



2023

SUMMER SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIOLOGY Honors (9-12)

Biology Honors is designed to prepare students for AP Biology. It addresses a broad range of topics including cell and plant biology, biochemistry, current biological issues, genetics, reproduction, taxonomy, and evolution. These topics are taught using a wide variety of tools and approaches including lectures, individual and/or group projects, lab explorations (including dissections), field trips, guest speakers, and discussion activities. Application of concepts in the laboratory environment requires sophisticated analysis.

*Prerequisite: grade of A- or higher in Physical Science Honors; teacher recommendation
Full summer session; 1 credit*

GEOMETRY Honors (9-12)

Geometry Honors with accelerated pacing, presents concepts, definitions, properties, and applications of the course topics listed below. Students use various computational skills and strategies to solve mathematical problems and address real-world applications. Furthermore, they develop critical thinking and higher order thinking skills by connecting geometric and algebraic concepts to practical applications. Students are expected to work independently and as part of a collaborative group. Topics include geometric reasoning with emphasis on proofs; parallel and perpendicular lines; triangle congruence; properties and attributes of triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, and circles; perimeter, area, surface area, and volume; and right triangles in conjunction with trigonometry.

*Prerequisite: grade of B+ or higher in Algebra 1 Honors; teacher recommendation
Full summer session; 1 credit*

PHYSICS Honors (10-12)

Physics Honors is for advanced students ready to move at an accelerated pace, is an introductory algebra-based, college preparatory physics course with an emphasis on developing a conceptual understanding of the major topics of physics and problem-solving skills in those topic areas. Algebra and geometry skills are used extensively throughout the course. Major topics to be covered include Newtonian mechanics (motion of objects, forces), classical thermodynamics (the nature of heat), wave phenomena (sound and light), electricity and magnetism (including DC electronics), and selected topics in modern physics. Students gain an in-depth understanding of these topics through lectures, class discussions, applications, laboratory investigations, and projects.

*Prerequisite: grade of B or higher in prior science Honors class or grade of A- or higher in prior science CP class;
teacher recommendation
Full summer session; 1 credit*

PRE-CALCULUS Honors (10-12)

Pre-Calculus Honors emphasizes the study of advanced algebraic and trigonometric skills necessary for the study of calculus. Topics include polynomial, rational, and exponential functions. Specific attention is given to an in-depth study of particular trigonometric skills, including graphing trigonometric functions, verifying trigonometric identities, and solving trigonometric equations.

*Prerequisite: grade of B or higher in Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors; teacher recommendation
Full summer session; 1 credit*

UNITED STATES HISTORY Honors (10-12)

United States History Honors is designed to provide the student with an understanding of United States history with primary focus on events occurring after the Civil War. Content covers early 19th century government and politics, the period of Reconstruction following the Civil War, the Industrial Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, and more recent events in history. Students are encouraged to analyze the events of our history in an effort to better comprehend the motivations, causes, and effects of important events and people. Honors history places special focus on Supreme Court legislation and presidential history. The honors designation has more writing and primary source assignments.

*Prerequisite: grade of B or higher in prior social science Honors class or grade
of A- or higher in prior social science CP class; teacher recommendation
Full summer session; 1 credit*

ESPAÑOL - Various Levels (8-12)

Please contact Ms. Castellanos for details.

Full summer session; 1 credit

SPANISH- Various Levels (8-12)

Please contact Ms. Castellanos for details.

Full summer session; 1 credit

FRENCH- Various Levels (8-12)

Please contact Ms. Castellanos for details.

Full summer session; 1 credit

SPEECH Honors (9-12)

Speech Honors introduces and gradually refines a wide variety and range of public speaking skills required for communication. Students conquer stage fright; practice different types of delivery methods; and engage in extemporaneous, informative, and persuasive speaking.

Fulfills the fine art requirement

Full summer session; 1 credit

PERSONAL FITNESS (9-12)

Personal Fitness introduces students to the importance of developing a consistent attitude of care and concern for one’s personal well-being, both physical and mental. This goal is achieved through a variety of instructions. Students will learn about the fundamentals and techniques of weight training and cardiovascular exercise. They will learn the many aspects of physical fitness including the elements of resistance training, cardiovascular training, and overall weight room safety and etiquette. These active components of the course will be complemented by classroom study in the six dimensions of health, that is, mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and social. Topics to be addressed include conflict resolution, injury prevention, responsibility with alcohol as well as avoiding illegal substances, family health, personal mental and emotional health, and nutrition.

Fulfills the PE requirement

Not included in GPA.

½ summer session; ½ credit

STUDY SKILLS (6)

Study Skills enables students to develop metacognitive awareness, learning strategies, critical-thinking skills, and problem-solving skills to enhance their performance in both academic and nonacademic endeavors. Activities address time management and organizational skills; memory skills for acquiring, storing, and retrieving information; test-taking skills and strategies for linking new information with prior knowledge; various note-taking strategies; successful oral and written communication; and effective integration of creativity and logical reasoning in completing projects and tasks. Students also become familiar with organization and integration of tablets as they study.

Required in 6th grade

Paired with Writing Workshop I

Not included in GPA.

½ summer session; ½ MS credit

WRITING WORKSHOP 1 (6)

Writing Workshop 1 provides an integrated and sequential approach to the introduction and reinforcement of word study skills, grammar, and composition skills. The course specifically addresses grammar, usage, and syntax of standard written English. In coordination with the 6th grade Language Arts curriculum, the course addresses the five writing standards identified in research as integral to developmental growth in the complexity of knowledge, skills, and strategies to be expected for college readiness: (1) rhetorical analysis and planning; (2) generating content; (3) drafting; (4) evaluating and revising texts; and (5) editing to present technically-sound texts. These fundamental skills in written communication are developed incrementally in middle school and further refined in high school courses.

*Required in 6th grade
Paired with Study Skills
½ summer session; ½ MS credit*

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (7)

Computer Applications prepares students to work with Microsoft Office in an academic and professional setting and for personal use. Using courseware that incorporates an accelerated, step-by-step, project-based approach, students develop an introductory level competency in Word, Excel, Access, OneNote, and PowerPoint. They also acquire necessary keyboarding skills and explore features of Windows and various emerging internet technologies. In addition, students develop an understanding of key ethical issues they face in the context of using information technology.

*Required in 7th grade
Paired with Writing Workshop 2
½ summer session; ½ MS credit*

WRITING WORKSHOP 2 (7)

Writing Workshop 2 continues the integrated and sequential approach to the expansion and reinforcement of word study skills, grammar, and composition skills. The course expands the students' knowledge of roots, prefixes, and suffixes as well as grammar, usage, and syntax of standard written English. In coordination with the 7th grade Language Arts curriculum, the course continues emphasis on the five writing standards identified in research as integral to developmental growth in the complexity of knowledge, skills, and strategies to be expected for college readiness: (1) rhetorical analysis and planning; (2) generating content; (3) drafting; (4) evaluating and revising texts; and (5) editing to present technically-sound texts. These fundamental skills in written communication are developed incrementally in middle school and further refined in high school courses.

*Required in 7th grade
Paired with Computer Applications
½ summer session; ½ MS credit*

WRITING WORKSHOP 3 (8)

Writing Workshop 3 provides an integrated and sequential approach to the teaching and reinforcement of grammar and composition skills, focusing on using connectives logically and forcefully. Grammar nomenclature is simplified through the use of visual punctuation rules. Emphasis is placed on the purpose of the connective used to show logical relationship between ideas. Through a sequential sentence-combining approach, students learn to recognize and apply visual rules for combining ideas and using coordination and subordination appropriately. After mastering a series of skill builders for each type of connective, students write their own responses to questions based upon readings from various sources. Students further develop their skills in coordination and subordination of ideas as they write formal extended responses to questions. Assessments include a pre-test, skill building exercises, formative evaluating exercises, and a summative post-test.

*Required in 8th grade
Paired with Writing Workshop 4
½ summer session; ½ MS credit*

WRITING WORKSHOP 4 (8)

Writing Workshop 4 uses a three-pronged approach in developing analytical skills to enhance written communication. Students learn paragraph and multi-paragraph structures based on the sentence skills mastered in Writing Workshop 3. Students simultaneously reinforce standard English grammar skills.

*Required in 8th grade
Paired with Writing Workshop 3
½ summer session; ½ MS credit*

WRITING WORKSHOP 4 (8)

Writing Workshop 4 uses a three-pronged approach in developing analytical skills to enhance written communication. Students learn paragraph and multi-paragraph structures based on the sentence skills mastered in Writing Workshop 3. Students simultaneously reinforce standard English grammar skills.

*Required in 8th grade
Paired with Writing Workshop 3
½ summer session; ½ MS credit*

CRITICAL THINKING for SAT/ACT PREP (11)

Critical Thinking for SAT/ACT Prep prepares students for optimal performance on college entrance exams. Students are presented with a review of the specific mathematical and verbal skills measured on both tests. Students also complete and review their progress on multiple full length practice SAT and ACT exams to ensure efficient test taking strategies in a timed testing environment. In addition, students review the requirements for both SAT and ACT timed essays. During the course, our college counselors will lead the students in an informed examination of college opportunities and guide students in general college planning. (Counselors will continue to meet with students individually and engage in each of their personalized college planning.)

*Required in 11th grade
Not included in GPA.
Full summer session; 1 credit*

INTENSIVE MATH (6-8)

Intensive Math is a non-graded and individualized course that strengthens the computational and problem solving skills required for entry in the student's appropriate math level in the fall. The developmental aspect of the curriculum requires daily focus and reiteration of foundation skills. Some practice is required at home. This course fulfills the Intensive Math requirement for admission.

½ summer session; no credit