early history, cultural development, and economic change. The geographic focus includes the study of physical and political features, economic development and resources, and migration patterns.

### Social Studies 6B

This course explores the geographic, political, economic, and cultural development of ancient Greece, Rome, and China and applies historical thinking skills to understand implications of ancient literature, art, and philosophy on later Western culture. The course examines the birth and spread of Judaism, Christianity, Taoism, and Confucianism.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## **Science**

### **Science 6A**

This semester investigates the interaction between systems and what factors affect their growth, and the life cycles of plants and animals to find out how they reproduce plants and animals. Topics included: cells, the hierarchy of organization, covering tissues, organs, and organ systems.

### **Science 6B**

This semester explores topics through many creative and interactive assets, including virtual labs and review games, to immerse students in a 21st-century online learning. Topics included: energy and its transformation, matter, natural cycles, the effect of the sun on ocean and air currents, different types of pollution, and the effects of greenhouse gases on the Earth's climate.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Science 8B**

This semester focuses on physical science concepts, including topics from chemistry and physics. Students begin by exploring the history of science. The course highlights influential scientists who laid the groundwork for the fields students are about to discover. Next, students begin with physics—one of the more interactive sciences, and one that can be seen in action every day. Students explore concepts of velocity and acceleration, then they dive into forces and Newton's laws of motion. After that, they explore chemistry, including the periodic table, acids and bases, and chemical reactions.

## **Middle School Electives**

### **Character Education**

Explores values of truthfulness, trustworthiness, responsibility, diligence, and integrity. The course offers specific, real world situations to interpret and connect to these traits to provide safe and appropriate ways to respond in real time. Topics include: identifying bullying, how to develop a bullying-prevention mindset.

### **Gaming Unlocked**

Researches the basics of gaming, from what makes games fun to what makes them work by exploring quality in a variety of games such as mental games, board games, and video games. This course does not require students to know or learn a programming language. The emphasis is on the history and design of games and the different careers available in the game industry.

## Photography Basics

Photography Basics explores proper use of photography equipment, how to build a portfolio of work, and describes the steps to starting a career in this field. Topics include: the habits and etiquette of the profession. *Photography equipment is not needed. Practice is offered through with digital simulations.*

## Health 6-8

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

## Physical Education 6-8

In this course, students explore the importance of physical activity. Students learn aspects of sports and recreation, including sportsmanship, leadership, and inclusivity. Safety while being active and developing lifelong healthy habits by encouraging daily activity they enjoy for lifelong fitness.

# High School Course Descriptions

## Typical High School Course Progression Path

High school students typically follow the course progression outlined in the table below in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

Subject Areas	9th Grade	10th Grade
Math	<i>Algebra 1A &amp; Algebra 1B</i>	<i>Geometry 1A &amp; Geometry 1B</i>
English	<i>English 9A &amp; English 9B</i>	<i>English 10A &amp; English 10B</i>
Social Studies	<i>World History A &amp; World History B</i>	<i>US History A &amp; US History B</i>
Science	<i>Physical Science A &amp; Physical Science B</i>	<i>Biology A &amp; Biology B</i>
Electives	<i>Two selected per semester</i>	<i>Two selected per semester</i>

Honors options are available for students in addition to the courses outlined below.

## English Language Arts

### 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

## ENGLISH 10A

This semester covers reading, writing, and analysis of informational texts, argument texts, and videos. These reading selections demonstrate concepts such as explicit and inferred meaning; textual evidence; central ideas; arguments and claims; organizational structures; figurative, connotative, technical, and rhetorical language; and the effect of word choice on tone. Students also learn about reference sources, spelling, grammar, usage, punctuation, domain-specific vocabulary, context clues, and affixes. In addition, students write an informational essay and an argument essay.

## ENGLISH 10B

This semester covers reading, writing, and analysis of literary texts from around the world and across history. Students read the Greek tragedy *Antigone* by Sophocles, among other texts. These reading selections demonstrate concepts such as textual evidence, themes, inferences, characterization, figurative language, figures of speech, and literary devices. Students also learn more about context clues, word nuances, affixes, phrases, clauses, and parallel construction. In addition, students write a literary analysis essay and a personal narrative essay.

## **Mathematics**

### Algebra 1A

Students apply properties to simplify expressions with exponents and radicals, and they explore the relationships between rational and irrational numbers. Then students solve linear equations and inequalities and use their knowledge of linear equations and inequalities to solve and graph systems of linear equations and inequalities. Next, students apply operations on polynomials and explore factoring quadratic expressions. Finally, students solve quadratic equations by using different methods, including technology, and they work with systems that contain quadratic equations.

### Algebra 1B

Students focus mainly on learning and analyzing functions. They study with different types of functions presented as equations, graphs, tables, and verbal descriptions, and they identify their key features and apply them to real-world problems. Students also use key features to compare different types of functions to each other. Then they explore transformations of functions. The course concludes with a study of statistics, where students learn about interpreting and analyzing data sets, as well as causation and correlation.

### Geometry 1A

Students build upon their understanding of geometric concepts by working through a variety of geometric problems, writing formal proofs, and constructing geometric figures. Transformations are used to explain the concepts of congruent and similar figures with a focus on the properties of congruent and similar triangles. These properties are proved as students become familiar with postulates, theorems, and formal proofs. The course wraps up with trigonometric ratios and their applications to real-world situations.

### Geometry 1B

Students build upon their understanding of geometric concepts by working through a variety of geometric problems, writing formal proofs, and constructing geometric figures. They learn about slopes, midpoints, and the distance formula, with a focus on their applications in coordinate proofs. Next, students work with theorems about circles, as well as concepts related to circles. Finally, the course wraps up with two- and three-dimensional figures and probability.



## Algebra 2A

Students learn about and perform operations with complex numbers. They solve quadratic equations with complex solutions, and then they work with polynomials. They perform operations on polynomials, use polynomial identities to solve problems, analyze polynomial functions using different representations, and solve polynomial equations graphically. Finally, they work with rational functions. They perform arithmetic operations on rational functions and learn how to graph them.

## Algebra 2B

Students begin with solving rational equations. Then they work with radical equations. They learn how to rewrite expressions involving radicals and how to graph and solve radical equations. Next, students move on to concepts of trigonometry. They learn about trigonometric ratios and use the unit circle to understand them. They graph sine, cosine, and tangent functions and explore their key features. Finally, students prove and apply trigonometric identities.

## College Math Prep A

Students model real-life situations with equations and inequalities, expand their skills with solving exponential equations with logarithms, and synthesize and generalize a variety of function families.

## College Math Prep B

Students learn how to make probability decisions, as well as how to use basic statistics and sampling processes to understand data sets and answer questions about samples and populations.

## Financial Math

Students learn to apply the skills they learn to solve real-life problem, and analyze current financial issues of taxes, loans, car leases, mortgages, insurance. Mathematical processes are used to study patterns and analyze data, algebraic formulas, graphs, amortization modeling. Paired with Applied Math for full year offering.

## Applied Math

Students examine how artists, video game developers, and musicians apply mathematical concepts to create and even how biologists use mathematics to measure the distances between cells and gain new insights about the body. Students apply concepts from geometry, functions, probability, and statistics. Paired with Financial Math for full year offering.

## **Social Studies/History**

### World History A

This semester explores key events and historical developments from hunter-gatherer societies to the Industrial Revolution. It begins with analysis of prehistoric people from the Paleolithic era to the Agricultural Revolution. The course follows the rise and fall of early empires and the fall of the Roman Empire. The course analyzes the Crusades, feudalism, the plague, and Asian empires. It explores the effects of the Renaissance and Protestant Reformation. The course follows European explorers who sought new trade routes to Asia, the discovery of the Americas, the slave trade, and the emergence of the American colonies. It also analyzes important revolutions in history.

### World History B

This semester traces the developments of the last 250 years. It begins by examining the origins of modern Western imperialism. This includes the influence of the Industrial Revolution. The course analyzes the cultural, economic, and political impacts that imperialism had on Africa and Asia, including the rise of Japan. It examines how imperialism and nationalism contributed to the outbreak of World War I. It considers how the Treaty of Versailles contributed to the rise of fascism in Europe and the start of World War II. The course also analyzes the destructive nature of 20th-century warfare and atrocities such as the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust.



## US History A

This semester begins with European exploration and the impact Europeans had on the lives of those native to North America. The course traces the development of the English colonies in North America, the causes and effects of the American Revolution, and the ratification of the Constitution. The course then examines the causes of the War of 1812. Throughout the course, the topic of sectionalism is analyzed through the study of various events, including westward expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. This semester also examines the Indian Wars, immigration, and the Second Industrial Revolution.

## US History B

This semester continues the story of the United States. It begins with the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. This is followed by World War I and the economic boom known as the “Roaring Twenties.” After studying the Great Depression and the New Deal, the course then traces America’s involvement in World War II, the Cold War, and proxy conflicts like the Vietnam War and Korean War. Students learn about pivotal events in the presidential administrations of the second half of the 20th century. This semester examines events as the United States emerges into the 21st century, including technology innovations, global communications, and the rise of terrorism.

## US Government

US Government provides students with basic knowledge of the history and philosophy of the United States government and its principles, which guide our democracy. Students examine the United States Constitution in order to answer questions and determine the facts of government. The course focuses on the functions and duties of the three branches of government. Special attention is given to political participation, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and government systems of the world. It also covers the roles of political parties, interest groups, and the media in shaping the government. The Supreme Court is presented as the “voice of reason” in the balance of powers.

## Civics: Citizenship

This course prepares for the Naturalization Test designed by the United States federal government. The course is for high school students in order to fulfill the requirement for graduation.

## Economics

Economics explores principles that allow students to make informed decisions about personal finance. In this course, students develop a broader understanding of national and international economic decisions and policies. These principles will help students understand why economics impacts history, the distribution of wealth, and the quality of life for all members of society.

## Science

### Physical Science A

This semester introduces students to the world of chemistry. Students start by looking at science as a whole. This means learning the methods and tools that scientists use to get 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 periodic table. From there, students learn to use and interpret chemical names, formulas, equations, and models. Students also discover the types and properties of reactions, mixtures, solutions, acids, and bases. Finally, students examine nuclear reactions and their uses. Throughout the course, students also explore historical perspectives and the modern social impact of these topics.

### Physical Science B

This semester introduces students to the world of physics. Students start by discovering what it means to be scientific. By looking at the ways scientists think, communicate, and do their jobs, students form a strong foundation for learning the sciences. Next, the course covers important aspects of motion and force, including the motion of fluids and Newton’s laws. Building up from these beginnings, students explore thermodynamics, energy, work, and machines. Next is the nature and properties of waves, followed by electricity and magnetism. Alongside their exploration of the scientific method, students work on a course project that introduces them to the field of engineering.

## Biology A

This semester covers the basics of biochemistry and how it relates to life. Biology helps students understand the life all around them—as well as how they affect certain systems on Earth. It also helps students understand themselves on a biological level. In this course, students use logical thinking to identify relationships and draw conclusions. The course expands out from the building blocks of biochemistry to individual cells, and cell membranes. From there, the topic shifts to cell division and reproduction. Finally, the course describes cell energy and metabolism, and photosynthesis.

## Biology B

This semester covers the basics of genetics and the technology used to better understand it. The first step is to explore genetics, DNA, and the genetic code. Students discover how organisms have evolved due to natural selection. They also explore ecology, and how matter and energy flow through ecosystems. These topics can help students see a bigger picture of the living world around them. Students apply ethical guidelines to biological research. This includes engaging in a discussion about the ethics and implications of new biotechnology. Students also model the flow of matter and energy in ecosystems. This investigation shows how changes to the flow affect organisms in their environment.

## Chemistry A

This semester covers the basic principles and properties of matter. These concepts enhance students' grasp of chemistry and its everyday uses. Chemistry opens the atomic world to students. Using the atomic model, students learn how chemical reactions can be predicted. Once scientists understand reactions, they can be engineered to provide people with energy and needed materials. Students start with the building blocks of chemistry, with atoms, bonding, and the periodic table. Next, students move to the next size up: molecules. After that, students build on these ideas with a look at reactions, stoichiometry, and the link between reactions and energy.

## Chemistry B

This semester expands upon the basic understanding of chemistry. The course begins with an overview of the properties of matter. These include the types of bonds and forces that hold atoms and molecules together. After that, the course explores the states of matter, phase changes, gas laws, and solutions. Then, the course moves into the thermodynamics and kinetics of chemical reactions. This explains why some reactions give off heat, while others consume it. The course also discusses chemical equilibrium and electrochemistry. Finally, the course explores radiation and the difference between nuclear fission and fusion. By the end of this course, students are able to evaluate the ethical and social implications of chemistry related technologies.

## World Languages

### Spanish 1A

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.

### Spanish 1B

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.

### Spanish 2A

Students continue to build on their understanding by reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students learn how to start and end conversations, ask questions, and discuss topics like social relationships, climate, animals, fables, holiday customs, and outdoor activities. Students even get the chance to write their own fable in Spanish. In addition to learning the language, students also learn

about the cultures of Paraguay, Puerto Rico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Bolivia. Students learn about the history, products, traditions, practices, and perspectives of each of these countries.

## Spanish 2 B

Students continue to acquire the Spanish language through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students learn how to discuss transportation, extracurricular interests, professions, cuisine, clothing, health, and technology. Students are able to discuss these topics in the present, past, future, and conditional tenses, as well as the present subjunctive mood. In addition to learning the language, students also learn about the cultures of the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Uruguay, and Panama. Students learn about the historical figures, cultural products, traditions, practices, and perspectives of each of these countries.

## **High School Electives**

### Art History

Explores art of the prehistoric, ancient, medieval, Renaissance and Rococo periods to understand how to read and interpret art. *Given the subject matter, the course is extensively visual. Please also be aware that this course includes depictions of nudity, as many art movements celebrated the human form. Many important and influential works of art include nudity, and it would be nearly impossible to teach art history without including them.*

### Art History Modern

Explores art of the late 1700s to modernity from Western movements in artworks and architecture to China, Japan, Africa, Oceania, Southeast Asia, India. *Given the subject matter, the course is extensively visual. Please also be aware that this course includes depictions of nudity, as many art movements celebrated the human form. Many important and influential works of art include nudity, and it would be nearly impossible to teach art history without including them.*

### Character Education

Explores values of truthfulness, trustworthiness, responsibility, diligence, and integrity. The course offers specific, real world situations to interpret and connect to these traits to provide safe and appropriate ways to respond in real time. Topics include: identifying bullying, how to develop a bullying-prevention mindset.

### Computer Basics

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.

### Criminology and Forensics

Criminology and Forensics is a beginner level course on the topics of crime and forensic procedures exploring topics on crime and criminology, witnesses and perpetrators, and the crime lab.

### Criminology and Justice

Beginner-level course on criminal procedures that explores the criminal justice system, non-forensic evidence, and what happens inside the courtroom. It is an introduction the Public Services CTE pathway.

### Entrepreneurship

Explores entrepreneurial characteristics, business leadership, and the skills and steps involved in marketing, developing, starting, and exiting a business. Key topics and activities include hands-on projects to apply the knowledge as a small business owner and entrepreneur. The course is aligned to the Marketing, Sales, and Services CTE pathway.

### Fashion Design A

Explores the tools and principles of fashion design. Topics include: the use of color, creation of an inspiration board, fabrics and materials, and tools and machines used by fashion designers.

## Fashion Design B

Explores the skills and education required in the fashion industry. Topics include: the range of jobs in the industry, skills for success, such as interviewing, workplace communication, and teamwork.

## Gaming Unlocked

Researches the basics of gaming, from what makes games fun to what makes them work by exploring quality in a variety of games such as mental games, board games, and video games. This course does not require students to know or learn a programming language. The emphasis is on the history and design of games and the different careers available in the game industry.

## Graphic and Web Design

Graphic and Web Design explores visual communication and explores the range of careers in the field. Topics included: principles of design, ethics of creative fields, and the publishing process.

## Health A

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.

## Interior Design A

Explores the principles and elements of design in general. Topics include: skills, roles and responsibilities of interior designers, specialties of interior design, history of design, design materials, furniture, accessories, and modern developments affecting interior design, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), universal design, and green design.

## Interior Design B

Explores career options in residential, commercial, and mobile design, getting credentialed, and networking in professional organizations. Topics include: leadership, group dynamics, codes of ethics; lighting, windows, walls, furniture, accessories, textiles, and floor treatments in residential and commercial designs as well as related information on materials, fabrication, and installation; review of the elements and principles of design, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and universal design.

## Photography Basics

Photography Basics explores proper use of photography equipment, how to build a portfolio of work, and describes the steps to starting a career in this field. Topics include: the habits and etiquette of the profession. *Photography equipment is not needed. Practice is offered through with digital simulations.*

## Physical Education 1A

Students explore key concepts from combative sports, gymnastics and tumbling, and a variety of team sports and activities. Students also focus on advanced fitness guidelines, motor skill development, game strategy, and the physical, emotional, and cognitive factors that affect performance. Throughout the course, students evaluate their own fitness by setting goals, designing an exercise plan, and tracking their results.

## Physical Education 1B

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.

## Principles of Marketing

Explores the interactions between businesses, consumers, and the economy as well as the role of marketing and how marketers get their information. The course culminates in the creation of a marketing plan.

## Professional Sales

Explores the role sales plays in the national economy, the importance of ethical behavior in business. Topics include: how to build, train, motivate, and evaluate a sales team; the role of buying motives; the selling process; and the importance of data. The course is aligned to the Marketing, Sales, and Services CTE pathway.