



Twin Cities Academy High School
Course Guide
2022-2023

TCAHS COURSE GUIDE 2022-2023

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 prepared by the school counselor will happen in Advisory classes during the month of March to explain course requirements and options. Students will fill out a course registration form and will turn it into the school counselor. Course registration forms will be online through Google Forms.

Definition of 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
World History
Intermediate Algebra, Geometry or Algebra II
Integrated Science
World Language
Elective
Elective

10th Grade

English A/B
US History or AP US History
Geometry, Algebra II or Pre-Calculus
Biology or AP Biology
World Language
Elective
Elective

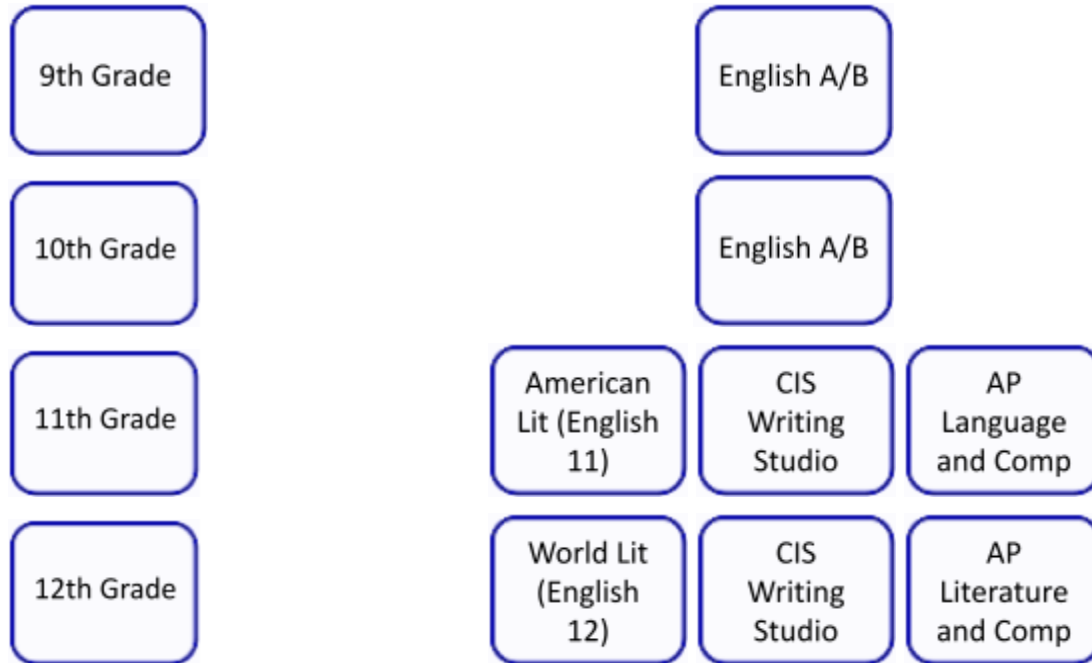
11th Grade

American Lit or CIS Writing Studio or AP Lit and Comp
Civics & Economics
Algebra II, Pre-Calculus or CIS Calculus
Chemistry or AP Chemistry or CIS Climate Crisis
World Language (or Elective)
Elective
Elective

12th Grade

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

TCAHS English Scope and Sequence



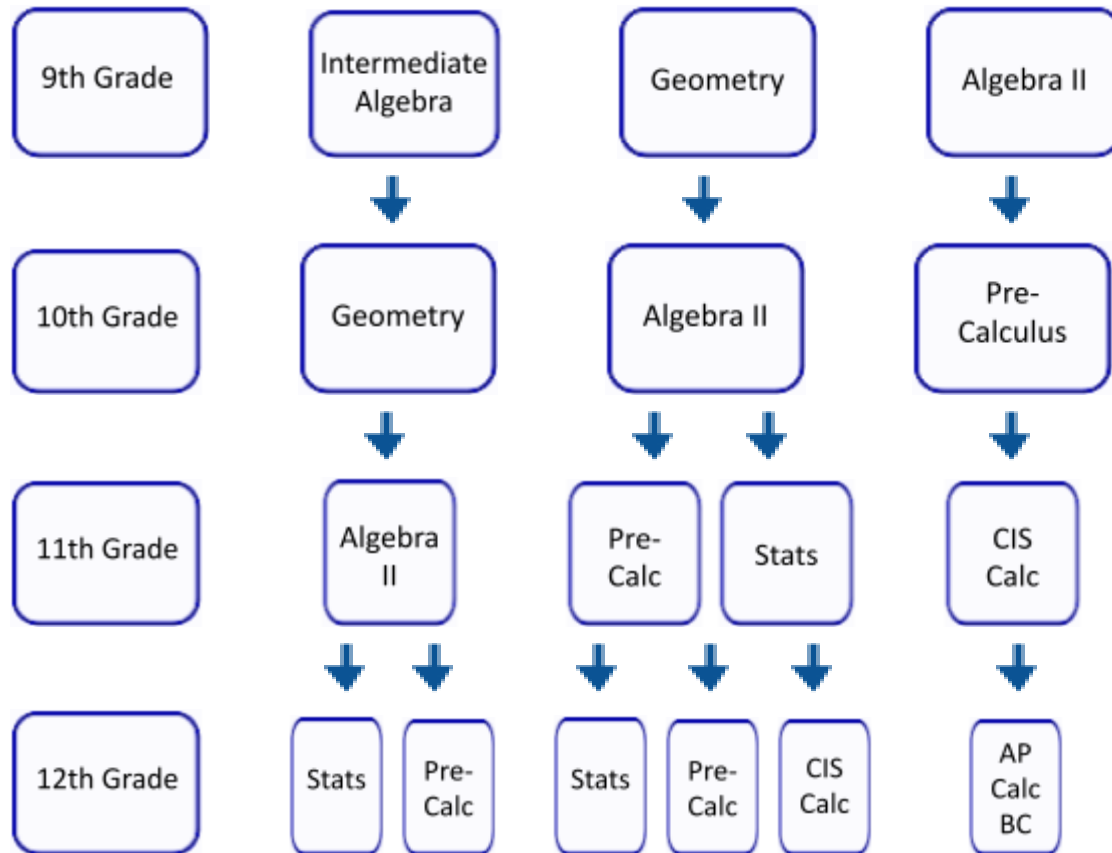
American Literature (English 11): In this course, composition assignments are integrated with the study of important works of American literature such as *The Great Gatsby*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *The Things They Carried*, and *Catch-22*. Supplementary readings include nonfiction essays, short 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 Literature and Composition: This course aligns with an introductory college-level Literature and Composition course. This course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

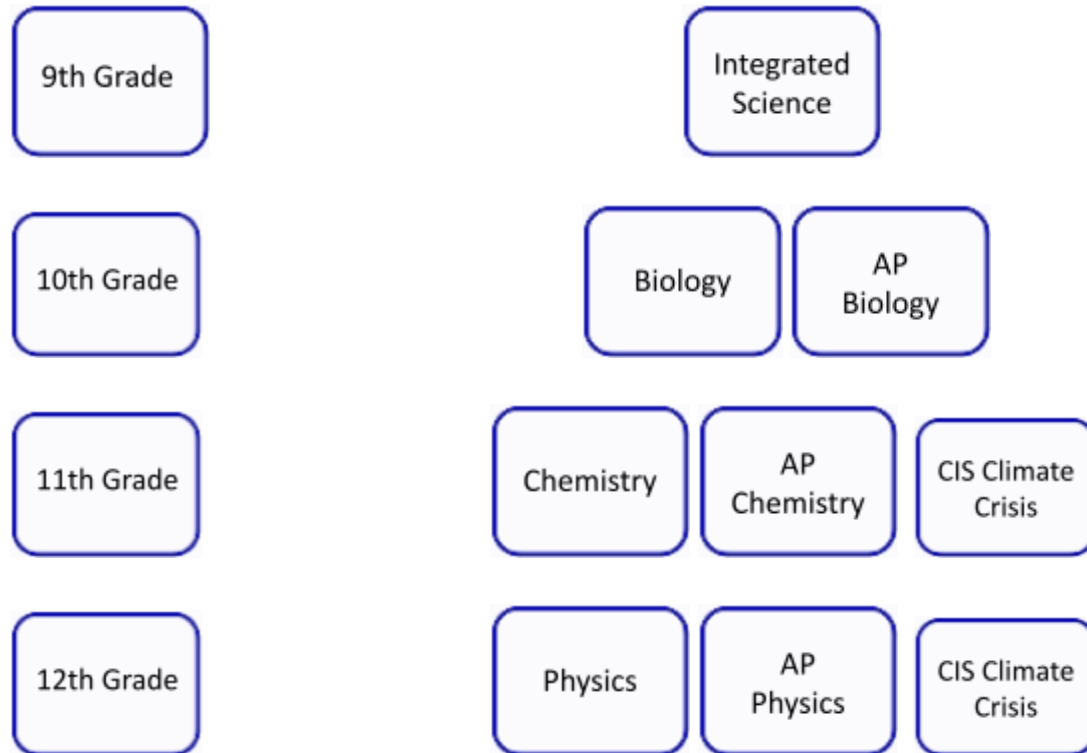
TCAHS Math Scope and Sequence



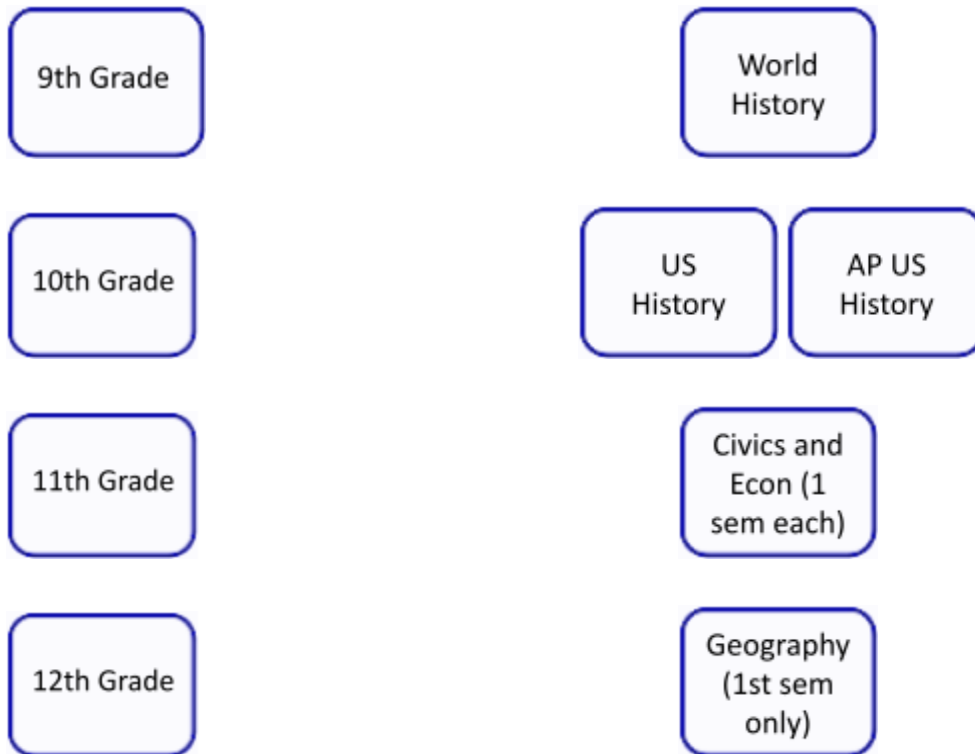
Statistics: Statistics is the science and art of data and inference. The precision and abstract nature of mathematics are replaced by uncertainty and intuition in Statistics. Students will learn to interpret data, analyze how different real-world variables affect each other, how data is collected, and 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 I 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

Japanese

Japanese 1 *NEW*: The content of this course includes pronunciation, speaking skills, listening practice, and reading and writing. Upon completion of this course, students should have acquired essential grammar, a basic vocabulary, Hiragana, Katakana and some basic Kanji, and be able to use Japanese to communicate in everyday simple and practical situations. The focus is on situations directly related to the student's activities and surrounding environment. This course also includes extracurricular activities aimed at deepening the participants' understanding of Japanese society and culture.

French

French I: Students are introduced to listening and reading in French through comprehensible language provided by the teacher, based on the principle that in the language acquisition process, understanding always precedes production. Students are introduced to and begin to acquire the high-frequency structures in French which allow them to understand and communicate about themselves, expressing personal preferences and needs, their activities and talents, and daily experiences.

Prerequisites: None

French II: Students continue to practice listening and reading comprehension and begin speaking and writing in French. Students begin to use the acquired high-frequency phrases and vocabulary (I am, I have, I want, I need, I like/don't like) to talk and write about themselves. By the end of the course, students will be able to read/listen at or above the Intermediate Mid Level and speak/write at or above the Intermediate Low level. Acquired skills include describing people, familiar places; giving biographical information; and expressing feelings and opinions.

Prerequisites: French I

French III: We continue to use language skills learned in French I and II, with higher-level reading and listening comprehension objectives. With more emphasis on proficiency and accuracy, elements of grammar are introduced along with opportunities for students to practice interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Activities include group learning, role playing, discussions in French, and reading a short novel and short stories. Course curriculum also includes the study of Francophone countries and their cultures, French-language films and music.

Prerequisites: French II

French IV: This rigorous course represents a bridge between the French Immersion III/French 3 courses and the University of Minnesota CIS - French 1003 and CIS - French 1004 courses. Although this curriculum is not designed by the University of Minnesota, it serves to further develop the four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) in order to prepare students to be successful in the CIS-1003 course for which they will be eligible to earn 5 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 III

CIS French: In this course students build on the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational skills developed through previous study of French in the context of cultural themes related to the Francophone world. Curriculum consists of both a grammar review and elaboration and the study of Francophone practices and products. Themes addressed in this course include: French-language media and cinema, wellness and health, current Francophone family, societal and global issues. Students will also read the classic French novel, *Le Petit Prince*, by St. Exupéry. Since the majority of the class is devoted to communication activities, class attendance is fundamental. Expect an average of 1.5 hours of outside preparation for each class session hour.

Prerequisites: French IV, AP French, or permission from instructor

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

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

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

This course aligns to an introductory college-level Literature and Composition course. This course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

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 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 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.

CIS FRENCH

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

In this course students build on the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational skills developed through previous study of French in the context of cultural themes related to the Francophone world. Curriculum consists of both a grammar review and elaboration and the study of Francophone practices and products. Themes addressed in this course include: French-language media and cinema, wellness and health, current Francophone family, societal and global issues. Students will also read the classic French novel, *Le Petit Prince*, by St. Exupéry. Since the majority of the class is devoted to communication activities, class attendance is fundamental. Expect an average of 1.5 hours of outside preparation for each class session hour.

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 CLIMATE CRISIS

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

Climate Crisis is a College in the Schools course from the University of Minnesota. The course is designed so that students will learn the fundamentals related to harnessing energy from various sources (conventional and renewable), their environmental consequences, and the effect on society. The energy sources will be compared in terms of their costs, constraints, and environmental effects all within the context of social values and public policy. This course will be optimistic and upbeat, and will show that we can meet the challenge of global warming by shifting our energy use to electricity in all sectors of society as much as possible, generating electricity from renewables, using it efficiently, and minimizing overall energy usage through increased conservation efforts. Students will become more informed and engaged citizens on the course topics and be in a better position to identify their own passions and be able to pursue further studies accordingly.

CIS CALCULUS

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

CIS Calculus is a College in the Schools course from the University of Minnesota. Topics will include differentiation of single-variable functions, basics of integration of single-variable functions. Applications: max-min, related rates, area, curve-sketching. Emphasizes use of calculators and cooperative learning.

Math Support Programming Information

Grades: 9-10

Grades 9-10 will offer a “double block” math class that incorporates supplemental resources into the math curriculum. This course will move at a bit slower pace and uses tools to assist students in their learning of math concepts and procedures. Some of the tools include math manipulatives, multiple learning strategies, and an online learning platform, IXL. IXL is designed to meet the students at their current ability level and to challenge them to work hard, offer encouragement, and to give immediate feedback to students and teachers. This platform will be used in the classroom and as a support for students to practice their math skills outside of the classroom.

The purpose of the double block math class is to 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; and to show students they can attain academic success in math.

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.

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.

Connections: Connections courses are for students with IEP goals in the areas of organization, behavior, and social/emotional skills. The classes focus on the ability to articulate and respond to emotions, set and meet goals, and form relationships with adults and peers in the school. Connections classes are graded classes, and students who pass receive elective credit.

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

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

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

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!

BEGINNER ORCHESTRA 1

Grades: 6-12

Semester: Full Year Commitment (semester one)

This level of Orchestra is for new musicians! If you are interested in learning a stringed instrument like Violin, Viola, Cello or Bass, this is the course for you. Advanced string players are also welcome to enroll in the class with the understanding that your role will be to support our beginners. Throughout this course, students will learn the basics of holding their instrument, using the bow, and fundamental rhythms and notes to be successful in the Intermediate level of Orchestra.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA 2

Grades: 6-12

Semester: Full Year Commitment (semester two)

This level of Orchestra is for string players with 1+ years of experience! This will be a continuation of Orchestra 1, and will be offered in 2nd semester. We will continue our playing journey by taking on more challenging bowing styles, rhythms, and melodies!

MUSIC OF TODAY

Credit: 0.5 Fine Arts

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall

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!

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Credit: 0.5 Fine Arts

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Spring

Prerequisite: Music of Today

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.

MUSIC THEORY AND EAR TRAINING *NEW*

Credit: 0.5 Fine Arts

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

If you are interested in learning more about music theory, composition, and ear training, this course is for you! Throughout this course, we will explore new harmonies, chord progressions, and part writing. We will use composition software to practice this, and incorporate ear training throughout to expand our skills!

AP MUSIC THEORY *NEW*

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.

SURVEY OF ART

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

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.

COMIC BOOK AND MANGA HISTORY *NEW*

Credit: 0.5 Fine Arts

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

This class will explore comic book history, from the origins in the early 1900's, to the explosion of popularity of Manga and its TV adaptations in the 1990's. We will explore the origins of the art forms, notable moments and creators, and the writing/drawing/illustration processes.

DANCE

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

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

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 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.

THEATRE HISTORY *NEW*

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!

INTRO TO SHAKESPEARE *NEW*

Credit: 0.5 Fine Arts

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

This class is based on one of the most prolific writers of all time. Students will learn Shakespearean language, read, discuss, and analyze Shakespeare's plays and poems. Students will also study acting theory and will perform scenes from some of his most famous plays like Romeo & Juliet, Hamlet, and Macbeth.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 9/10

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 9th and 10th 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

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 11th and 12th 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.

HEALTH 1

Credit: 0.5 PE/Health

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

This course gives an overview of three health courses offered at Twin Cities Academy - Nutrition, Sexual Health and Drug Education, and Social and Emotional Health, in addition to other health related topics.

NUTRITION

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

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

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. All High School student-athletes are encouraged to take Sports Psychology. This is a class that focuses on all that makes a balanced and successful student-athlete: an athlete's diet; the value of preparation, visualization, rest and confidence; what it means to be a teammate; understanding a coach's perspective; sport-specific training; exercise kinesiology (study of human body movement); and the value of recovery.

LIFETIME ACTIVITIES *NEW*

Credit: 0.5 PE/Health

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

This class is for those students who are less competitive, yet still enjoy a little competition and learning new games. To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual has learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities, knows the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities, participates regularly in physical activity is physically fit, and values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle. Games to be played will be individual and partner based games. Potential offerings include: Bags, Ladderball, Spikeball, Bocce, Shuffleboard, Badminton, Pickleball, Frisbee Golf, Hiking/Geocaching, Biking, Bowling, and more.

SCIENCE GENERAL ELECTIVES

STEM HS

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

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.

PYTHON PROGRAMMING *NEW*

Credit: 0.5 Elective

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

Goals of this class will be to: Understand basic principles of computers, understand basics of binary computation, understand the programming basics (operations, control structures, data types, etc.), readily use the Python programming language, apply various data types and control structure, understand class inheritance and polymorphism, understand the object-oriented program design and development, understand and begin to implement code.

ENGLISH GENERAL ELECTIVES

YEARBOOK

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

HONORS POLITICAL SCIENCE *NEW*

Credit: 0.5 Elective

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

This course will provide an introductory look at the basic theories and concepts of political science. The overview includes political theory, the political process, comparative politics, while focusing on international relations.

SPED POLITICAL SCIENCE *NEW*

Credit: 0.5 Elective

Grades: 9-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

This course would run concurrently with Honors Political Science, utilizing only 10% to 25% of the curriculum. This SPED class would focus on reading, writing, math (economics), communication (public speaking), social interaction (working with a partner or team), and emotional regulation (classroom participation). This class would then have the opportunity to have the students work on their Goals and Objectives (Progress reporting). This class would have a lot of students within a specific time and place, thus allowing an opportunity for pull outs (Speech, DHH etc.).

GENERAL ELECTIVES

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Credit: 0.5 Elective

Grades: 10-12

Semester: Fall or Spring

Students have the opportunity to take an elective course that TCA is not currently able to offer through Independent Study. In this class, students will be using an online system called Northern Star Online, where they will go through a self-paced curriculum to earn credit. Students are able to choose one course per semester. If you choose to take Independent Study, you will need to choose one course from the following list - [view course options and descriptions here](#).

PERSONAL FINANCE

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

Credit: 0.5 Elective

Grades: 11-12

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

Credit: 0.5 Elective **Grades:** 9 **Semester:** Fall with the opportunity to continue in the spring
9th 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

Credit: 0.5 Elective **Grades:** 10 **Semester:** Full Year Commitment
This is an optional elective for 10th 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

Credit: 0.5 Elective **Grades:** 11 **Semester:** Full Year Commitment
This is an optional elective for 11th 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 12

Credit: 0.5 Elective **Grades:** 12 **Semester:** Full Year Commitment
This is an optional elective for 12th 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.

TUTORIAL

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.