



**Twin Cities Academy High School**  
**Course Guide**  
**2021-2022**

# TCAHS COURSE GUIDE 2021-2022

This course guide was created to help guide you through the course registration process. Included in this packet is information on course requirements, registration procedures, and course descriptions. Selecting courses is a very important process that should be made only after careful consideration of your abilities, future academic and career goals, and personal interests.

When making your course selections, it is helpful to review and make sure you have met or are currently meeting the course requirements. All students in grades 9-12 must meet the following requirements for graduation:

## **TCA GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Total Credits for Graduation: 24

1 credit = 1 year

**English:** 4 credits

**Math:** 4 credits

**Science:** 4 credits

**Social Studies:** 3.5 credits

**World Language:** 2 credits

**Fine Arts:** 1 credit

**Physical Education/Health:** 1 credit

### **Course Registration Process**

Course Registration Presentations led by the school counselor will happen in classes during the month of March to explain course requirements and options. Students will fill out a course registration form online and it will be sent to the school counselor.

### **Definition Course Terms**

**Credit:** Students are awarded a half-year credit (0.5 credit) upon successful completion of most semester courses.

**Grades:** Grade level at which the course is being offered.

**Semester:** Semester in which the elective course is being offered.

### **Elective Schedule Change Procedure**

Students will not be allowed to change their schedules once they are set unless there are extenuating circumstances. Registration should be taken extremely seriously for this reason. English, Math, Social Studies or Science classes are not electives and will not change.

# TCAHS Typical Course Schedule by Grade

Below is a list of typical classes that students take in each grade at TCAHS.

## 9th Grade

English A/B or English A/B Honors  
World History  
Intermediate Algebra, Geometry or Algebra II  
Integrated Science or Integrated Science Honors  
World Language  
Elective (or Math Extensions)  
Elective

## 10th Grade

English A/B or English A/B Honors  
US History or AP US History  
Geometry, Algebra II or Pre-Calculus  
Biology or AP Biology  
World Language  
Elective (or Math Extensions)  
Elective

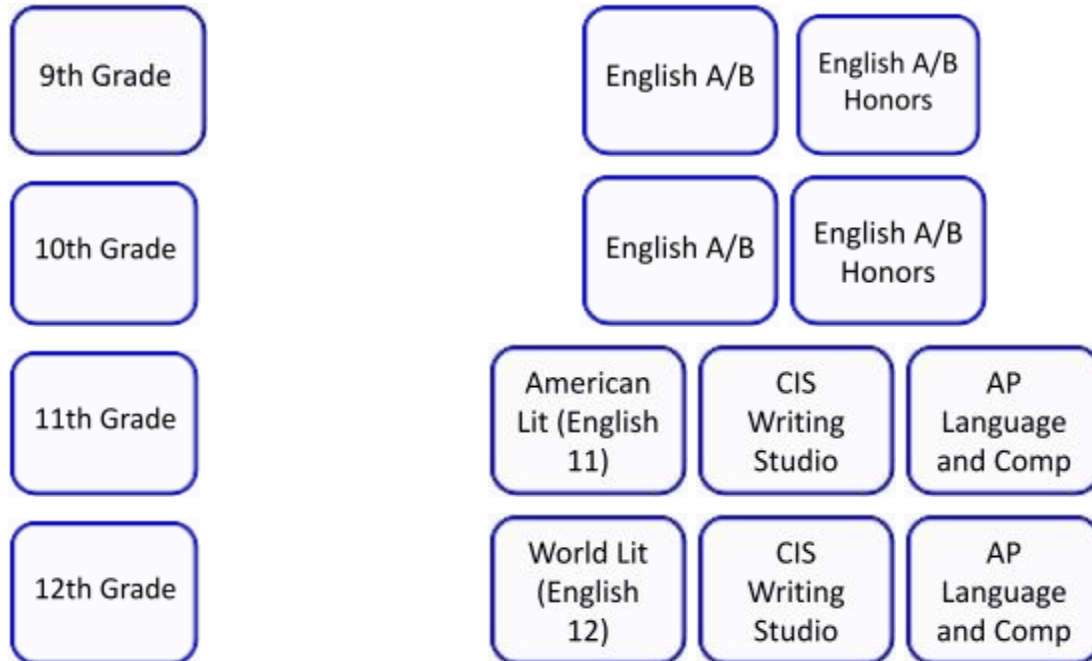
## 11th Grade

American Lit or CIS Writing Studio or AP Lang and Comp  
Civics & Economics  
Algebra II, Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus  
Chemistry or AP Chemistry or CIS Animal Science  
World Language (or Elective)  
Elective (or Math Extensions)  
Elective

## 12th Grade

World Lit or CIS Writing Studio or AP Lang and Comp  
Geography (1st semester)  
Statistics or Pre-Calculus or AP Calculus  
Physics or AP Physics or CIS Animal Science  
World Language (or Elective)  
Elective  
Elective

# TCAHS English Scope and Sequence



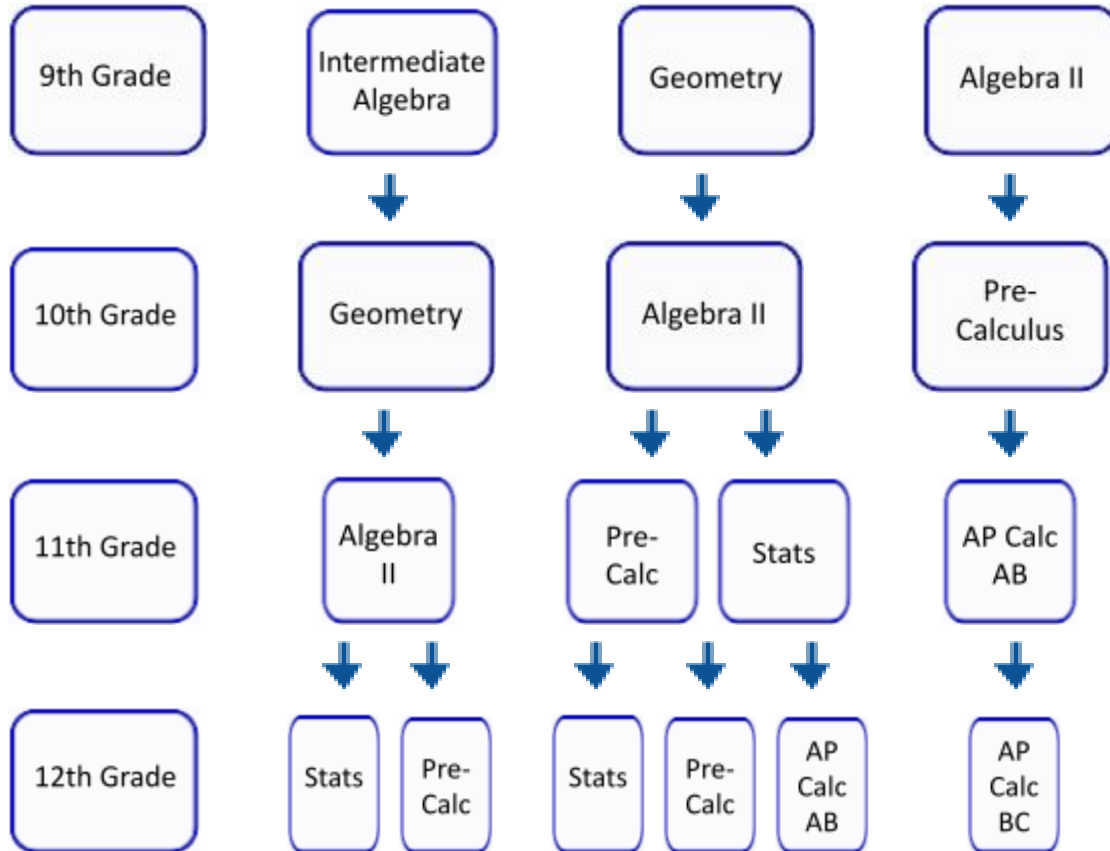
**American Literature (English 11):** In this course, composition assignments are integrated with the study of important works of American literature such as *The Great Gatsby*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *The Things They Carried*, and *Catch-22*. Supplementary readings include nonfiction essays, short stories by American authors, American poets from the 18th century to the present, and at least one modern play such as *Fences*. Students gain an understanding of literary forms, dominant philosophies, and historical background. Writing instruction focuses on the expository essay – narrative, comparison/contrast, literary analysis, and descriptive. Students will prepare for the college application process; ACT writing preparation; and writing a college application essay.

**British/World Literature (English 12):** British Literature studies a variety of primarily British works while encouraging students to think deeply and critically. Basic and finer points of both persuasive and expository literary analysis are developed and demonstrated in essays, and a literary research paper. Students can expect to study Chaucer, Shakespeare, the Brontës; and modern authors such as Kazuo Ishiguro and Zadie Smith. World Literature introduces literary works from different countries, all written in the 20th and 21st centuries. The objective of this course is the study and consideration of the literary, cultural, and human significance of selected great works from non-Western literary traditions.

**CIS Writing Studio:** A College in the Schools course from the University of Minnesota. This writing lab course offers students the opportunity to work on college-level reading and writing skills. Students also participate in a Field Day hosted by the U of M. Students will receive college credit if they successfully pass the course.

**AP Language and Composition:** This course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

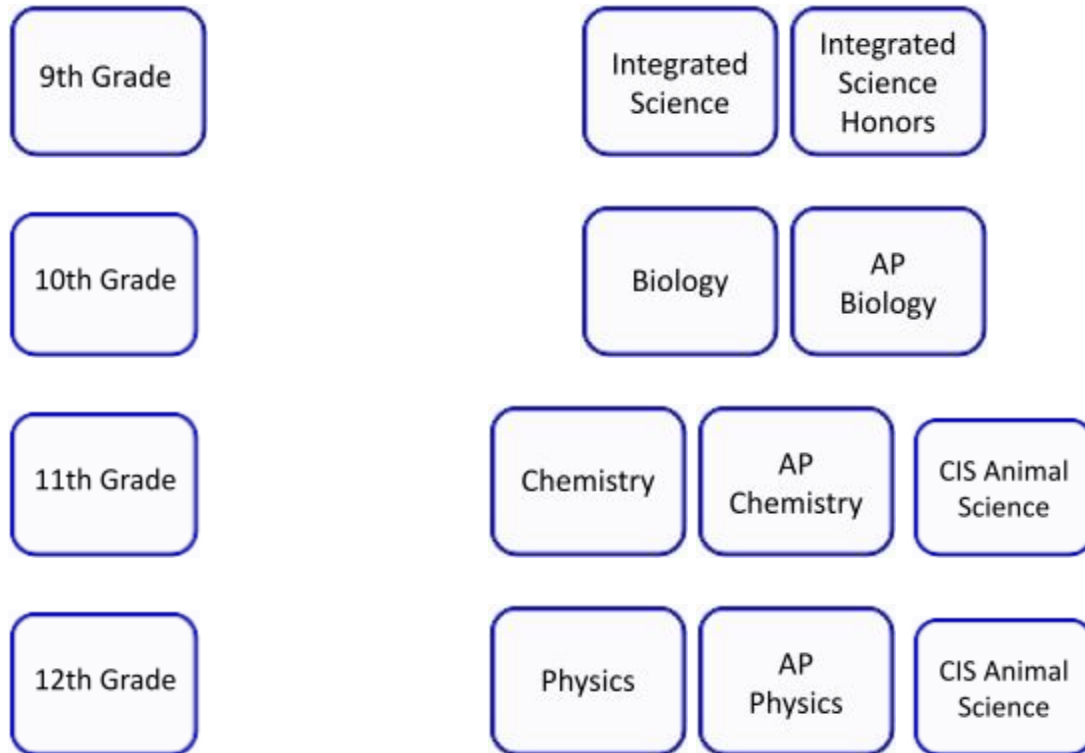
## TCAHS Math Scope and Sequence



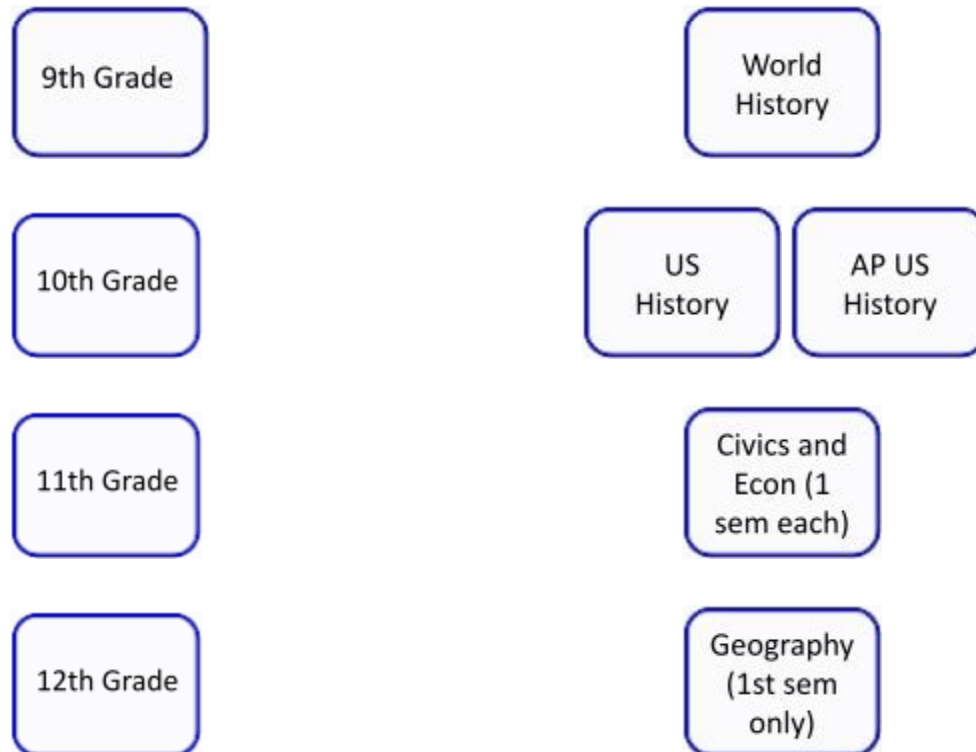
**Statistics:** Statistics is the science and art of data and inference. The precision and abstract nature of mathematics are replaced by uncertainty and intuition in Statistics. Students will learn to interpret data, analyze how different real-world variables affect each other, how data is collected, and probability theory. Statistics is focused primarily on the interpretation of data to reinforce or deny a hypothesis. Any student who is interested in pursuing (but not limited to) Psychology, Sociology, Business, Marketing, Education, or the Sciences would benefit from taking Statistics.

**Pre-Calculus:** A foundational course for future advanced math. It includes a review and deepening of algebraic knowledge, right triangle, and unit circle trigonometry, matrices and systems of equations, and a basic Calculus unit introducing derivative and integral Calculus in preparation for AP Calculus. Students who plan to take AP Calculus and beyond should sign up for Pre-Calculus.

# TCAHS Science Scope and Sequence



# TCAHS Social Studies Scope and Sequence



# TCAHS World Language Descriptions

## Spanish

**Spanish I** is a fun and interactive beginning level course suitable for students with little to no Spanish experience. Students learn to understand basic written and spoken Spanish by focusing on frequently used structures and grammar patterns in the target language. Students build confidence and fluency through a variety of activities including storytelling, songs, and cultural readings.

**Prerequisites:** none

**Spanish II** is designed to build upon and reinforce vocabulary and grammar structures learned in Spanish I. Students continue to develop their proficiency in the target language through a variety of activities – while the focus on the class is still comprehension of language, more output (speaking and writing) is introduced in Spanish II. Students should be comfortable communicating in the present tense and become more comfortable understanding past tense language.

**Prerequisites:** Spanish II or equivalent proficiency as demonstrated by language assessment

**Spanish III** is designed to build upon the foundation of language built in the students' first 2+ years. Students continue to develop their proficiency in the target language through a variety of communicative activities – there is a greater expectation of speaking and writing in Spanish. Students read novels, tell stories, and work with various language tenses.

**Prerequisites:** Spanish II or equivalent proficiency as demonstrated by language assessment

**Spanish IV** Students continue to develop their proficiency in the target language through a variety of activities – there is a greater expectation of speaking and writing in Spanish in Spanish IV. The class is based around reading and discussing novels in Spanish.

**Prerequisites:** Spanish III or equivalent proficiency as demonstrated by language assessment

**AP Spanish Language and Culture** emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication.

**Prerequisites:** Spanish IV or equivalent proficiency as demonstrated by language assessment



## French

**French I:** Students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French, with the understanding that they are likely to be able to understand more than they are able to produce. By the end of the course, students are able to read/listen at or above the Intermediate Low level and speak/write at or above the Novice High level. Themes include introducing yourself, school, friends, family, weather and geography, daily routines, clothing, food, and stories.

**Prerequisites:** None

**French II:** Students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French, with the understanding that they are likely to be able to understand more than they are able to produce. By the end of the course, students are able to read/listen at or above the Intermediate Mid-level and speak/write at or above the Intermediate Low level. Themes include holidays, childhood, health and wellness, and the city.

**Prerequisites:** French I

**French III:** In French III, we continue to use language skills learned in French I and II to focus on reading, conversation, and writing skills. Advanced grammar is taught on a regular basis. Activities include group learning, role playing, discussions in French, and reading a short novel and short stories. Course material also includes the study of French history and literature.

**Prerequisites:** French II

**French IV:** This rigorous course represents a bridge between French III/French Immersion III and AP French Language and Culture. This curriculum serves to further develop the four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) in order to prepare students to be successful in the AP French course, for which they will be eligible to earn college credits. Through the school year we review and deepen student understanding of Francophone cultures and essential French grammar, as well as expanding vocabulary, and improving writing and speaking proficiency. Students should already have a good command of grammar and considerable competence in listening, reading, speaking and writing.

**Prerequisites:** French Immersion III or French 3

**AP French Language and Culture:** The AP French Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in French. The AP French Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

**Prerequisites:** French Immersion III, Pre-CIS French or permission from instructor

# Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, and College in the Schools (CIS) Course Descriptions

## AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

**Credit:** 1 English      **Grades:** 11-12      **Semester:** Full Year

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

## AP US HISTORY

**Credit:** 1 Social Studies      **Grades:** 10      **Semester:** Full Year

This course focuses on the development of disciplinary practices and reasoning skills and an understanding of historical content. In this course, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491-present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; making historical comparisons; utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time; and developing historical arguments. This is a college-level course and requires nightly reading and homework.

## AP CALCULUS

**Credit:** 1 Math      **Grades:** 10-12      **Semester:** Full Year      **Prerequisite:** Pre-Calculus

AP Calculus AB is focused on building enduring mathematical understanding in addition to mastering the necessary procedures and skills. To foster this deeper level of learning, AP Calculus AB is designed to develop mathematical knowledge conceptually, guiding you to connect topics and representations throughout the course and to apply strategies and techniques to accurately solve diverse types of problems. We cover limits, derivatives and integrals. We work with functions represented in a variety of ways: graphical, numerical, analytical, or verbal. Students understand the connections among these representations. Students understand the meaning of the derivative in terms of a rate of change and local linear approximation and use derivatives to solve a variety of problems. Students understand the meaning of the definite integral both as a limit of Riemann sums and as the net accumulation of change and use integrals to solve a variety of problems. Students understand the relationship between the derivative and the definite integral as expressed in both parts of the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

## AP PHYSICS 1

**Credit:** 2 Science      **Grades:** 12      **Semester:** Full Year

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. We focus on 6 big ideas. Big Idea 1: Objects and systems have properties such as mass and charge. Systems may have internal structure. Big Idea 2: Fields existing in space can be used to explain interactions. Big Idea 3: The interactions of an object with other objects can be described by forces. Big Idea 4: Interactions between systems can result in changes in those systems. Big Idea 5: Changes that occur as a result of interactions are constrained by conservation laws. Big Idea 6: Waves can transfer energy and momentum from one location to another without the permanent transfer of mass and serve as a mathematical model for the description of other phenomena.

## AP BIOLOGY

**Credit:** 2 Science      **Grades:** 10-12      **Semester:** Full Year

AP Biology is an introductory college-level Biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes – energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions.

## AP CHEMISTRY

**Credit:** 2 Science      **Grades:** 11-12      **Semester:** Full Year

The AP Chemistry course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium.

## AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

**Credit:** 1 Elective      **Grades:** 9-12      **Semester:** Full Year

AP Computer Science Principles is an AP Computer Science course and examination offered by the College Board to high school students as an opportunity to earn college credit for a college-level computer science course. AP Computer Science Principles is meant to be the equivalent of a first-semester course in computer science. Assessment for AP Computer Science Principles is divided into two parts, both an end of course exam as well as the creation of artifacts throughout the course. We cover the following conceptual thinking practices: Connecting computing, Creating computational artifacts, Abstracting, Analyzing, Communicating, Collaborating.

## AP ART HISTORY

**Credit:** 1 Fine Arts      **Grades:** 10-12      **Semester:** Full Year

AP Art History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester university art history survey course. Students successful in History, Literature, and Studio Art are encouraged to take this class. This class explores the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, and our personal responses to it. Upon completion students attain a comprehensive understanding of art through the investigation of diverse artistic traditions of many cultures from prehistory to present day. A sketchbook is required for this class.

## AP MUSIC THEORY

**Credit:** 1 Fine Arts      **Grades:** 10-12      **Semester:** Full Year

Learn to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music. You'll develop skills by listening to, reading, writing, and performing a wide variety of music. You will learn to identify features of pitch, interval, scales and keys, chords, meter, rhythm, and other musical concepts in performance and notated music, sing a notated melody on sight, and notate music that you hear. Recommended prerequisites included the ability to read and write musical notation and basic voice or instrument performance skills.

## AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

**Credit:** 1 World Language      **Grades:** 9-12      **Semester:** Full Year      **Prerequisite:** Spanish IV

AP Spanish Language and Culture emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication.

## AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

**Credit:** 1 World Language      **Grades:** 9-12      **Semester:** Full Year      **Prerequisite:** Pre-CIS French

This course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in French. The AP French Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

## CIS WRITING STUDIO

**Credit:** 1 English

**Grades:** 11-12

**Semester:** Full Year

Writing Studio is a College in the Schools course from the University of Minnesota. This writing lab course offers students the opportunity to work on college level reading and writing skills. Students also participate in a Field Day hosted by the U of MN. Students receive college credit if they successfully pass the course.

## CIS ANIMAL SCIENCE

**Credit:** 1 Science

**Grades:** 11-12

**Semester:** Full Year

Animal Science is a College in the Schools course from the University of Minnesota. Introduction to Animal Science emphasizes the fundamental concepts of physiology, nutrition, animal breeding and management as they apply to production systems of livestock, poultry and companion animals. Students also participate in a Field Day hosted by the U of MN. Students receive college credit if they successfully pass the course.

## ENGLISH A HONORS: CREATIVE WRITING, RESEARCH, & COMMUNICATION

**Credit:** 1 English

**Grades:** 9-10

**Semester:** Full Year

During this year of exploration, students will investigate topics of their own choice; apply the art of persuasion and science of logic by engaging in debate; unlock a mystery by using research skills; write creatively to discover one's self and to protest injustices they see in the world; and put their imagination and voice to work by writing fiction and poetry, after immersing themselves in vibrant works by modern writers. Offered every other year - companion to English B Honors: Literary Theory.

## ENGLISH B HONORS: LITERARY THEORY

**Credit:** 1 English

**Grades:** 9-10

**Semester:** Full Year

Embark upon a year-long adventure through literature. In this course, we examine texts through four different "lenses" to see what it's like to read a book from different perspectives. How does an author's life and times impact their writing? What kind of political statements can authors make with dystopian novels? How can a work of fiction have a significant impact on a culture? We examine these questions and more. Offered every other year - companion to English A Honors: Creative Writing, Research, & Communication.

## INTEGRATED SCIENCE HONORS

**Credit:** 1 Science

**Grades:** 9

**Semester:** Full Year

Integrated Science Honors is a year-long course with a high level of rigor designed to provide a strong foundation for AP and college courses. It is an introductory science course that covers the first few units of each of the core science courses: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. It is designed to give students the chance to try all of our science offerings so that as a sophomore they can take any of them and succeed.

## Math Support Programming Information

**Grades:** 9-10

Grades 9 and 10 will offer a “double block” of math class that incorporates supplemental resources into the math curriculum. This course will move at a bit slower pace and use the program MATH 180 as a tool to assist students in their learning of math concepts and procedures. The 180 program is an innovative, targeted intervention program by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, allowing students to be exposed to even more practice around various math concepts. Students will be identified for this course by their scores on standardized tests and screeners, as well as input from their previous math teachers. MATH 180 challenges students to work hard, offer encouragement and provide support at home by encouraging students to practice math skills.

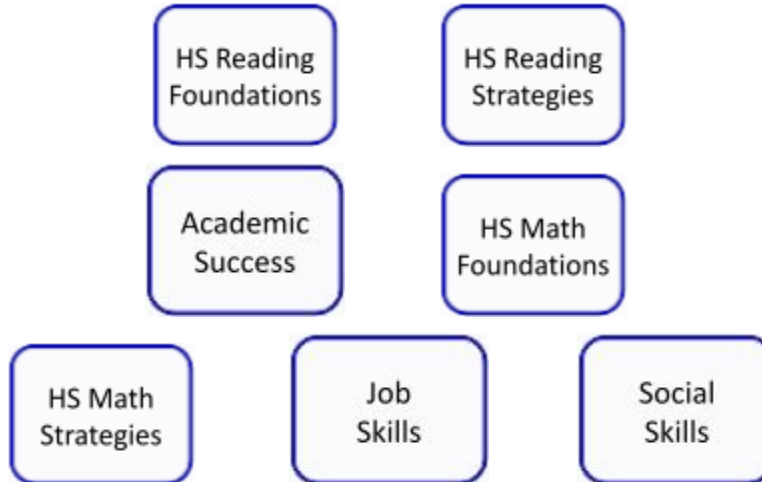
TCA’s data team reviews all student data, including: national and statewide assessments, course grades and credits, attendance, behavior, and overall school-wide performance. This data team works closely with the teachers to identify students who are in need of more support; after careful consideration, students may be selected to participate in the program to support their instructional needs.

MATH 180 is a research-based program with proven results in raising student math achievement. In addition, the 180 program uses cutting-edge technology to deliver individualized math instruction, provide valuable skills practice, and motivate students to develop confidence and fluency in math. These courses will:

- Build essential math skills for college and career readiness.
- Bring students’ math proficiency up to grade level.
- Develop mathematical practices and habits of mind.
- Apply math to solve real-world problems.
- Show students that they can attain academic success in math.

# Special Education Courses and Information

## High School Special Education Courses



## Course Area Descriptions

**Foundations:** Foundations is designed to create a solid foundation of basic skills in Reading or Math for students who are significantly behind grade level. Students receive individualized instruction based on learning needs outlined in their Individualized Education Plan. Foundations is a Pass/Fail course. Students receive credits toward English or Math when passing the course.

**Strategies:** Strategies is designed to develop, strengthen, and improve strategies used in the academic areas of Reading and Math. The course is designed for students who are slightly behind in grade level instruction and need support to be successful in current grade level Math and English. The class helps build on skills and provide strategies to strengthen knowledge in either Reading or Math. Strategies courses are graded courses and students receive credits if they pass this course.

**Skills:** Skills is designed to build, develop and strengthen skills in applicable areas to help students be successful in and beyond high school. Students receive individualized instruction based on their learning needs outlined in their Individualized Education Plan goals. Skills courses are graded courses and students receive elective credits if passed.

**Academic Success:** Academic Success is designed to develop, strengthen, and improve skills for positive academic performance and achievement based on the learning needs of the student outlined in their Individualized Education Plan. Academic Success is a Pass/Fail course and students receive elective credits if they pass the course.

# TCAHS Elective Course Information

## FINE ARTS

### BEGINNING BAND 1390/1391

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts per semester      **Grades:** 6-12      **Semester:** Full Year Commitment

If students have never played an instrument, or are looking to learn a new instrument, this band is for them! All HS and MS students are welcome to join. Students learn the fundamentals of music making and music reading through performance of diverse repertoire, composition, and improvisation. Small group pull out lessons occur about 2 times per month for all Beginning Band members. There are 3 required concerts throughout the year. Band is a yearlong class and students must commit to it for the entire year. Come experience the magic of music making!

### SYMPHONIC BAND 1394/1395

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts per semester      **Grades:** 6-12      **Semester:** Full Year Commitment

This ensemble is for more advanced HS or MS players, or students with 2+ years of experience on their instrument. We begin to refine our individual skills and deepen our understanding of ensemble performance through challenging and diverse repertoire. Students continue to explore the fundamentals of music theory, improvisation, and composition. Small group pull out lessons will be required of middle school students only. There are 3 required concerts throughout the year. Symphonic Band Members also have the opportunity to participate in the TCA Pep Band at basketball and volleyball games throughout the season. Band is a yearlong class and students must commit to it for the entire year. Come flex your musical muscles!

### CONCERT BAND 1396/1397

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts per semester      **Grades:** 6-12      **Semester:** Full Year Commitment

This is the top performing band at TCA, open to advanced HS or MS players with 2+ years of experience. Concert Band Members apply their skills to challenging and diverse repertoire. Students continue to explore the fundamentals of music theory, improvisation, and composition. Small group pull out lessons will be required of middle school students only. There are 3 required concerts throughout the year. Concert Band Members also have the opportunity to participate in the TCA Pep Band at basketball and volleyball games throughout the season. Band is a yearlong class and students must commit to it for the entire year. Come showcase your musical talent!



## **STRING ORCHESTRA 1398/1399**

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts per semester      **Grades:** 6-12      **Semester:** Full Year Commitment

This ensemble is open to both beginning and intermediate string musicians. Advanced string musicians, or students beyond Suzuki School method book level 4, should speak with Ms. Choquette about enrolling in Concert Band. Orchestra members will apply their skills to challenging and diverse repertoire. Students will continue to explore the fundamentals of music theory, improvisation, and composition. Small group pull out lessons will be available to all students. There are 3 required concerts throughout the year. String Orchestra is a yearlong class and students must commit to it for the entire year. Come showcase your musical talent!

## **MUSIC OF TODAY 1304/1309**

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts      **Grades:** 9-12      **Semester:** Fall or Spring

This course is designed to supply students with foundational skills in music performing, analysis, and production. We analyze popular modern music, learn to write our own songs using electronic music software, jam with junkyard percussion instruments, and examine the social, cultural, and political impact music can have on society and that our society can have on music. No prior musical experience is necessary. Some of the material we cover is determined by class interests. Students should be prepared to share and discuss their interests, as well as being accepting of the interests of their classmates!

## **SURVEY OF ART 1320/1321**

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts      **Grades:** 9-12      **Semester:** Fall or Spring

This class is an introduction to art. The development of art forms from ancient times to present day are explored with corresponding studio projects accompanying each unit. Upon completion students are able to demonstrate a historical understanding of art as a product reflective of human social development. A sketchbook is required for this class.

## **STUDIO ART 1322/1323**

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts      **Grades:** 9-12      **Semester:** Fall or Spring      **Prerequisite:** Survey of Art

This class develops skills in 2-D and 3-D design using a variety of media including: Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, and Ceramics. Upon completion students are able to demonstrate a wide range of art techniques and a better understanding of their own personal art style. A sketchbook is required for this class.

## **AP ART HISTORY 1324/1325**

**Credit:** 1 Fine Arts      **Grades:** 10-12      **Semester:** Full Year Commitment

AP-Art History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester university art history survey course. Students successful in History, Literature, and Studio Art are encouraged to take this class. This class explores the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, and our personal responses to it. Upon completion students attain a comprehensive understanding of art through the investigation of diverse artistic traditions of many cultures from prehistory to present day. A sketchbook is required for this class.

## DANCE 1312

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall

This is a choreography-based workshop class. Students will be choreographing their own pieces - not learning steps. The focus is on cultivating creativity, and building the foundation for the understanding of what dance is and why we do it.

## THEATRE ARTS 1302

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall

This is an overall exploration of what theatre is and the impact it has on the arts and society. Students will explore history, acting and design within the world of the stage.

## ACTING FOR THE STAGE 1313

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Spring

This is a medium-level course on acting theory and practice. Students learn how to use their bodies, voices, and imaginations to become a strong, multifaceted character. Students act individually, in pairs, and in groups. Previous enrollment in Theatre Arts is a plus.

## THEATRE HISTORY

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Since the beginning of time, humans have told stories through acting and performance. Learn about the various forms of theatrical storytelling through the years, from Sanskrit drama to the glitzy NYC Broadway we see today. If you want to learn more about the who, and the whys - Theatre History is the class for you!

## THEATRE TECH AND DESIGN

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

So much goes into creating a performance: sets, props, costumes, makeup, lighting, sound and more. Learn about each of these arts and try your hand at theatrical design! A creatively driven class that will allow you to make your imaginations a reality, this class will be very experimental and hands-on. Must be willing to think outside the box.

## MUSIC PRODUCTION

**Credit:** 0.5 Fine Arts

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

This is a project based class with a focus on digital music production and mixing of live recordings. We will explore DAWs like Garageband, Soundtrap, and BandLab. We will also discuss the recording process, and different career paths within the music industry. Students should be interested in creating and editing their own music, as well as analyzing modern styles of music. Music of Today is a recommended prerequisite for this course.

## AP MUSIC THEORY

**Credit:** 1.0 Fine Arts

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Full Year Commitment

Learn to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music. You'll develop skills by listening to, reading, writing, and performing a wide variety of music. You will learn to identify features of pitch, interval, scales and keys, chords, meter, rhythm, and other musical concepts in performance and notated music, sing a notated melody on sight, and notate music that you hear. Recommended prerequisites included the ability to read and write musical notation and basic voice or instrument performance skills.

## SCIENCE GENERAL ELECTIVES

### STEM HS 1353/1355

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Students explore various topics related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students complete projects including building computers, researching NASA missions and learning the basics of computer programming.

### AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES 1315/1316

**Credit:** 1 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Full Year

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles is an AP Computer Science course and examination offered by the College Board to high school students as an opportunity to earn college credit for a college-level computer science course. AP Computer Science Principles is meant to be the equivalent of a first-semester course in computer science. Assessment for AP Computer Science Principles is divided into two parts, both an end of course exam as well as the creation of artifacts throughout the course. We will cover the following conceptual thinking practices: Connecting computing, Creating computational artifacts, Abstracting, Analyzing, Communicating, Collaborating.

### CTE INDEPENDENT STUDY

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 10-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

We are now offering students the opportunity to take Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes through Independent Study. In this class, students will be using an online system called Edmentum, where they will go through a self-paced curriculum to earn credit. Students are able to choose one CTE course per semester. This is a great opportunity for students who are interested in CTE to take classes we are not currently able to offer at TCA. If you choose to take CTE Independent Study, you will need to choose one course from the following list - [view course options and descriptions here](#).

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9/10 1331/1332

**Credit:** 0.5 PE/Health

**Grades:** 9-10

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

We continue to develop daily routines for stretching and getting our bodies and minds ready to work and play. Due to space and safety constraints, we stick to classic indoors games, such as soccer, ultimate football, floor hockey, basketball, kickball, speedball and forms of dodgeball. Students are expected to change into PE clothes every day. Students actively participate in circuit-training most Mondays in hopes to develop some life-long fitness skills. This is an elective class for our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to select for one semester. Select students may be able to have schedules that allow for a full year of PE.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION 11/12 1343/1344

**Credit:** 0.5 PE/Health

**Grades:** 11-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Students continue to develop daily routines for stretching and getting our bodies and minds ready to work and play. Due to space and safety constraints, we stick to classic indoors games, such as soccer, ultimate football, floor hockey, basketball, kickball, speedball and forms of dodgeball. Students are expected to change into PE clothes every day. Students actively participate in circuit-training most Mondays in hopes to develop some life-long fitness skills. This is an elective class for our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to select for one semester. Select students may be able to have schedules that allow for a full year of PE. As upper-classmen, the students have more of a voice and more freedom in the gym environment.

## PE BOOTCAMP 1330/1336

**Credit:** 0.5 PE/Health

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

This is not your typical PE class. This class is designed to push you to your physical fitness limit by introducing current fitness techniques such as: High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), Tabata, Yoga and much more. These exercises keeps your heart rate up and burns more fat in less time. Benefits of these exercises include increased strength, stamina and balance. If students have a positive mindset, a strong work ethic, looking to prepare for the athletic season or just looking for a great workout this is the class for them!

## NUTRITION 1334/1335

**Credit:** 0.5 PE/Health

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

There are many factors involved in living a healthy, fulfilling life. Understanding how to eat healthy, prevent disease, and maintain a healthy weight is part of being healthy. *Nutrition* is a course designed to empower students to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy and informed decisions about what to eat throughout their lifetime.

## SEXUAL HEALTH AND DRUG EDUCATION 1327

**Credit:** 0.5 PE/Health

**Grades:** 10-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Based on national health standards, medical information, and scientific research, this class offers tools to help young people make healthy decisions about sexual health and drugs. This comprehensive and inclusive class is hands-on, activity based, and gives students a variety of skills and information to navigate through life. This class is based on abstinence as the safest choice, but we do provide instruction on safer sex as well.

## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH 1329

**Credit:** 0.5 PE/Health

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

There are many factors involved in living a healthy, fulfilling life. Social and Emotional Health is a course designed to empower students to obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy and informed choices throughout their life. Students examine what it means to be emotionally and socially healthy. This course is based on the national health education standards. During this course, students explore a broad range of social and emotional health topics including: Self Awareness and Self -esteem, Basic Needs, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Community, Relationships & Personal safety, Death and dying, Depression, Stress, Values and Current Events.

## SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY

**Credit:** 0.5 PE/Health

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Spring

A key component to competitive and athletic success is envisioning both success and what might be an obstacle: we will learn how to do this to enhance each individual student-athlete. We will also learn about the connection between mental and physical wellness and how nutrition and rest play a role in being prepared to play and in optimal recovery. This course is especially helpful for student-athletes.

# ENGLISH GENERAL ELECTIVES

## YEARBOOK 1318/1319

**Credit:** 1 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Full Year Commitment

According to the American Press Institute, journalism is defined as "the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information." At TCA, we do this by producing the yearbook. We cover everything from editing, to photography, to writing copy, to marketing and advertising, to graphic design, and beyond. Yearbooks are both treasured mementos and historical records, so remember: when you do a great job on your homework in this class, it will last and live on for centuries!

## CREATIVE WRITING 1303

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Spring

This course focuses on fiction writing. Students learn about the writing process and the characteristics of strong story and character writing. Projects include genre stories, children's books, and poetry.

## DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Digital Media Arts is a course in which you will improve your communication skills in the ever-changing 21st century. Develop your vision by creating videos, photos, podcasts, websites, advertisements, and a variety of other digital formats. We will analyze and investigate a wide variety of processes, techniques, and information related to the latest advances in media. This course will provide you the opportunity to express your creativity as well as participate in creative problem-solving and divergent thinking.

## REGIONAL WORLD LITERATURE: CHILE & ARGENTINA

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 10-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Immerse yourself in surrealism and magical realism by reading works from writers like Isabel Allende and Pablo Neruda as we explore Chile and Argentina through literature. Then, in the summer of 2023, join the optional trip, where we will explore Chile and Argentina in person to visit the places our authors lived and drew inspiration from! This course is aimed at students who want to engage with challenging literature from various cultures, as well as have the opportunity to gain valuable international experience by engaging with the cultures themselves. Every two years, the class changes focus to a different region; the 21-22 and 22-23 classes will focus on these two countries.

## SPECULATIVE FICTION: SCI-FI, DYSTOPIA & BEYOND

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 10-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

What is speculative fiction? It ranges from hard science fiction (Star Wars) to epic fantasy (Lord of the Rings) to dystopian futures (1984) to books that blend many elements of the above (The Time Quartet). Come register for a one-semester mission: to explore strange new worlds. To seek out new ideas and new civilizations. To boldly go where no student has gone before!

# SOCIAL STUDIES GENERAL ELECTIVES

## SOCIOLOGY 1339/1340

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

The way that students view the world comes from what we learn in our everyday activities. This course deals with the social atmosphere that helps to make us who we are and how we behave. The key component of this course is to study ourselves and the society that influences our behavior. Students are assigned weekly text readings and apply that knowledge to group projects and discussion.

## HISTORY OF THE 1960'S 1338

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Spring

The 1960s was one of the most dynamic decades in American history. In this course we will explore the social movements, politics and popular culture of the time period. Some of the topics we will cover include the Space Race, the Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-War Movement, Rock and Roll and many more! To explore these topics we will use memoirs, oral histories, music, film and videos.

## CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY 1337

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Spring

In this class students do a deep dive into what culture is and what contributes to a culture. At first students focus on the broad overview and look at specific ancient cultures from the past. Then students look at some key concepts in American culture such as race, poverty, gender, and environment. As a class we will look at the history of each, focusing specifically on America, and how that has resulted in what culture we have today. The last part of this course is identity. Students put together all they have learned and try to navigate where they think their identity lies within American culture.

## PSYCHOLOGY 1341/1342

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Psychology is the study of the human mind and its functions. In this class students study important psychologists throughout history and how they impacted the study of the human mind. Students also explore how the brain communicates to the body and what that looks like over a person's life. Students venture into what motivates a person and how their surroundings can affect that. As a class we look at how psychological disorders have been treated in the past and what is being done now in the present. The last part of this course is exploring personality and theories involved and for students to explore their own personality.

## WORLD RELIGIONS

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Learn about Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and prehistoric beliefs. For each religion, we learn its origins, beliefs, values, and practices.

## HISTORY OF HIP HOP IN THE 1970s-2000s

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Hip Hop is a cultural movement of artistic expression that grew from the Bronx, New York to influence the entire world. In this class we learn about the four elements of Hip Hop. These include b-boying (dance), graffiti (art), DJing (making music), and MCing (rapping). Students will read, listen, and see how all of this happened in addition to making their own artistic expressions.

## HISTORY OF ROCK N ROLL IN THE 1950s-2000s

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

Learn and listen as blues, country and jazz turned into rhythm & blues, rock, soul, reggae, metal, hip hop and pop music.

# GENERAL ELECTIVES

## TUTORIAL 1500/1501

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9-12

**Semester:** Fall or Spring

This class is purely for students who want time during the day to work on their homework. It is an individually-led, silent period that allows for full concentration and focus.

## PERSONAL FINANCE 1326

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 11-12

**Semester:** Spring

In Personal Finance, students learn how to do the following things: budgeting, taxes, exponential growth, 401k, retirement, student loans, investing, student loan options/avoidance/strategies, consumer math, credit cards, Microsoft Excel and much more.

## ACT PREP 1356

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 11

**Semester:** Fall

The ACT Prep Course is an intensive course devoted to covering all aspects of the ACT test, including test-taking skills, reading comprehension skills, grammar/vocabulary, essay writing, math from eighth grade through Algebra 2, and ACT Science. The course includes content review and practice designed around ACT questions and standards, using A-List Education's curriculum. The course also includes college and career preparation, as junior year is a critical time to research majors, colleges, and scholarships.

## AVID 9 1305/1306

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 9

**Semester:** Fall with the opportunity to continue in the spring

9<sup>th</sup> graders must take the course in the fall to have the option to continue in the spring. AVID is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, tutor facilitated study groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. Students will need to fill out an AVID application to be considered for this course.

## AVID 10 1307/1308

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 10

**Semester:** Full Year Commitment

This is an optional elective for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, tutor facilitated study groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support



their academic growth. Students will need to fill out an AVID application to be considered for this course.

**AVID 11/12 1310/1311**

**Credit:** 0.5 Elective

**Grades:** 11 & 12

**Semester:** Full Year Commitment

This is an optional elective for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, tutor facilitated study groups, motivational activities and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. Students will need to fill out an AVID application to be considered for this course.