



BHS Course Description Guide

2025-2026

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San Mateo Union High School District: Graduation Requirements

All course work must be completed with a minimum grade of "D". To be eligible for most four-year colleges a grade of "C" or better must be earned.

Subject Area	Credits/Years	a-g Requirements	Requirement(s)
English	40 credits / 4 years	4 years required	
Mathematics	30 credits / 3 years	3 years required (Algebra, Geometry & Intermediate Algebra), 4 years recommended	3 Years of math MUST be taken on campus.
Physical Education	20 credits / 2 years		
Science	20 credits / 2 years	2 years required (Biology, Chemistry or Physics), 3 years recommended	10 credits of Biological Science and 10 credits of Physical Science (1 year of science must be an approved UC science course)
Social Science	35 credits / 3.5 years	min. 2 years required	Ethnic Studies Modern World History U.S. History American Government Economics
World Language	10 credits / 1 year	2 years required/3 years recommended	1 year to be completed by end of 10 th grade
Visual/Performing Arts	10 credits / 1 year	1 year required	
Career Technical Education	10 credits / 1 year		
Health Education	5 credits / 1 semester		
Elective Credits	40 credits	1 year of College Preparatory Elective (g) required	
Required Minimum for Graduation: 220 credits			

Participation in Graduation Ceremony

In order to participate in the graduation ceremony at any district high school, each student is required to complete and pass all subject requirements totaling 220 credits.

UC / CSU Entrance Requirements

University of California and California State University a-g course requirements

A: HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE: (2 YEARS REQUIRED)

Two years of history/social science including one year of U.S. History or ½ year of U.S. History and ½ year of civics or American Government; and one year of world history, cultures and geography.

B: ENGLISH: (4 YEARS REQUIRED)

Four years of college preparatory English including frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature.

C: MATHEMATICS: (3 YEARS REQUIRED; 4 RECOMMENDED)

Three years of preparatory mathematics including topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two and three dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement, as may math courses taken in 7th and 8th grades that your high school accepts as equivalent to its own math courses.

D: LABORATORY SCIENCE: (2 YEARS REQUIRED; 3 RECOMMENDED)

Two years of lab science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of three disciplines: biology (anatomy, physiology, marine biology, aquatic biology, etc.), chemistry and physics. Lab courses in earth/space sciences are acceptable if they have as prerequisites or provide basic knowledge in biology, chemistry or physics.

E: LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH: (2 YEARS REQUIRED; 3 RECOMMENDED)

Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading and composition. Courses in languages other than English taken in grades 7 and 8 may be used to fulfill part of this requirement if your school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.

F: VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS: (1 YEAR)

Students must meet this requirement by completing two sequential semesters of an approved art from a single VPA area (dance, drama/theater, music or visual arts).

G: ELECTIVES: (1 YEAR)

Completion of two semesters or one year of courses taken beyond the minimum listed above. Other courses satisfying this requirement are listed on the course approved list at www.ucop.edu/pathways

Counseling Department

The mission of the Burlingame High School Counseling Department is to assist all students, regardless of individual differences, to acquire the academic, career and social competencies necessary to positively contribute to their community and function in an ever-changing world. As student advocates, we value the personal worth of each child. We believe in the ability of each student to achieve success and recognize that this is a progressive process which involves learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Our program assists all students to acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to become effective students, responsible citizens, productive workers and lifelong learners.

Counselors work with all students in a variety of ways during the course of their time at BHS. We make classroom presentations each year to all grade levels and cover topics such as graduation, post-high school options, college testing, financial aid, NCAA, personality traits, career exploration and study skills among many others. We incorporate numerous websites to help students in their searches and continue to use Naviance, a web-based tool that will assist students with their college search and other post-high school plans.

We work with students on individual academic plans, discuss college testing options and the college application process. We work with students who are experiencing stressful situations, assist with crisis situations and provide outside resources if necessary. We also provide evening presentations to parents/guardians to ensure that families have up-to-date information and the opportunity to ask specific questions. Please visit the [counseling page of the school website](#) to explore our program, services we offer and our contact information. We look forward to working with our Burlingame High School community.

BHS Policy on Schedule Changes

Burlingame High School's Main Schedule is based on student selection. The counselors inform every student, throughout the scheduling process, of the seriousness of their course selections. **Please note that student's course schedules are not based on period requests or teacher requests.**

- All 9th, 10th and 11th graders must be enrolled in at least six classes
- 12th graders must be enrolled in at least four classes, with five recommended
- Any drop after the sixth Friday of the semester is a drop with an W grade until the 12th week, when it becomes a drop F grade
- All 9th, 10th and 11th graders must be enrolled in and passing 20 units or more, cannot have more than one F grade, and have a 2.0 GPA to be eligible for athletics.
- 12th graders must satisfy all C.I.F. eligibility requirements, passing 20 units or more, and have a 2.0 GPA.

Course changes will not be made to accommodate extra-curricular schedules, personal preferences, teacher, or period preferences.

Once the Main Schedule has been established for the upcoming school year, schedules may be changed for the following reasons based on counselor review of the student transcript:

- Student is missing a class required for graduation.
- Student is in the wrong level of a course (e.g., scheduled in Spanish I but should be in Spanish II).
- Student completed a summer school course and their schedule needs to be adjusted.
- Student has fewer than the minimum number of required classes.
- Student has a hole in their schedule.

Students must attend the courses they are enrolled in until an official course change has been approved by administration and made by the counseling office. Failure to attend assigned classes will constitute truancy.

There is no guarantee that a student will be able to add or drop a course once the school year has started.

Teacher Assistant and Office Aide Policy

All students who are Teacher Assistants or Office Aides will receive a grade of Pass or Fail. Five credits will be assigned for a mark of Pass and zero credits for a mark of Fail. For athletic eligibility and participation in other extra-curricular activities, a Pass grade will be equal to a "C" grade, which is equivalent to 2 points for GPA purposes.

College & Career Center Resources

Burlingame High School's College and Career Center is available to all students and families for the following services:

Naviance – Online Planning Resource

Naviance is a web-based program which allows students to explore different colleges and post-high school options. These inventories match students' interests to various careers and college majors. This program contains important data that will help students make informed decisions when applying to colleges as well as functions as a communication tool when requesting teacher or counselor letters of recommendation and transcripts.

Additional Support

- College and university information: Presentations (In-Person and Virtual)/Catalogs/Reference Books: two-year, four-year, in-state, out-of-state, public and private colleges
- Standardized test prep information
- Testing dates and registration support: PSAT, SAT, ACT, TOEFL, Advanced Placement
- Scholarship and financial aid information and application support
- Financial aid presentations and workshops
- Community college application presentations and workshops
- Trade, technical and specialty school information
- Military service information
- Career exploration, readiness, and job preparation resources
- Summer opportunities information
- Part-time job placement/ work permits
- Service learning information
- Job shadow/field trip opportunities
- National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) information
- Spring/Fall college representative visits
- Fee waiver support for college applications and college entrance exams

College & Career Center Staff

- Carrie Hermann, Career Coordinator chermann@smuhsd.org
- Jonathan Dhyne, College & Financial Aid Advisor jdhyne@smuhsd.org

College & Career Center Hours

The Career Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM in the Student Union (formerly the library)

College & Career Planning

Freshman Year

- Participate in extracurricular activities and work toward leadership positions.
- Join the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) each semester. Membership drives are held each October and February.
- Develop strong study skills and build your vocabulary.
- Review courses with your school counselor.
- Register with Naviance and take some of the college/career/personality inventories.

Sophomore Year

- If considering applying to test-optional colleges or colleges that require the exams, take the practice SAT Exam called the PSAT. The PSAT is offered free of charge to all 10th and 11th grade students within the San Mateo Union High School District. Students will be required to register and complete the test on a pre-arranged Saturday in October. Communication and sign up for the PSAT will be handled through the SMUHSD District Office
- Attend the fall College Fair to learn about college entrance requirements.
- Visit college campuses during your vacations.
- Meet with your school counselor to discuss your goals.
- Find a summer job, do volunteer work or attend a summer program.
- Register with Naviance and take some of the college/career/personality inventories. Do some college/career browsing.

Junior Year

- If applying to test-optional colleges or colleges that require the exams, take the practice SAT Exam called the PSAT. Junior scores from this exam will also determine the candidates for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT Exam. You should complete your testing by June of your junior year, especially, if you are applying for Early Admission or Early Decision.
- Attend the fall College Fair to learn about college entrance requirements and sign-up in the College & Career Center to meet College Admission Representatives (list is available on Naviance).
- Visit college campuses during your vacations.
- Write to your U.S. Senator or Representative if you are interested in attending any Military Academy, the process starts spring of your junior year.
- Athletes: To play college athletics you must be certified by the NCAA. Start this process in late spring of your junior year. Register online at www.eligibilitycenter.org. Arrange to have your SAT/ACT test scores and final junior transcript sent to the NCAA during the summer.
- Create a resume. Naviance offers a good model.
- Expand your leadership roles in activities you're passionate about.
- Investigate summer opportunities including internships.

Summer Prior to Senior Year

- Visit colleges, take tours, schedule interviews, and narrow your college list which should include a safety school.
- If you have not finished testing (and are applying to schools that require the SAT/ACT), register and prepare for the exam. The last test score accepted by most colleges is the December exam of your senior year.
- Discuss with your parent/guardian about how you will finance your education. Start searching for scholarships using the SMUHSD Scholarship Spreadsheet.
- Consider applying for a summer internship or attending a summer enrichment program. Plan ahead, as many deadlines to apply are during January/February.

Senior Year

- Check the College and Career Center for upcoming events and important deadline information.
- All male students must register with selective service within 30 days of his 18th birthday regardless of U.S. citizenship status. To register go to www.sss.gov or obtain a registration form from the post office.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER:

- Decide which colleges interest you. Most college applications can be accessed through the Common Application www.commonapp.org , CSU/UC applications are available at www2.calstate.edu/apply and www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply. Be sure to ask about special admission requirements, financial aid, and deadlines. Identify schools that require essays, letters of recommendation, and interviews.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER:

- Attend CSU/UC Application Workshop and Senior Parent Night offered by the counseling department.
- Attend College Fair and College Open Houses/Preview Days.
- Attend College Admission Representative visits held at school. See Naviance for a detailed list of colleges visiting BHS.
- If you are applying for Early Decision or Early Action, meet the deadlines for submitting your application, essays, and letters of recommendations.
- Complete your CSU/UC application. They must be submitted by November 30th.
- Send your test scores to any colleges you applied to that require them (or to which you're applying test-optional with a score).
- Request recommendation letters early.

DECEMBER/JANUARY:

- If applying regular decision to private or out-of-state schools, many applications are due in December/January.
- Attend a Financial Aid Workshop for parents and students.
- Continue researching scholarships.
- Complete FAFSA/CADAA, CSS Profile and Supplemental Financial Aid forms as soon as possible after October 1.

FEBRUARY/MARCH:

- FAFSA/CADAA priority deadlines are due date is March 2.
- CSU/UC campuses send acceptance notification in March.
- Review Student Aid Report (SAR) and send in any corrections.
- Freshman housing is **not** always guaranteed. Review all housing application procedures with each college and comply with all deadlines.
- Start the community college application process by attending the community college application workshop in February. Attend the Priority Enrollment Program (PEP) workshop at BHS which gives graduating seniors priority registration for classes.

APRIL/MAY:

- All college acceptance notifications should be received.
- Attend open houses of your top college choices in April.
- Take AP exams in May (if applicable).
- Send your Student Intent to Register (SIR) form in with your deposit before the May 1st deadline.
- Submit a housing deposit (if applicable).
- Notify colleges you will not be attending.
- Write thank you letters for any scholarships received and to those who wrote a letter of recommendation, notifying them of the school you plan to attend.
- Request your final official transcript to be sent to the college you will be attending. This happens through a survey in Naviance that you will take in your English class
- Notify the College & Career Center of any Grants, Awards or Scholarships you have been awarded as soon as possible.

College Entrance Exams

Many four-year colleges and universities have updated their testing policies for admission, and are now test-optional or test-free. California public colleges and universities (UC, CSU, and community colleges) are test-free, and don't use the SAT or ACT as part of the application review process. Students who are applying to private and out-of-state colleges should check the admissions websites for the schools they're applying to to confirm testing requirements.

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test may be taken by sophomores and juniors. It measures verbal and mathematical abilities and gives a student practice for taking the SAT. It is a qualifying test (when taken in the junior year) for National Merit Scholarships. The test is administered once a year in October.

SAT

The SAT is a reasoning test required for admission to many four-year colleges. It consists of three parts: Reading, Writing and Language, and Math). Many schools have revised their testing policies and are now test-optional or test-free. A small number of schools still require the exam. Please check college websites to confirm testing information.

ACT

The American College Test is a four-year college admission test measuring skills and abilities related to English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. Many schools have revised their testing policies and are now test-optional or test-free. A small number of schools still require the exam. Please check college websites to confirm testing information.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement Tests may be taken in 24 different subjects for the purpose of gaining college credit and/or for advanced college standing (at the discretion of the academic institution) and as an indication of academic success in college. Tests are given at Burlingame High School in May of every year. If a student enrolls in an AP course, he/she may register to take the AP exam for completion of the course.

TOEFL

The Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) should be taken by all undergraduate applicants, regardless of citizenship, who have not attended high school for at least three years full time where English is the principal language of instruction. Please visit the BHS College & Career Center if you have TOEFL questions.

Community College

Community Colleges provide quality, affordable educational options for students. There are 112 community colleges in the state of California and many students choose to begin their higher education at one of these institutions. At a community college, students can earn a two-year associate's degree, a certificate in a particular field, remediate their skills and improve upon their English skills among other things. Community colleges offer a wide array of student programs such as athletics, student government, study abroad opportunities and honors programs just to name a few. Students may even choose to take a class at a community college while enrolled at Burlingame High School through our concurrent enrollment program. Students should see their counselor for more information.

There are several ways a student can be eligible to attend a community college:

- Be a high school graduate OR
- Be 18 years old OR
- Have passed a high school equivalency exam such as the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) or the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) OR
- Concurrent Enrollment High School Program

Transfer Admission Guarantee:

A Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) is a formal, written agreement that outlines the CC courses you must complete before transferring to a participating institution. Upon completion of TAG requirements, transfer admission is guaranteed

- A TAG is not required for transfer.
- Contact the counselor as soon as you start community college to begin plan.
- [UC website outlining TAG](#)
- AA-T/AS-T for transfer: A degree with a guarantee is also available
- Gives priority transfer to the CSU

For more information, check out www.cccco.edu or www.aacc.nche.edu

Advanced Standing (AS) and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

BHS offers honors and AP classes in nearly every discipline so that students can further challenge themselves in different subjects. School can be stressful and it's important for students not to take too many honors and AP classes so they can retain balance in their lives. Students are expected to discuss their class choices with their families, teachers and counselor. In addition to signing the Honors/AP contract, there are mandatory lunchtime meetings that students are required to attend.

Board Policy Statement

The District is committed to providing an environment in which all students have equal access to all classes including AP, Honors and Advanced Standing classes. All classes will be open to all students who have made an informed decision and understand the course expectations.

Administrative Policies

- All classes will be open to all students who have made an informed decision and understand the course expectations.
- Students who enroll in an AP, honors or advanced standing class are expected to remain in the class for one semester.
- All students who enroll in an AP class are expected to take the AP exam. Financial assistance is available.
- To continue in the AP, honors, or advanced standing class, students are expected to have a "C" or better at the end of the first semester.

Weighted Grade Point Average

When calculating a student's grade point average, extra grade weighting shall be assigned to a Burlingame High School course that has been approved for weighting by the University of California a-g list.

Career Technical Education Department (CTE)

Career Technical Education classes give students a chance to explore specific career pathways while discovering the real-world application of the knowledge and skills learned in core subjects. In CTE classes, students use math to design buildings, create digital games, and prepare meals; they use reading and writing skills to critique restaurants, evaluate architectural styles, and develop storylines for student-produced videos. While some of our CTE programs prepare students for entry level employment, most students complete CTE courses with an understanding of the next steps they need to take on their career paths, whether it is continuing on to college for a degree or job-related certificate or applying to local apprenticeship programs where they can master a craft as they earn a living. With a varied set of program offerings, CTE classes prepare students to be successful in life after high school.

Architectural Design 1

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students need to be able to work independently and in teams. Since most of our work is done in our lab, regular attendance is important.

Course Description: Architectural Design is a one-year course that introduces students to the key ideas, practices and principles of Architectural Design. This course integrates academic and technical preparation and includes study of the cultural and historical influences on architectural design, the concepts of architectural planning, and the fundamentals of drawing and design. The course provides students with opportunities for career exploration and development of career-readiness skills. Students solve design problems creatively and collaboratively and learn the artistic processes, skills and techniques used by architects today. This course is designed to introduce students to careers in Architecture, Design, City Planning, Construction Management, and related fields.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students learn how to create architectural drawings and models using hand drawing and drafting, Revit (a Building Information Modeling software program), and physical model building.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Minimal homework as most projects are done in our lab.

Architectural Design 2

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

May be repeated for credit.

Dual Enrollment Credit: Earns 3 units of college credit for CSM courses Arch 666 and Arch 120

Prerequisite: Architectural Design 1

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students need to be able to work independently and in group situations. Since most of our work is done in our lab, regular attendance is important.

Course Description: In this course, students refine their skills in design, hand drawing, Revit and model building. Students develop a portfolio of design projects and learn more about structural considerations, framing techniques and notable figures in architecture. Students gain the skills needed for internships or entry level employment in the field. This course may be repeated for additional credit.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students complete comprehensive design projects including a residence and small community center or similar type building. Students use hand drawing, Revit and physical model building to complete project proposals.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Minimal homework as most projects are done in our lab.

Video Production

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: 1) the ability to work both independently and collaboratively 2) the ability to see a project through from inception to completion

Course Description: This course teaches students the process of filmmaking from the idea-brainstorming stage to taking the footage and editing the footage into a final product. Student's imaginations and creative abilities will be challenged through hands-on projects utilizing their understanding of and experience with the designing stories, writing scripts, directing and acting, framing composition, camera angles and movement, and audio, light and editing. Students will become skilled in producing their artistic segments and will produce and manage their own news broadcast that goes out to the school and community.

Advanced Video Production

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite : Art of Video or by instructor's recommendation

May be repeated for credit.

Course Description

This one-year advanced course provides an opportunity for students to further develop the foundation of film theory, history, textual analysis and production skills established in the first year of the course. Through readings, demonstrations, critiques, lectures, and production assignments, students will build upon their prior knowledge of the processes and strategies used in creating video/film content. Students will be challenged through hands-on projects utilizing their understanding of the history of film and video communication, composition and movement, the aesthetic use of light, color, and sound, narrative design and storytelling, production design and directing, as well as the technical skills of editing, graphics design and distribution. Students will develop their abilities as independent producers working on their own production portfolios as well as projects for our community. May be repeated for credit.

Homework: Most editing is done in class, however students must be available to be a part of filming events and projects outside of the school day.

Digital Photography

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite : None.

Course Description

Digital Photography is a one-year course for students interested in hands-on photography using digital cameras and computers. This course will familiarize students with photographic equipment, materials and methods through theory and hands-on practice. Adobe Bridge and Photoshop will be used to edit and manage images. Students will study and emulate a variety of photographic styles as well as create a portfolio of original compositions. Students will develop the ability to aesthetically value their own work and that of their classmates.

Homework: While most shooting and editing is done in class, students must be available to work on some projects outside of the school day.

Advanced Digital Photography

Grade level: 10-12

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

Prerequisite: Digital Photography

May be repeated for credit.

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Course Description

Advanced Digital Photography is a one-year course for students interested in continuing their education in the evolving field of Digital Photography. With full access to mirrorless cameras and a suite of professional lenses, students will learn industry-leading post-production techniques in Adobe Photoshop, utilize complex studio lighting, engage in client-based photoshoots and develop a personal, artistic style. While the class will emphasize capturing images digitally, students will also be exposed to film photography and have opportunities to work in a darkroom.

Homework: While most shooting and editing is done in class, students must be available to work on some projects outside of the school day.

3D Game Art & Design

Grade level: 9-12

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Comfort with basic computer skills. It is essential that students have good attendance, as most projects must be completed in the computer lab.

Prerequisite: none

Course Description: Students will learn the technical skills and the aesthetic considerations in designing fun and interesting game concepts, both computer-based and non. Game design is an extremely multi-disciplinary field and we will cover units on not only game design, but also: earning about what makes fun FUN, 3D modeling and animation, drawing, creative writing, graphic design, the design cycle (used in software and game design), and careers in the field of game design. In the first term students will primarily work on individual projects with collaboration on brainstorming and testing their prototypes and gathering feedback. In the Spring, students will writing game proposals and form groups to work on team game projects in addition to improving and refining their earlier game ideas. Taking this course and advanced (2 years) will satisfy both the VAPA and CTE graduation requirements.

Major Projects/Assignments: Individual 3D Game Prototypes, Team 3D Game Prototype, Develop a Card Game, Portfolio.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Most homework would be related to finishing planning and design documents that were not completed in class. Other than that we have only a few homework assignments each term, mostly for testing and gathering feedback on their game designs.

3D Game Art & Design Advanced

Grade level: 10-12

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

Prerequisite: Game Art & Design

May be repeated for credit.

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Experience coding/programming is helpful but not required. It is essential that students have good attendance, as most projects must be completed in the computer lab.

Prerequisite: Game Art & Design.

Course Description: In this advanced course students will build upon their experience and knowledge from 3D Game Art and Design, refining their skills in creating and balancing a variety of game types including video, card and board games. In addition to artistic and design skills, students will develop computer programming skills so that they are able to use basic logical structures, function calls, and variables in the Javascript computer programming language. We will also cover units on special technical and artistic topics such as concept art creation, advanced 3D modeling and animation, games for tablets, consoles and mobile devices. In the first term students will primarily work on individual projects with collaboration on brainstorming and testing their prototypes and gathering feedback. In the Spring, students will write game proposals and form groups to work on a team game project in addition to improving and refining their earlier game ideas. Taking this course and advanced (2 years) will satisfy both the VAPA and CTE graduation requirements. **May be repeated for credit.**

Major Projects/Assignments: Individual 3D Game Prototypes, Team 3D Game Prototype, Develop a Card Game, Portfolio.
Approximate homework assigned daily: Most homework would be related to finishing planning and design documents that were not completed in class. Other than that we have only a few homework assignments each term, mostly for testing and gathering feedback on their game designs.

Engineering Technology

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students need to be able to work independently and in teams. Since most of our work is done in our lab, regular attendance, attention to safety and ability to follow instructions are very important.

Course Description: In this foundational, hands-on course, students are introduced to the engineering design process and use it to identify and design solutions to real problems. Students work both individually and in collaborative teams to develop, document and fabricate designs using technical drawing, 3D modeling software, hand tools, 3d printers and machine equipment.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will progress from completing structured activities to solving open-ended projects and problems that will require them to develop planning, documentation, communication, and other professional skills.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Minimal homework that includes completion of classwork and projects not finished in class and occasional assignments.

Foods & Nutrition

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This is a comprehensive course in foods and nutrition. Upon completion of this course, students will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to make informed food choices, prepare meals, and develop healthy eating patterns. Course topics include: Facilities and Equipment, Nutrients and Nutrient Density, Food Choices, Food and Fitness, The Eleven Essential Cooking Techniques, Controversial Topics in Nutrition, Meal Planning, Consumer Decisions, Careers in Food Science, and Food and Culture.

Major Projects/Assignments: Cooking labs, food rules project, controversial topic in nutrition project, food as medicine.

Approximate homework assigned daily: None, unless class work is not completed. Students are expected to cook at home occasionally and informally track progress towards their personal nutrition goal.

Culinary Arts

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Prerequisite: Foods & Nutrition

Course Description: Culinary Arts is a concentration course in the career pathway of *hospitality and tourism*. It builds upon the skills learned in Foods & Nutrition and aims to prepare students for work in the food industry. This is a comprehensive course designed to help students expand their food preparation, menu planning, cost and nutritional skills beyond the basics. Special emphasis given to use and care of specialized cooking equipment through meal planning and food preparation including budgeting, shopping and meal presentation. Also covered: study of various cultures and cuisines, international food terms, special preparation techniques and the use of specialty seasonings. Students will make connections to the careers related to the food service and hospitality industry.

Major Projects/Assignments:

- Applied food preparation labs
- Hospitality service projects
- Research projects

- Food critic reviews
- Presentation and serving of food to staff/peers

Approximate homework assigned daily: None, but students are expected to continuously work on and add to a personal portfolio including career-readiness projects specific (but not limited) to the Culinary Arts.

Journalism

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: Application, recommendation from a teacher and possible staff interview.

Course Description: This introductory course in journalism is designed to equip students with basic journalism skills. Heavy emphasis is placed on writing and on the ability to work independently. (Students with difficulties in English are not advised to take this course.) In the first semester, students learn how and are required to write news stories, feature stories, sports stories, editorials, and headlines. Students learn about the rudiments of page design, newspaper style, copy reading and proofreading. Students also learn basic photography and ad sales. During the second semester, emphasis is placed on refining skills in every area and finding what you can add to the program the next year. Students study student and commercial newspapers, as well as magazine and television journalism. Qualified students write stories and plan page layout for the student newspaper, *The Burlingame B*. The newspaper is published in print as well as on *The Burlingame B* website. Students write articles for both publications. *The Burlingame B* is a student-run newspaper. publications

Journalism Advanced

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite: Journalism and recommendation of the Instructor.

Course Description: Students enrolled in this course are assigned to *The Burlingame B* staff. *The Burlingame B* class is run like a newspaper business. Students learn to create, write, interview, sell ads, design pages, photograph, edit and promote their work. The staff publishes an eight-to-twelve page printed newspaper six to seven times during the year. In addition, students write for the online web version of *The Burlingame B* (Theburlingameb.org) on an as-needed basis that may mean writing a story in a day to provide our readership with timely news stories. Students begin as reporters and work up to higher positions such as news editor, copy editor, business manager, web designer and manager, page editor and editor-in-chief. Students who have taken one year of Journalism 1 can be eligible for leadership positions in the class. Since this newspaper is student-run, students are expected to follow journalism ethics and standards. Students may take Advanced Journalism more than once for credit.

Publications

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: [Application](#). A strong desire to produce an outstanding photo journalistic product, strong computer skills, and, in most instances, a "B" or higher in English classes. Freshmen must be recommended by their 8th grade English or yearbook teacher. Sophomore, junior and senior students must apply for and be interviewed and approved by the Publications advisor and yearbook staff for enrollment in this class.

Course Description: Publications (Yearbook Editing, Design & Management) is a two-semester course, combining the high-level critical thinking, reading and writing skills of print journalism with the artistic, creative and aesthetic skills of the visual and graphic arts. Students master the writing and editing of the most common forms of journalistic stories; read and analyze relevant literature through expository writing; learn and practice the basics of design and layout; analyze and evaluate images based on a set of given values; learn communication, management, and evaluation skills for individuals and small teams; use of state-of-the-art word processing and design software; and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ethical responsibilities and communications law. This course will sharpen students' thinking and expression, widen their experience with people and communication, provide an environment for self-directed learning and give them confidence in their ability to see their creative ideas to completion.

Advanced Publications

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: [Application](#). Successful completion of Publications (Yearbook Editing, Design & Management). Sophomore, junior and senior students must apply for and be interviewed and approved by the Publications advisor and yearbook staff for enrollment in this class.

Course Description: This course explores elements of journalistic writing, design, photography, and entrepreneurship as students use analytical and critical thinking skills to create a yearbook. Additionally, students in advanced publications will take on leadership roles within the course, so that they are also modeling and teaching photography, interviewing, sales, writing, and design skills. Students in advanced publications will act as peer facilitators as the course covers publication-specific lessons with instructional activities such as lectures/slideshows, skill-building practice assignments, modeling of photography and design programs, etc. Advanced publications students will refer to, use, find, and even sometimes create resources to help aid their peers (using the internet to find design trends, creating informative slideshows or reference tools online for fellow students to use, creating infographics, models, and/or tutorials, etc.). The methods of instruction will overlap, as students learn in different ways, but all advanced publications students will be expected to take on more pointed roles in helping their peers learn.

English Department

The English department offers students a curriculum that explores the intersection of the real and imagined worlds through the analysis of texts. Units of instruction are organized around essential questions that guide students toward a mastery of the Common Core State standards. Through the analysis of a range of texts students work towards refining their critical thinking, reading, writing, speaking, listening and 21st century skills.

English I

Grade level: 9

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Suggested Course Preparation: First semester, students begin with an identity unit, featuring a collection of nonfiction, fiction, poetry, speeches, and will delve into writing foundations and numerous short stories. Over the course of the year, students will read *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas, *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Throughout the year, students will develop reading comprehension, writing, listening, and speaking skills. There will also be a strong emphasis on participation in class, discussion and public speaking.

Course Description: Students will engage in a variety of activities, including writing, reading comprehension, research, literary response and analysis, and academic vocabulary development. Students will complete formative and summative assessments, such as reading responses, reading comprehension quizzes, and timed and process writing assignments.

Major Projects/Assignments:

Literary analysis essays, projects, research, and structured classroom discussions

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 min

English II

Grade level: 10

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: Enrolling students should have successful completion of English I

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of English I.

Course Description: English II prepares students to enter English III with a comprehensive understanding of textual analysis and the strategies and skills needed to read and respond to different genres of texts. This course is organized around units of study that explore concepts such as identity, historical events such as genocide, and philosophical debates related to concepts such as “nature versus nurture.” During these units, students read a range of literary and nonfiction texts, all of which are paired with assessments that challenge the students to read, analyze, and discuss literature at a complex level. The course reading list consists of *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sanchez, *Kitchen* by Banana Yoshimoto, *Maus* by Art Spiegelman, and *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

Skill Description: Writing, reading comprehension, and literary response and analysis.

Vocabulary: Know and use academic language, contextual and roots-based vocabulary to succeed when reading, writing and taking tests.

Students will complete: Compare/contrast essay; research paper; literary response; and collaborative projects.

Major Projects/Assignments:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▪ Argumentative Writing | ▪ Research Paper | ▪ Structured Discussions and/or |
| ▪ Narrative Writing | ▪ Literary Analysis | Socratic Seminars |

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes

English II Advanced Standing (AS)

Grade level: 10

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: Enrolling students should have a strong A or B in their 9th grade English class; have strong reading and writing skills; and have a strong background in grammar, syntax and MLA style rules.

Suggested Course Preparation: During the first semester, students will read *Kitchen* by Banana Yoshimoto, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, and *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid, and numerous supporting nonfiction texts. Students in English II AS are required to write extensively outside of class as part of a course-long Creative Writing Portfolio Project. Students will write for a variety of purposes: to analyze reading selections, to argue a claim and to express original ideas. Second

semester, students will read *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, and Shakespeare's *Macbeth* with a related research project. Throughout the year, a strong emphasis is placed on participation in class discussion to facilitate opportunities for academic speaking and listening skill development.

Course Description: This course will emphasize the following skills: Writing, reading comprehension, literary analysis, academic language, contextual and roots-based vocabulary.

Students will complete: argumentative essays, research papers, literary analysis, and collaborative projects.

Major Projects/Assignments:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Argumentative Essay | ▪ Formal literary response | ▪ Human Cruelty Project |
| ▪ Informative Essay | ▪ Research Project | ▪ Invention Project |

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes - 1 hour

English III

Grade level: 11

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: Enrolling students should have successful completion of English II

Suggested Course Preparation: Students study American Literature through novels and excerpts from major works including *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. The fall semester also includes an American Identity Unit to show alternative perspectives and experiences with the course theme of the American Dream. In addition to close reading of the text, writing prompts include argumentative, informative and synthesis genres with emphasis on revising and editing. Second semester texts includes *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Students will also research a wide variety of sources in preparation for a formal debate about modern American issues. **Course Description:** Writing, close reading, speaking and listening, language development and in-depth literary analysis. Students should know and use academic language, contextual and root-based vocabulary to succeed when reading, writing, and taking assessments.

Major Projects/Assignments:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| ▪ Ongoing Literary Analysis | ▪ Fishbowl Discussion | ▪ Collaborative Argumentative Poster |
| ▪ Synthesis Essay | ▪ Research-Based Debate | ▪ Collaborative Informational Presentation |
| ▪ Argumentative Essay | | |

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes - 1 hour

Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition

Grade level: 11

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Suggested Course Preparation: a grade of A in a sophomore English class. Students must complete the summer reading assignment.

Students should be able to do the following:

- I. Reading: Students should read independently and critically to meet the requirements of this college level course, in order that they can not only succeed but also bring insight to class discussions, to writing assignments, and to future readings.
- II. Writing: Students should write essays to meet college level writing standards set by the AP College Board. Their writing defends a complex thesis and contains thoughtful commentary. Writing should be free of grammatical and mechanical errors.

Course Description: This course is “designed to help students become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes.” (AP collegeboard.com). Students in the AP Language and Composition class will read a variety of both fiction and nonfiction prose selections, deepening their awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Special emphasis is given to the non-fiction readings, as students prepare for the AP English Language and Composition Exam given in May. Through close reading and frequent writing, students develop their ability to work with language with a greater awareness of purpose and strategy. Course readings feature expository, analytical, personal, argumentative, and narrative texts from a variety of authors and historical contexts.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 1-2 hours

English IV

Grade level: 12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: Enrolling students should have successfully completed English III (CP or AP Language and Composition).

Course Description: English IV CP is a rigorous college preparatory course designed to teach students the skills and habits needed to succeed in college or career after graduating. Students read a range of different texts from various genres; however, the course emphasizes nonfiction as part of its commitment to preparing students for college the following year. In addition to reading a number of book-length works both fall and spring semester, students read challenging articles provided by the teachers or discovered as part of their own research.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students write a series of papers about the texts they read, each more demanding than those that precede it. Students conduct a year-long investigation into one topic they choose as part of the Expert Project, an assignment that creates a context for advanced instruction in critical reading and writing strategies. As part of the Expert Project, students write a major paper of 10-15 pages and present their work to their peers. Class discussion and online communication are integrated throughout all units, which are organized around a Big Idea or Essential Question about those themes that run through the lives of high school seniors (e.g., identity, power, the future, and other timely subjects that may arise during the course of the semester).

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes - 1 hour

Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition

Grade level: 12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of AP Language and Composition, with a grade of “B” or better. AP Literature is the best fit for students who are able and willing to read analytically, write frequently, and who are motivated independent learners who take initiative, enjoy extended discussions and discourse, and are able to self-advocate.

Course Description: Senior AP English Literature prepares students to take the Advanced Placement exam in May, as well as for the rigors of college-level reading, writing, and discussion. This course is organized around units of study that explore topics such as the interplay between violence and free speech, what counts as literature, and the impact of boundaries on the understanding of self. During these units, students read a range of literary texts from different genres, all of which are appropriate to college-level classes. All texts demand college-level reading abilities and close reading during which the students are expected to annotate and take notes in order to analyze the text. Analytical reading of all literary texts is essential to success in this class. Students are also required to engage in formal and informal discussions that explore thematic & textual elements while providing specific evidence to support their claims. All units culminate in expository essays, which students learn to write both for college as well as for the AP exam in the spring. In addition to such required texts as *Hamlet*, *Antigone*, *Frankenstein*, and *Heart of Darkness*, students read three novels they choose themselves during the spring semester.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will be assessed formally and informally on their development of critical reading, writing, and speaking/listening skills throughout the year, but major assignments include in-class and process essays, full-class discussion, and group and individual presentations on material relevant to the course's core texts.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 1-2 hours

Cinema & Society

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation: None

Course Description: The purpose of this class is to help students better enjoy, appreciate, and analyze filmmaking. Students will watch a mix of classic and contemporary films that previous classes have found both engaging and instructive. Students

will learn about aspects of film such as cinematography, sound design, production design, among others. For some group projects, students will be able to choose directors and films to focus on. All work and film viewing will be done in class

Major Projects/Assignments: As determined by the instructor.

Approximate homework assigned daily: None.

Creative Writing

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation: None

Course Description: Students will explore a variety of writing styles, with a focus on writing with originality and detail and developing a writing voice. We will discuss strategies to avoid writer's block and new ways to uncover ideas for writing. Students will occasionally use short texts and other art mediums as inspiration. This will be a supportive writing community, as peer reviews and sharing ideas are important elements of the course. All work will be done in class, and student choice will be a priority.

Major Projects/Assignments: As determined by the instructor.

Approximate homework assigned daily: None

Math Department

Mathematics is an ancient art, rooted in simple truths. Over the centuries its practice and evolution continues to open new worlds and limitless possibilities – literally. The ancient philosopher Socrates summed up the importance of math for all students quite well in saying *"The understanding of mathematics is necessary for a sound grasp of ethics."* and *"To find yourself, think for yourself."* The courses offered below by the Burlingame High School Math Department seek to honor the ancient tradition of teaching students to become better thinkers with the critical judgment needed to understand the past/present as well as to plan for the future. Our courses ensure students will be well prepared for the rigors of university and life beyond. Our students will understand, communicate, and apply math in a variety of contexts in the pursuit of mastery.

Algebra I

Grade level: 9-10

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of middle school mathematics curriculum with a "C" or better.

Course Description This class will cover fundamental algebraic skills such as: operations, algebraic expressions, solving equations, graphing, linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, probability and statistics, and geometric connections in accordance with the Common Core Standards. Algebra I is a college prep mathematics course that is required for graduation. In addition, it satisfies the first year mathematics requirement for many colleges and universities.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 30 – 40 minutes, 3 days per week

Geometry

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of Algebra I, with a grade of "D" or better.

Course Description: In this class, students will explore increasingly complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships using formal math arguments. The major topics we will explore are rigid motions (translations, reflections, and rotations) to establish criteria for congruence, dilations and proportional reasoning, geometry in the coordinate plane, surface area and volume of figures, right triangle trigonometry, probability, as well as properties of circles. This course will often seek to contextualize and model Geometry with real world situations and applications. Lessons and assessment will also seek to maintain Algebra skills.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 30 – 40 minutes, 3 days per week

Algebra II with Financial Applications

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have passed Algebra 1 and Geometry with a grade of "D" or better and recommendation of teacher.

Course Description: This alternate approach to Algebra 2 is tailored for students who may have historically struggled in math. Through engaging real world financial topics, students will develop essential skills in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry while fostering a growth mindset. Students who successfully complete this course will have met their a-g Algebra 2 requirement and are encouraged to take Finite Math and Statistics as their next course at BHS.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 30 minutes, 3 days per week

Algebra II

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Algebra II

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry with a grade of “C” or better. Students should also exhibit strong algebraic and reasoning skills.

Course Description: This class is a college prep elective mathematics course, which satisfies the third year of mathematics requirement of many colleges and universities. The covered topics include systems of equations, rational expressions; probability, functions, sequences and series, logarithms and exponents.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 30 – 45 minutes, 3 days per week

Compressed Math I

Grade level: 9-12 (preference give to grade 10)

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Students must have 3 of the following:

- An ‘A’ grade in Algebra I both semesters
- CAASPP score of 4 (from previous year in school)
- SMI score of 1200 or better
- Teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of Algebra I with a grade of “A” with a strong test score average (>90%). Students should also exhibit strong algebraic and reasoning skills and be ready for a fast-paced class.

Course Description: This course sequence, with Compressed Math 2 in the second year, condenses three years of math into two years. In the first year, students will complete Geometry and the first semester of Algebra 2. Please see the individual course descriptions for course content of Geometry and Algebra 2.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 45-60 minutes, 3 days per week

Compressed Math II

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Students must have completed Compressed Math I with a grade of ‘B’ or better

Course Description: This course sequence, with Compressed Math 1 in the first year, condenses three years of math into two years. In this second year, students will complete the second semester of Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus. Please see the individual course descriptions for course content of Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 45-60 minutes, 3 days per week

Finite Math and Statistics

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of prerequisite courses with a “C” or better in each course. Additionally, students should exhibit solid algebraic and reasoning skills.

Course Description: This course is designed primarily as a “senior year experience” in mathematics for the CSU’s Early Assessment Program. Finite Math also qualifies as “advanced math” under the CSU and UC systems for entrance requirements. Fall semester covers topics in Finite Math and may include: linear modeling, linear programming, apportionment, voting, and consumer mathematics. Spring semester covers topics in Statistics and may include: analyzing one-variable data, collecting data, sampling distributions, estimating a parameter, and testing a claim. It is a challenging course with high expectations. Juniors who successfully complete Finite Math are encouraged to take Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics as a senior to fulfill the EAP Conditionally Exempt Requirement.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor but you can expect to have at least one major project.

Approximate homework assigned: 30-45 minutes, 3 days per week

Pre-Calculus

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II with a grade of “B” or better in each preceding course.

Course Description: This course is broken down into two major areas of study: Trigonometry and Math Analysis. Trigonometry includes topics such as properties of trigonometric and circular functions, rotary motion, inverse functions, a wide variety of triangle problems and trigonometric applications. Math Analysis covers such topics as two-dimensional vectors, conic sections, polar coordinates, parametric equations, complex numbers, and rational functions. Emphasis is placed on the development of critical thinking and problem solving as opposed to rote memorization. This course prepares students for calculus and/or college level mathematics and is significantly more challenging than previous courses.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 45 – 60 minutes, 3 days per week

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-calculus

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of all the prerequisite courses with a “B” or better in each, strong algebraic and critical thinking skills, and time in their schedule for the demands of this college level mathematics course.

Course Description: This class focuses on the fundamental topics of calculus. It covers Limits, Derivatives and Integrals. The course covers the graphical, numerical, analytical and verbal components of functions and their application. Equal time is spent on the mechanics of these topics and on the applications of each. Some applications include optimization, net change, area under a curve and volume of solids generated by rotating curves.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 45 - 60 minutes, 3 days per week

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-calculus

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of all the prerequisite courses with a “A” or better in each, strong algebraic and critical thinking skills, and time in their schedule for the demands of this college level mathematics course. This class is fast paced and recommended for students that love and enjoy math.

Course Description: This class focuses on the fundamental topics of calculus. It covers Limits, Derivatives, Integrals and Series. The course covers the graphical, numerical, analytical and verbal components of functions and their application. Equal time is spent on the mechanics of these topics and on the applications of each. Some applications include optimization, net change, area under a curve and volume of solids generated by rotating curves. BC also explores parametric and polar curves, infinite series and Maclaurin and Taylor series.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 45 - 60 minutes, 3 days per week

Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successful completion of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II with a grade of “B” or better in each preceding course.

Course Description: AP Statistics is a college-level course with content organized to emphasize the following four topics: (1) data investigation, (2) designing and conducting studies, (3) anticipating patterns using probability and simulations, and (4) statistical inference. These topics are detailed in the AP Statistics course description at AP Central

(<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>).

Students should understand that this course is designed to be a fourth-year math course, and the equivalent of an introductory, one-semester, non-calculus based, college-level statistics course. The course requires a working knowledge of Algebra II and quantitative reasoning. Teaching strategies include collaborative small-group work, pairs engaged in data analysis, whole-group presentations, peer-to-peer discussions, and an integration of technology when appropriate. This course requires more reading and writing than most traditional math courses.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 45 – 60 minutes, 3 days per week

Principles of Computer Science

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: none

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have an interest in learning about computer science and programming.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to computer science that uses UC Berkeley’s CS10 “Beauty & Joy of Computing” curriculum. Students learn algorithms and use programming techniques to solve problems. The course covers the history, social implications, great principles, future of computing, beautiful applications that have changed the world, and progress in other fields that has resulted from computers and programming. Relevance of computing to the students and society will be emphasized. Students will complete a number of substantial programming projects. Students will learn about logical structures and algorithms that will help prepare them to take AP Computer Science or another STEM related course. Students will also learn about Computer Science as a career and the different fields/applications available to pursue.

Major Projects/Assignments: Several projects per semester, varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 20-30 minutes, 3 days per week

Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science (A)

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics or CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: Completion of OR Concurrent Enrollment of Algebra II

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have successfully passed Algebra II or a higher math class.

Course Description: This is a computer programming course. Therefore the major emphasis in this course is on programming methodology, algorithms, and data structures. The programming language used will be JAVA. Applications of computing provide the context in which these subjects are treated. Applications are used to develop student awareness of the need for particular algorithms and data structures, as well as to provide topics for programming assignments to which students can apply their knowledge. Treatments of computer systems and the social implications of computing are integrated into the course. Students should understand that this course is designed to be a fourth-year math course, and the equivalent of an introductory, one-semester, non-calculus based, college-level statistics course. The course requires a working knowledge of Algebra II and quantitative reasoning. Teaching strategies include collaborative small-group work, pairs engaged in data analysis, whole-group presentations, peer-to-peer discussions, and an integration of technology when appropriate. This course requires more reading and writing than most traditional math courses.

Major Projects/Assignments: Several projects per semester, varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned: 30-40 minutes, 3 days per week

Physical Education Department

The Physical Education Program offers a two-year co-educational program that provides a comprehensive, sequentially planned program designed to promote, through movement, the physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being of every individual in pursuit of lifelong health. This comprehensive program focuses on the holistic development and health of the individual. Students in the Physical Education program will engage in the following:

1. Setting goals for self-improvement (fitness, nutrition, habits, being a better student and citizen).
2. Participation in physical activities that will help improve their fitness level and improve their sports skills and knowledge.
3. Learn the basic physiological functions of the cardiovascular system, respiratory system, muscular system, skeletal system, and digestive system.
4. Learn good nutritional practices and discover that nutrition is one of the foundations upon which we build and develop a strong healthy body.
5. Engage in activities that promote teamwork, cooperation, good citizenship, sportsmanship and tolerance for individual differences and abilities.
6. Written tests, physical fitness tests and sports skill tests.

During the two years of required physical education students will engage in the following activity units: Orientation, Aquatics, Team Sports, Individual Sports, Fitness Activities, Weight Training, Biomechanics, Rhythmic Activities, Power Walking/Aerobic Activity, and Health/Wellness.

Health

Grade level: 9

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Health

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course has been designed using the Health Framework for California Public Schools and CCSS. It provides a comprehensive, sequentially planned program to positively influence the knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviors of individuals related to health. This in-depth education program includes relevant health information that would lead students to make informed decisions leading to a healthy lifestyle now and in the future. Some of the subjects covered in this course include brain development, sleep deprivation, decision-making, conflict resolution, stress management, internet safety, suicide awareness and prevention, nutrition, infectious diseases, human sexuality, and substance use and abuse.

Physical Education I

Grade level: 9

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Education

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Emphasis is placed on the orientation and introduction of skills and knowledge in each of the units and a basic introduction to health/wellness topics. ***Required for graduation.***

Physical Education II

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Education

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Emphasis is placed on skill analysis, game strategies, strength training, and learning in more detail the basics in human anatomy and physiology. ***Required for graduation.***

Weight & Fitness Training

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

May repeat for credit.

Emphasis is placed on weight training, individual fitness programs, and exploring what physical activities students would like to participate in after high school that would benefit their pursuit of personal fitness. Time is spent learning how to apply the health/wellness topics to everyday life. ***Does not count for P.E. graduation credit.***

Introduction to Yoga

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

May repeat for credit.

Introduction to Yoga is designed to safely introduce students to the basic postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), and relaxation methods of yoga. This elective PE class provides students with an understanding of anatomy and physiology as it applies to Yoga.

BHS students enrolled in Introduction to Yoga will develop an enhanced appreciation and acceptance of their body's uniqueness. Yoga improves spinal mobility, increased flexibility of movement, increased strength, improved posture and sitting habits. Through the practice of Yoga, student's focus, concentration, and functional breathing will improve. Students will learn how to identify the precursors of stress and learn to release them more easily; students will also learn to relax at will and experience the health benefits of yoga. *Does not count for P.E. graduation credit.*

Unified Physical Education

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

A Unified Physical Education Program is designed to promote inclusivity and provide opportunities for students to engage in physical education activities together. Unified Physical Education will include students with all ability levels. This class will develop awareness, empathy, wellness, and relationships to promote success and self-confidence in the Physical Education setting. All students will participate in activities that follow the state standards for various team and individual activities, weight training, outdoor and adventure activities, dance, yoga, and aquatics. The class will include involvement in Special Olympics and other related activities/field trips. Students will work toward achieving lifelong personal wellness habits through fitness training and learning positive health skills as a part of this course. Additionally, the class supports the development of leadership skills for all students, and the empowerment of ALL students (coaches and athletes) to foster an inclusive class and school-wide environment.

Science Department

The Burlingame High School Science Department offers a variety of challenging courses in many scientific disciplines to meet the needs and interests of our students. The Science Department approaches science in a collaborative manner in all aspects – from curriculum planning to the implementation of hands-on, daily lessons. The Science Department prides itself on making science accessible to all students through the connections that can be made between the content and the real world. Each class uses a variety of teaching strategies including technology-based laboratory experiments, demonstrations, visual aids and discussion.

The BHS graduation requirement for all students is the successful completion of one year of Biological Science and one year of Physical Science. The Biological Science requirement is met by taking Biology, the Living Earth. After the biological science requirement has been met, students at Burlingame will take Chemistry in the Earth System to fulfill the physical science requirement. After these two preliminary classes have been successfully completed all students have a variety of options in their last two years at Burlingame. Both Physics in the Universe and Environmental Science courses are UC approved d-level science courses for those wanting to further their high school science experience. In addition, the Science Department offers four Advanced Placement courses; AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science and AP Physics that allow students to continue their explorations of science at a deeper and more challenging level.

The BHS Science Department recommends that any student with an interest in pursuing a science or math related field in college take as many science courses as possible while at BHS.

Biology, the Living Earth

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year

Course Graduation requirement:

Biological Science **UC/CSU a-g**

requirement: d **Prerequisites:** None

Course Description: During the fall semester, students will study ecology, with an emphasis on interdependence between biotic and abiotic factors on Earth. They will study the dynamics of matter and energy flow through ecosystems, with a focus on the carbon cycle and its flow through the processes of photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Students will also engage in an exploration of DNA, and its role in the storing and inheritance of genetic information. Conceptually, students move from the large-scale organization of ecosystems, to systems that cycle matter, and smaller systems in organisms that arrange matter through genetic instructions.

In the spring semester, students will zoom in on the basic unit of life--the cell, and learn about how the cell's structure and function allow for the emergent property of unicellular and multicellular life. Students will also apply their knowledge of genetics and study its interaction with the environment, examining the process and evidence for evolution through natural selection. Finally, students will utilize their knowledge of Earth processes and living systems to design solutions to mitigate the effects of human populations on biodiversity and global climate change.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes each evening.

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Biological Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: d

Prerequisite: Biology, the Living Earth & Chemistry in the Earth System

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have completed Biology, the Living Earth and Chemistry in the Earth System with a grade of “C” or better.

Course Description: A highly specialized course for the qualified and motivated student whose future includes university attendance with a possible major in the sciences. The course has a focus on cellular ultra-structure, genetics, biochemical processes, biotechnology, mechanisms of evolution, diversity of organisms, and ecology. Students will explore these topics through discussions, lecture, laboratory investigations, teacher demonstrations, computer modeling and in-class assignments. In addition to a thorough reading of a college biology textbook, the students will read scientific articles, and perform and write up numerous laboratories. This course is aligned with the California State Standards in Biology as well as the guidelines described by the College Board. All students who take this course are expected to prepare and excel in the Biology Advanced Placement Exam.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 1-2 hours, 4-5 days per week

Chemistry in the Earth System

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: d

Prerequisite: Biology, the Living Earth

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have completed Biology, the Living Earth with a grade of “D” or better.

Course Description: Students will investigate the formation of the first elements and their transformation to heavier elements within the context of stars as nuclear element factories. They will use this knowledge to explore the structure of the atom, and the patterns this structure presents when elements are organized according to the periodic table. Students will learn of the forces that hold matter together, and how society uses its understanding of elements and molecules to develop useful materials. Additionally, the interactions of atoms and molecules will be examined, along with the factors that drive chemical changes, as illustrated by chemical reactions. Students will investigate Earth’s atmosphere and climate system, establishing connections between matter and energy, and how energy flows into and out of chemical systems. This concept will extend to the movement of energy through Earth’s systems, and ways in which humans may control these movements through investigations of greenhouse gases, their effect on the atmosphere, and the stability and change of the chemistry of the ocean and other bodies of water on Earth.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 20 minutes, each evening.

Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: d

Prerequisite: Biology, the Living Earth & Chemistry in the Earth System

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have completed Biology, the Living Earth and Chemistry in the Earth System with a grade of “C” or better. It is recommended that students have a strong interest in science and math. AP Chemistry builds on the skills mastered in CP chemistry and algebra I and II.

Course Description: Advanced Placement Chemistry is a highly specialized course for qualified students whose future includes university attendance with a possible major in the sciences. AP chemistry is equivalent to a rigorous first year college-level chemistry course and is designed for students with strong mathematics and problem-solving skills along with a genuine love of science and its application. This course prepares students for the AP Chemistry Exam and for further study in science, health sciences, and engineering. Topics of study include Atomic Structure, Compound Structures & Properties, Properties of Substances, Chemical Reactions, Kinetics, Thermodynamics, Chemical Equilibrium, Acids & Bases, and Applications of Thermodynamics.

Since this is a college level course taught in high school, it is very demanding, both in time and effort required. Much of the work involves solving math-type word problems. Homework is assigned each day and on weekends. The amount of work outside of class depends upon the student and his/her background; however, students should be prepared to spend roughly 30 minutes each night on just their AP Chemistry homework.

Environmental Science

Grade level: 12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Science/Bio

UC/CSU a-g requirement: d

Prerequisite: Biology, the Living Earth & Chemistry in the Earth System

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students need to have completed Biology, the Living Earth and Chemistry in the Earth System with a grade of “D” or better.

Course Considerations: This course is taught as a Capstone course and is taken instead of AP Environmental Science and does not prepare a student for the AP Environmental Science Exam. It is suggested that this class is a final science course after completing Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Course Description: Environmental science is a course dedicated to understanding the interactions between earth’s natural systems and the demands placed on them by the human population. This course examines the scientific principles behind natural phenomena and resource cycles, explores how we utilize these systems and our impact, and potential solutions for the resulting consequences of resource mismanagement and exploitation. The course includes elements of life science, physical science, and social science and focuses on breadth and interrelatedness of relevant current events. Concepts can be explored through inquiry based laboratory exercises, environmental health assessment techniques, student presentations and projects.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes each night

Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Science/Bio

UC/CSU a-g requirement: d

Prerequisite: Biology, the Living Earth & Chemistry in the Earth System

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have completed Biology, the Living Earth and Chemistry in the Earth System with a grade of “C” or better.

Course Description: AP Environmental science is a course devoted to integrating our understanding of biological, physical and social sciences through the study of environmental interactions. Students will examine the causes, risks, consequences, and potential solutions for both natural and human created environmental problems. These concepts are explored through laboratory activities, environmental case studies, and student projects. All students are encouraged to take the AP Environmental Science exam in the spring. See individual colleges for specific information regarding AP exam scores and course equivalency.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Average of 45 min - 1 hour every night

Physics in the Universe

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: d

Prerequisite: Biology, the Living Earth & Chemistry in the Earth System

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have completed Biology, the Living Earth and Chemistry in the Earth System with a grade of “D” or better.

Course Description: In Physics 1, students will study the underlying causes and effects of forces on Earth and in the Universe, including: Gravitational, Contact, Magnetic, Nuclear and Electrostatic forces. Students will investigate the nature of energy and matter and their conservation. They will have the opportunity to study the formation of the geophysics features of Earth and Cosmic Evolution. They will examine the collection of evidence supporting physical models. Students will also examine the principles of waves, and how we use waves in information technology, including information storage and transfer. Students will work on projects which demonstrate students’ mastery of course, regularly conduct experimental investigations, and participate in engineering practices.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes per night

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics 1

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Physical Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: d

Prerequisite: Biology, the Living Earth & Chemistry in the Earth System

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have completed Biology, the Living Earth and Chemistry in the Earth System with a grade of “C” or better. NOTE: Physics 1/2 is not a prerequisite for this class.

Course Description: AP Physics is a first year physics course that develops the student’s knowledge of fundamental laws of nature while focusing mainly on Classical Mechanics. Students will cultivate their understanding of physics and science practices as they explore the following topics:

1. Kinematics
2. Force and Translational Dynamics
3. Work, Energy, and Power
4. Linear Momentum
5. Torque and Rotational Dynamics
6. Energy and Momentum of Rotating Systems
7. Oscillations
8. Fluids

Mastery in the use of mathematical models that describe physical laws is the goal of this course; thus a firm grasp on the use of geometry and algebra is required. Laboratory investigations will focus on the application of different representations, mathematical routines, and scientific questioning and argumentation. The course is planned specifically for the college-bound student and is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Physics 1 Examination.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Approximately 5 hours each week

Social Science Department

“To remain ignorant of things that happened before you were born is to remain a child.” – Cicero

Burlingame’s Social Science department engages students to consider how the past has affected them and how they can in turn affect the present and future. Students at BHS take 3 and ½ semesters of Social Science courses, and, if they choose, several departmental electives. Each course emphasizes content mastery, critical thinking, text analysis, public speaking, research and writing. Upon graduating from BHS, students will have the appropriate knowledge and skills to succeed in adulthood, per Cicero’s advice.

Introduction to Ethnic Studies

Grade level: 9

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Social Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: 1) Notetaking- the ability to take notes from a variety of sources 2) Organization- keeping materials in one folder/binder/notebook 3) Listening- lectures, explanations of last night’s homework and directions are the key to success!

Course Description: Introduction to Ethnic Studies is a one-semester course designed for students to be politically, socially, and economically aware of their personal connections to local and global histories. By studying the histories of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, and culture, students will cultivate respect and empathy for individuals and solidarity with groups of people locally, nationally, and globally in order to foster compassion, active social engagement, and community building. Students will learn how to become critical thinkers who examine and analyze current day issues. This course is intended to help build inter-ethnic understanding and socio-cultural bridges in an increasingly more multicultural and multiethnic nation, which is imperative to creating a just society.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will participate in a variety of major assignments throughout the year, such as but not limited to the following: Identity portfolio, end of semester Action & Self Determination Project as well as unit based assignments requiring critical thinking and creativity.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Approximate homework assigned daily: 20-60 minutes. It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.

Modern World History

Grade level: 10

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Social Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ethnic Studies, recommended

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students should have passed Ethnic Studies, and should be reading and writing at grade level.

Course Description: The Modern World History course covers a period of more than 250 years, highlighting major turning points that shaped the modern world, from the late eighteenth century through the present. This course offers a balanced approach to historical content, providing equal weight to the development of western civilization and the evolution of the non-western world. This course will offer students a truly global historical experience. In this course, students will critically learn about the history and culture of the world by considering multiple accounts of events in order to understand international relations from a variety of perspectives, in a way that allows students to place themselves in its narratives. Additionally, students will use historical data to support a well-articulated argument or opinion. As in all history classes at BHS, they will interpret and apply data from primary and secondary sources, including speeches, cartoons, graphs, letters, etc. Finally, they will continue to practice the art of critical reading/notetaking and analysis, both of the textbook and other

sources. Through these activities, students will develop the historical thinking skills of reading, writing, and critical thinking. This course is based on the CA History-Social Science Content Standards and the CA H-SS Framework.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will participate in a variety of major assignments throughout the year, such as but not limited to the following: several debates, class discussions, a variety of writing tasks, and other assignments which vary according to teacher preference.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Students should expect 1-2 homework assignments per week ranging from 20-45 minutes in length (approximate). It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.

Advancing Ethnic Studies

Grade level: 11-12	Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course
Graduation requirement: Elective	UC/CSU a-g requirement: g
Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills:	

Course Description: This Ethnic Studies course is an extension of our introductory course. It is designed for students to be politically, socially and economically conscious about their personal connections to local and global histories. Students will utilize the tenets of ethnic studies to examine the contributions, and struggles of different historically marginalized groups for liberty, equality, and justice in the United States. Students will investigate and analyze the historical factors of power and privilege and the subsequent impact on historically marginalized groups’ ability to navigate and mitigate internal and external structures that influence their human experience. Students will apply in-depth analysis to contemporary community issues and collectively pose creative, self-affirming solutions in a variety of ways to promote agency through grassroots community advocacy and civic engagement.

Major Projects/Assignments: as determined by the instructor

Approximate homework assigned daily: as determined by the instructor

Advanced Placement (AP) World History: Modern

Grade level: 10	Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course
Graduation requirement: Social Science	UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Prerequisite: Ethnic Studies with grade A or above, strongly recommended.

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students should have reading and writing skills above the 12th grade level. This course is intended to mimic an introductory college course and involves extensive reading and writing.

Course Description: Advanced Placement (AP) World History: Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course that fulfills SMUHSD graduation requirements and is a course offered for 10th grade students not enrolled in College-Prep (CP) Modern World History. Students will explore major global turning points from c. 1200 CE to the present in order to better understand the background and context of modern global issues. Students will cultivate their understanding of world history through the analysis of primary sources while learning to make connections and craft historical arguments. Students will explore themes and concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, as well as technology and innovation. This course is based on the CA History-Social Science Content Standards, the CA H-SS Framework, and the curriculum requirements of the College Board.

- Highlights of Course Objectives:**
- Students will be able to analyze, interpret and use a wide variety of primary source materials in order to create and prove arguments.
 - Students will write clear, precise essays that demonstrate understanding of historical events and trends using ample evidence and analysis.

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of basic chronology and the major events, people and trends of world history from 1250 to present.
- Students will work individually and in groups to create well-supported arguments, demonstrating knowledge through oral explanation and debate.
-

Major Projects/Assignments: Essay and multiple choice exams will be regularly scheduled assessments. Debate, research, simulations and other creative projects will vary.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Minimum of 60-90 minutes daily. It is important to remember that assignments will vary in length and multiple days will often be given for a single assignment. Much of it will consist of daily reading, sometimes with accompanying assignments and sometimes independently. This is an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment, as well as the work habits and time management of students.

United States History

Grade level: 11

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Social Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Modern World History, recommended.

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: 1) ability to manage time on short and long term assignments 2) ability to work independently and in collaborative groups 3) note-taking skills 4) familiarity with document analysis

Course Description: United States History College Preparatory fulfills both state and district requirements for high school graduation. The course examines the nation's history, with an emphasis on the 20th century. Instruction is centered on analyzing events in the nation's past to better understand current issues. Students are asked to analyze social, political, and economic influences that have shaped American history. Building from the foundations established in Ethnic Studies, and Modern World History, students will examine key events studied in those courses from an American perspective, with an understanding that what constitutes an American perspective is complex and varied. Students will continue to develop their skills in writing persuasive essays and analyzing primary source documents. Cause and effect analysis and the ability to craft evidence supported claims are focal points of the critical thinking skills to be mastered.

Major Projects/Assignments: the US History team works together to craft meaningful, common assessments that give all students opportunities to use their strengths to demonstrate content knowledge and skill mastery.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes. It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment, as well as the work habits and time management of students.

Advanced Placement (AP) United States History

Grade level: 11

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Social Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Prerequisite: Completion of Modern World History or AP European History with a grade of B or above, recommended.

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading and writing skills above the 12th grade level, as this is a college level course that involves extensive reading, analysis and writing.

Course Description: Advanced Placement United States History covers the entire spectrum of our nation's history, from the Age of Exploration to the present. Given the broad range and profound depth of study, success in this course necessitates strong reading and writing skills commingled with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study. This

course is designed to prepare students for the AP exam in US history. Our course at BHS has been audited and approved by the College Board. Please refer to its site for more details about the course: www.collegeboard.com.

Course Objectives: Students in this course will...

- Develop a meaningful understanding of the history of the United States in all its multifaceted forms, particularly social, political, diplomatic, economic and cultural aspects and transformations.
- Develop an appreciation for the fundamental issues and themes that flow through our history.
- Master a broad body of historical knowledge.
- Use historical data to support a well-articulated argument or opinion.
- Interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, etc..
- Improve writing, research, and critical reading skills.
- Work effectively with others to produce products and solve problems.
- Prepare for, and successfully pass, the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

Major Projects/Assignments: Regular essay writing, traditional assessments including multiple choice stimulus questions, and extensive outside reading.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 90-120 minutes. Students will primarily spend time outside of class devoted to textbook reading. It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.

American Government

Grade level: 12

Graduation requirement: Social Science

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ethnic Studies, World History, U.S. History, recommended

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: 1) ability to work both independently and collaboratively 2) organizational skills 3) note taking skills

Course Description: College preparatory American Government introduces students to the requirements and demands of participation in our system of government, focusing on issues that are both foundational and highly relevant to students. Analysis of founding documents, judicial decisions, public opinion, media, and interest groups are among the topics of study. Discussion and debate are the norm.

There are four units of study:

- The Constitution and Media Literacy
- The Legislative Branch and Political Spectrum
- The Executive Branch and Elections
- The Judicial Branch and Bill of Rights

Major Projects/Assignments: Unit tests, mock Presidential election, live debates, Supreme Court case research project

Approximate homework assigned daily: 0-30 minutes. Most work will be completed in class, however students who are absent are expected to make up the work at home. Students will also likely need to review for unit tests and finish larger projects or assignments at home.

Advanced Placement (AP) US Government & Politics

Grade level: 12

Graduation requirement: Social Science

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

UC/CSU a-g requirement: a

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ethnic Studies, World History, U.S. History, recommended.

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students enrolling in this course should have successfully completed AP U.S. History in 11th grade and Honors World History in 10th grade with a grade of “C” or better. Students entering from CP should have an A US History College preparatory. It is also recommended that students who wish to take this course have a solid foundation of writing and research skills, be able to handle college level reading material, and be prepared to work independently as well as in a group environment.

Course Description: In this semester long course students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American Government. Throughout the course we examine and try to evaluate our institutions of government, the public policies made by these institutions, and the influences of the electorate on policy-making. Ultimately this course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination in United States Government and Politics.

Major Projects/Assignments: Semester projects include a simulation on the presidential election and group research paper on a piece of federal legislation. This is in addition to several minor individual projects that are assigned throughout the semester.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Minimum of 30-45 minutes daily. It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.

Economics

Grade level: 12

Graduation requirement: Social Science

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ethnic World Studies, World History, U.S. History, recommended.

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: 1) ability to work both independently and collaboratively 2) organizational skills 3) note taking skills

Course Description: Economics is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and personal finance. It is a rigorous course intended to provide students with the vocabulary of economics, the skills necessary to understand and analyze economic issues, and an appreciation of how the economic system has evolved in the U.S. The course also covers critical topics within financial literacy like credit scores, credit cards, student loans, and filing taxes.

Units of study include:

- Economic Systems and Investing Basics
- Fiscal Policy and Taxes
- Monetary Policy and Loans
- Business and Entrepreneurship

Major Projects/Assignments: Virtual stock market game, unit tests, debates, case studies, budgeting practice

Approximate homework assigned daily: 0-30 minutes. Most work will be completed in class, however students who are absent are expected to make up the work at home. Students will also likely need to review for unit tests and finish larger projects or assignments at home.

Advanced Placement (AP) Macroeconomics

Grade level: 12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Social Science

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: Completion of United States History

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: The department strongly recommends:

- Careful attention paid to the rest of the student's academic load. This course has a considerable amount of work.
- There are mathematical principles employed in this course. Students should have a comfortable familiarity with the creation and interpretation of line-slope graphs and the use of logical arguments.
- Students will complete readings from college-level textbooks and will complete written work commensurate with university-level classes.
- Students should have previously experienced Advanced Placement courses. Reading and writing abilities, which exceed grade level (12th grade reading level recommended).
- The ability to grasp complex and abstract ideas and theories and a strong, independent, responsible work-ethic.

Course Description: This one-semester course is an alternative to the Economics graduation requirement. The course explores macroeconomic concepts such as the open market structure of business and government regulatory policies and will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination. This course is challenging and students are expected to possess strong academic skills to master a considerable amount of material in preparation for the exam.

Major Projects/Assignments: There are numerous simulations throughout the semester including specific content related to supply and demand, the circular flow of a market economy and bank loans relating to interest rates. In addition, there are small research projects on unemployment, monetary policy and fiscal policy.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 45-90 minutes It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.

Psychology

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions and presentations, maintaining a respectful attitude toward the opinions of others and demonstrating sensitivity to the presented subject matter.

Course Description: The objective of the Psychology course is to enhance students' awareness and comprehension of

human motivation and behavior. Throughout the course, students will acquire a foundational understanding of various aspects of the discipline, including the rich and diverse history of psychology, scientific research methods, the biological and physiological foundations of behavior, principles of human learning and memory, major theories of motivation and emotion, and the practical applications of psychological theories in everyday life. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on fostering self-awareness and personal growth. Moreover, the course is designed to reinforce critical thinking, problem-solving, and writing skills that are essential in all social science courses.

Major Projects/Assignments: as determined by the instructor

Approximate homework assigned daily: Students should expect 1-2 short homework assignments per week ranging from 20-30 minutes in length (approximate). It is important to note that this serves as an estimate of the nightly average homework load. It is not intended to be a concrete value and homework completion time will depend upon the nature of the assignment and the abilities and work habits of the student.

Special Education Department

As required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), San Mateo Union High School District provides a continuum of services for students with disabilities. Some services for students with moderate/severe disabilities are provided in conjunction with the San Mateo County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) or with North County Mental Health. All programs are open to students in grades 9-12. Not all programs are provided at each campus; students are placed through the individualized Education Plan (IEP) process in the program that best meets their needs.

The services available at BHS are the Directed Studies Program, Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI), the Adult Transition Class (ATC), and the Applied Academic Curriculum (AAC). Students in Directed Studies may receive one or two periods in a Directed Studies class which supports their work in the mainstream. Some Directed Studies courses are specifically designed to provide targeted support in a particular content area to help participation in the general education setting. There are general Directed Studies courses also offered which help support students more broadly. SAI serves students whose academic needs are best met through direct instruction from a special education teacher with a modified curriculum. ATC serves students between the ages of 18 and 22 years with moderate to severe cognitive challenges. These students receive instruction in vocational and independent living skills. The AAC Program serves students with a focus on building functional skills; students do not earn a high school diploma in the AAC program. The class is designed for students who would benefit from a community-based no-diploma program emphasizing socially appropriate skills and behavior. Other related services offered at BHS are Speech and Language Services, Vocational Services, and Mental Health Services

Directed Studies

Grade level: 9-12 **Course units:** 10 Credits – Year Course
Graduation requirement: Elective **UC/CSU a-g requirement:** None
Prerequisite: Individual Education Plan team recommendation

Course Description: The Directed Studies class supports students in the completion of academic tasks assigned in their general education classes. This class allows students time to bring general education assignment questions to class in order to support assignment completion. This differs from a homework center/study hall in that students do receive periodic direct instruction in organization, learning, and study strategies, as well as counseling in self-advocacy. Through this class, students are provided the opportunity to work with their counselor on a daily basis, in order to support IEP goals and general education academic success.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies according to teacher. Examples include career and college research report, and personal reflection essays or projects on topics such as IEP goals, personal learning styles/multiple intelligence, progress evaluation, and outside learning experiences.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Homework is periodically assigned to reinforce the development of skills or strategies necessary for academic success.

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) Algebra I

Grade level: 9/10 **Course units:** 10 Credits – Year Course
Graduation requirement: Mathematics **UC/CSU a-g requirement:** c
Prerequisite: IEP team recommendation

Course Description: This is the second year of a two-year Specialized Academic Instruction Algebra course, and is aligned with regular education Algebra I. Students will learn algebraic, consumer, and geometric math concepts to continue to build their understanding of algebra, and as much as possible study math concepts in the context of real life situations. Through textbook work, group work, and various projects, students will concentrate on areas such as inequalities, exponents, polynomials, and probability.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will complete at least one project per semester, and will have written final exams.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes, 4-5 days a week

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) Geometry 1.0 – 2.0

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Mathematics

UC/CSU a-g requirement: c

Prerequisite: IEP team recommendation

Course Description: This is a Specialized Academic Instruction Geometry course, and is aligned with the first half of regular education Geometry. Students will learn about the mathematics of the properties, measurement, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. Through textbook work, group work, several hands-on projects, and studying in the context of real life situations, students will learn about various polygons and such concepts as perimeter, area, volume, and surface area.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will complete several visual/art projects per semester, and will have written final exams.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes, 4-5 days a week

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) English I

Grade level: 9

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: IEP Team Recommendation

Course Description: An entry level course. Instruction is based on initial and ongoing individual assessment in reading (word recognition, fluency and comprehension) and written language skills. Remediation of reading and written language skills is addressed in the context of modified grade level standards-based instruction, which includes: vocabulary development through the acquisition of affixes, comprehension strategy development (summarization, prediction, question-asking, clarification), recognition of literary devices (figurative language, imagery and symbolism), and written language (paragraph and essay structure, thesis development, accuracy in mechanics through the editing process). The writing process – Planning, Organization, Writing, Editing and Rewrite – is introduced and reinforced throughout the year. Literature includes appropriate selections from the general education ninth-grade curriculum which are modified as needed, as well as other high interest, and self-selected works. Organization skills, follow-through, preparedness, and assuming personal responsibility are emphasized.

Major Projects: Essays and research report

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes nightly

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) English II

Grade level: 10

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: IEP team recommendation

Course Description: Second level English class. Students reinforce and further develop skills and concepts from the previous level of English. Students continue developing basic grammar and written language mechanics, focusing on certain parts of speech and punctuation. Literature is selected and modified from the general education freshman curriculum, and includes short stories, poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Previously taught literary terms are reviewed, and new terms introduced and related to the course literature. The writing process, vocabulary development and fluency continue to be reinforced and developed. Organization skills, follow-through, preparedness, and assuming personal responsibility are emphasized.

Major Projects: Students write short stories, essays and poetry. Students present their work both in written form, and in oral presentation. This will include the use of technology, such as PowerPoint presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 20 to 30 minutes / 4 times per week. (Projects may require more time.)

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) English III

Grade level: 11

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: IEP team recommendation

Course Description:

Third level English class. Students reinforce and further develop skills and concepts from the previous level of English. Students continue developing basic grammar and written language mechanics, focusing on certain parts of speech and punctuation. Literature is selected and modified from the general education freshman curriculum, and includes short stories, poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Previously taught literary terms are reviewed, and new terms introduced and related to the course literature. The writing process, vocabulary development and fluency continue to be reinforced and developed. Organization skills, follow-through, preparedness and assuming personal responsibility are emphasized.

Major Projects: Students write short stories, essays and poetry. Students present their work both in written form, and in oral presentation. This will include the use of technology, such as PowerPoint presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 20 to 30 minutes / 4 times per week. (Projects may require more time.)

Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) English IV

Grade level: 12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: English

UC/CSU a-g requirement: b

Prerequisite: IEP team recommendation

Course Description: Fourth level English class. The students read from a wide range of writers, selected and modified from the general education sophomore literature curriculum. Genres include the short story, drama, poetry, and the novel. Non-fiction and fiction reading strategies continue to be developed. Grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, speaking and listening are taught in the context of the literature, not as isolated skill areas. This course focuses on developing students' discussion, writing, and analytical skills. Individual and collaborative projects are assigned. Direct instruction continues in the development of correct sentence structure, parts of speech, the writing process in general, and specifically in paragraph writing and essay construction. Appropriate computer skills are integrated into various writing projects. Students access and retrieve information from reference books in the library, the internet, from oral history, and other sources. Students review skills necessary to become responsible and contributing members of our community. Organizational skills, follow-through, preparedness, and assuming personal responsibility are emphasized.

Major Projects: One per semester integrating literature, analytical skills, and the application of content to present-day life.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15 minutes

Adult Transition Program

Grade level: 12+

Course units: Year-Long

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Prerequisite: IEP Team Recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students must demonstrate independence in the following skill areas: dressing, showering, toileting, eating, recognition of safety signs and the alphabet. In addition, students must be able to remain on task for at least 15 minutes, walk down a street unassisted, and follow two-step directions.

Course Description: The Adult Transition Class provides instruction to students between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two years in functional living skills. The focus of the program is to help students improve in the following functional skill domain areas: vocational, recreational, financial, transportation, socialization, safety, hygiene, nutrition and physical education. Students receive instruction in the classroom as well as the natural environment with a focus on community integration. Completion of the course prepares students for community vocational, residential and academic placement.

Major Projects/Assignments: Working at a community job site, volunteering for a non-profit organization, participating in Special Olympics sporting events, and attending weekly field trips.

Approximate homework assigned daily: None

SPECIALISTS WHO MAY BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS ON OUR CAMPUS, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Adaptive Physical Education Teacher
- County Mental Health Counselor
- Psychologist
- Speech/Language Therapist
- Transition Specialist – for seniors
- Vocational Specialist

At the school site there is a Student Study Team which meets weekly and reviews at risk students to determine the need for a referral to special education. If a student qualifies for special education services, then an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed. The IEP Team includes the psychologist, parents, student, special and general education teachers, administration and any specialist who needs to be involved. The next step is placement in the least restrictive academic setting to meet the needs of the student – the Resource Program or the SDC Program. If the student does not qualify for services, the team suggests other options to help the student succeed in school.

Visual & Performing Arts Department

The courses offered in the Visual & Performing Art offer the student a wide variety of artistic outlets to explore their creativity, expand their imagination, develop their mind and gain confidence. All disciplines offer advanced classes allowing students to increase the mastery of their skills.

Art

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students should be prepared to work in the art studio, which is like a lab environment. Previous art experience is not required, but a willingness to take chances and explore will take you far!

Description: This is a hands-on course with brief lectures and demos, and a large amount of student participation. As an expressive practice, art requires emotional intelligence and the curriculum includes topics like self-awareness, resilience, and self-regulation. Students will survey the basics of technical art (drawing, painting, mixed media, & print-making), design (the structure of artwork), and the artistic process (planning and revision, creativity and expression). The Elements of Art and the Principles of Design will be learned and practiced through active art making as well as looking at, analyzing and discussing art. Some units we cover include observational drawing, color theory, perspective, painting, print-making, comic design, Zentangles, watercolor painting, and abstraction. Each unit contains introductions to some of the individuals and history of movements in art that are most relevant today.

Major Projects/Assignments: Watercolor landscapes and abstractions, Drawing a portrait from your mind, Zentangles, Comics and Lettering

Approximate homework assigned: The more time you put into your art, the more you will get out of it! Expect up to an hour of required homework some weeks.

Art Advanced

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: A “C” or better in Art, or equivalent portfolio of artwork is recommended.

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: The most important thing is a desire and commitment to make art, investigate your personal style as an artist and/or develop greater technical skills. Be willing to discuss, revise and rework your art, as part of the process of making art.

Course Description: We will pursue greater depth drawing, painting, design, graphics and printmaking. Some artwork will explore complex topics, such as advanced color theory, identity, gender and acrylic or oil painting. You will develop a portfolio based upon a theme, issue or technical aspect of art (Sustained Investigation) that reflects your developing personal style. This is an active class where students will work together to discuss and improve their artwork, and investigate and develop their own artistic process and style. This course will prepare interested students for AP Studio art or it *may be repeated for credit*.

Major Projects/Assignments: Sustained Investigation (Portfolio), Acrylic Painting, Intaglio printmaking, Gender and Identity

Approximate homework assigned: The more time you put into your art, the more you will get out of it! Expect up to an hour of required homework some weeks.

Ceramics

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students should be prepared to work in the ceramics studio, which is like a lab environment. Previous experience using clay is not required, though students will be required to participate in clean-up and learn the organization of the shared studio.

Course Description: The beginning section of ceramics focuses on introducing students to the foundations of the ceramic process and the stages of clay. In the fall, students will learn many vessel-making techniques including pinching, slab and coil construction techniques. The pottery wheel will be introduced. We also include small research projects to learn about ceramics artwork from other cultures. We will practice a variety of decorative techniques through drawing and painting designs. In the spring we continue exploring ways to create clay vessels, and also tackle sculpted forms including: a figure sculpture and relief carving. Throughout the course students will learn how to apply design decisions to their artwork, continuing to explore a variety of decorative and glazing techniques..

Major Projects/Assignments: Fall: Pinch pot or coil pot introduction, Wheel thrown pots, decorated slab box, Spring: Face sculpture, press molds, animal maquette, animal sculpture, artist research project.

Approximate homework assigned daily: No homework is assigned. Students may continue working on class work at home.

Ceramics Advanced

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Ceramics

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students should have the capacity to work independently with guidance. Students will also take responsibility for a shared studio community, helping with clean-up and organization.

Course Description: Advanced Ceramics takes the skills from Ceramics and continues to hone and layer on more advanced techniques. Students will work with large more complex design problems, and be expected to create their own design projects from a list of prompts. In each semester students may participate in teacher directed projects and/or student designed projects. There is a great deal of freedom to explore individual interests. Students may concentrate on pottery, hand building, or sculpture, and may include multimedia or other mediums in their work. **May be repeated for credit.**

Major Projects/Assignments: Portfolio development, projects researching styles and themes from art history, design concentration portfolio.

Approximate homework assigned daily: No homework is assigned. Students may continue working on class work at home.

3D Game Art & Design

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Comfort with basic computer skills. It is essential that students have good attendance, as most projects must be completed in the computer lab.

Prerequisite: none

Course Description: Students will learn the technical skills and the aesthetic considerations in designing fun and interesting game concepts, both computer-based and non. Game design is an extremely multi-disciplinary field and we will cover units on not only game design, but also: learning about what makes fun FUN, 3D modeling and animation, drawing, creative writing, graphic design, the design cycle (used in software and game design), and careers in the field of game design. In the first term students will primarily work on individual projects with collaboration on brainstorming and testing their prototypes and gathering feedback. In the Spring, students will writing game proposals and form groups to work on team game projects in addition to improving and refining their earlier game ideas. Taking this course and advanced (2 years) will satisfy both the VAPA and CTE graduation requirements.

Major Projects/Assignments: Individual 3D Game Prototypes, Team 3D Game Prototype, Develop a Card Game, Portfolio.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Most homework would be related to finishing planning and design documents that were not completed in class. Other than that we have only a few homework assignments each term, mostly for testing and gathering feedback on their game designs.

3D Game Art & Design Advanced

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: CTE/VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Experience coding/programming is helpful but not required. It is essential that students have good attendance, as most projects must be completed in the computer lab.

Prerequisite: Game Art & Design.

Course Description: In this advanced course students will build upon their experience and knowledge from 3D Game Art and Design, refining their skills in creating and balancing a variety of game types including video, card and board games. In addition to artistic and design skills, students will develop computer programming skills so that they are able to use basic logical structures, function calls, and variables in the Javascript computer programming language. We will also cover units on special technical and artistic topics such as concept art creation, advanced 3D modeling and animation, games for tablets, consoles and mobile devices. In the first term students will primarily work on individual projects with collaboration on brainstorming and testing their prototypes and gathering feedback. In the Spring, students will write game proposals and form groups to work on a team game project in addition to improving and refining their earlier game ideas. Taking this course and advanced (2 years) will satisfy both the VAPA and CTE graduation requirements. ***May be repeated for credit.***

Major Projects/Assignments: Individual 3D Game Prototypes, Team 3D Game Prototype, Develop a Card Game, Portfolio.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Most homework would be related to finishing planning and design documents that were not completed in class. Other than that we have only a few homework assignments each term, mostly for testing and gathering feedback on their game designs.

Advanced Placement (AP) Studio Art

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Enrolling students are advised to complete Advanced Art first (or equivalent experience with instructor interview) and have a strong desire to work hard on a developed portfolio of connected art works. Students should have mastered basic drawing and have ample experience in other materials such as paint, ink, or mixed media. If you are unsure, schedule an interview with the instructor and bring samples of your recent artwork.

Course Description: This course gives you the chance to work on the aspects of art that matter most to you, provided you are willing to work hard and follow the process of portfolio development. At the courses end each student will turn in a portfolio that consists of 15-24 art works and an essay on your portfolio topic. This portfolio must demonstrate a well developed artistic process, thoughtful design, and skilled use of techniques and materials. You do not need to plan to submit to the AP College Board to take the class, but no additional AP credit will be given without submitting to the AP College Board with a passing score. For those who are not submitting the portfolio/essay will be evaluated by the school Visual Art staff. Monthly teacher conferences will help you to guide your inquiry, problem solve and to create plans for improvement. Any technical development in this class will be guided by your individual needs and interests; there are no group projects, demonstrations, or technical instruction other than that dealing with the artistic process, student critiques and portfolio development. To take this class you should have already mastered at least *basic* drawing and composition.

Major Projects/Assignments: The portfolio consists of 15-24 high quality artworks and an essay about your artistic inquiry

Approximate daily homework assigned: Expect to put in at least an 1-4 extra hours of work a week to pass the College Board AP Exam, or 1 hour to do well in the graded portion of the class. This number will depend on your entry level skill and experience with art making and developing a portfolio

Dance

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: A beginning dance class introduces students to the world of performing arts through movement. Students learn basic dance techniques common to all areas of dance including jazz, modern, character, and ballet.

Students develop a dance vocabulary and technical skills which may be applied to composition and performance. Students are introduced

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will use improvisation, problem-solving techniques, creative thinking, and exploration in the development of original dance compositions. Students will understand that through movement, dance is a form of communication derived from the uniqueness of individual expression. Students will through performance, demonstrate examples of original movement patterns and dance compositions.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Most assignments completed in class; not a great deal of homework.

Drama

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students work in pairs and small groups to learn skills in team building, communication, acting, public speaking, improvisation, character development, and audition technique. Throughout the year, the class develops as a supportive ensemble and students become more confident in their presentations. Drama also covers some theater history, scene work and script reading. There will be several in-class performance opportunities.

Major Projects/Assignments: Group Improvisation performance, scene study & performance, script reading, character, scene and play analysis

Approximate homework assigned daily: Most assignments completed in class; not a great deal of homework.

Drama Advanced

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA/CTE +2 Years

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Beginning Drama or permission of Instructor

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Principles of Theatre. Acting Fundamentals.

Course Description:

Students will gain a deeper understanding of acting, improvisation, and character development. They explore what it takes to produce a show, taking on different roles of a theater creator: director, actor, designer, playwright.

There will be frequent performance opportunities both in class and for the public. The year culminates in the public performance of student directed one-act plays. ***May be repeated for credit.***

Major Projects/Assignments: Improvisation, scene study, character & scene analysis, audition techniques, playwriting and play production. Student directed One-Act plays. Students will develop an on-line portfolio including a resume, head shots & bio.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Occasional script memorization and scene/exercise preparation, research

Musical Theater

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA/CTE +2 Years

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Beginning Drama (1-2) or permission of Instructor

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills:

Course Description:

This is a one-year course, repeatable for credit, which introduces students to the history, craft and artistry of musical theatre singing and acting. Through practical application, students will learn about the historical development of this art form, the structure of a musical and the part each contributor plays in its creation.

Major Projects/Assignment: Students will take part in a variety of projects, covering all aspects of a production from audition through rehearsals and performance, culminating in students' preparation for post-graduate study and work. This course is aligned with the California Content Standards for Theatre-Grades 9-12 Advanced.

Concert Band

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Middle School Experience in Wind Band or one year of Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Concert Band is a continuation of the middle school wind band program. Enrolled students should have successfully participated in the wind band program at their middle school. Students should demonstrate proficient rehearsal and performance etiquette, and be able to sight-read and perform at a high school entry level.

Course Description: Students will rehearse and perform a variety of music from the wind band repertoire. Students will develop technical skills on their instrument as well as study music theory, music history, and rehearsal and performance techniques. May be repeated for credit.

Major Projects/Assignments: Concert Band performs outside of class throughout the school year. Participation in all performances is mandatory. Concert Band students are also part of the BHS Panther Band (Pep/Marching Band) which performs at various school and community events.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Students are expected to learn their individual parts on their own and demonstrate regular progress in rehearsals. The amount of outside of class practice time will vary with the individual student.

Wind Ensemble

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Instructor's consent by audition

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: A wind ensemble is essentially a large chamber group with one player per part. Students in a wind ensemble must be able learn, rehearse, and perform in this chamber setting. Students should demonstrate mastery of rehearsal and performance etiquette, and be able to sight-read and perform at an advanced high school level.

Course Description: Students will rehearse and perform a variety of music from the wind band repertoire. Students will develop technical skills on their instrument as well as study music theory, music history, and rehearsal and performance techniques. At specified times during the year, the Wind Ensemble may be augmented by Chamber Orchestra to form a full symphony orchestra. May be repeated for credit.

Major Projects/Assignments: Wind Ensemble performs outside of class throughout the school year, including but not limited to CMEA (and/or comparable) Festivals. Participation in all performances is mandatory. Wind Ensemble students are also part of the BHS Panther Band (Pep/Marching Band) which performs at various school and community events.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Students are expected to learn their individual parts on their own and demonstrate regular progress in rehearsals. The amount of outside of class practice time will vary with the individual student.

Jazz Ensemble

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Instructor's consent by audition

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students should demonstrate mastery of rehearsal and performance etiquette, and be able to sight-read and perform at an advanced high school level.

Course Description: Students will rehearse and perform a variety of music from the jazz band repertoire. Students will develop technical skills on their instrument as well as study improvisation, music theory, composition/arranging, jazz history, and rehearsal and performance techniques. May be repeated for credit.

Major Projects/Assignments: The Jazz Ensemble performs outside of class throughout the school year, including but not limited to CMEA (and/or comparable) Festivals. Participation in all performances is mandatory. Jazz Ensemble students are also part of the BHS Panther Band (Pep/Marching Band) which performs at various school and community events.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Students are expected to learn their individual parts on their own and demonstrate regular progress in rehearsals. The amount of outside of class practice time will vary with the individual student. There is a music history project due at the end of the first semester, and a composition/arranging project due at the end of the second semester.

Chamber Orchestra

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: Instructor's consent by audition

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: A chamber orchestra is essentially a chamber group of stringed instruments (violin, viola, cello, and bass). Students in a chamber orchestra must be able to learn, rehearse, and perform in this chamber setting. Students should demonstrate mastery of rehearsal and performance etiquette, and be able to sight-read and perform at an advanced high school level.

Course Description: Students will rehearse and perform a variety of music from the orchestra repertoire. Students will develop technical skills on their instrument as well as study music theory, music history, and rehearsal and performance techniques. Students will be given the opportunity to audition for all-state honor ensembles and/or participate in local youth orchestras upon instructor's approval. Students need to bring their own instruments to school. At specified times during the year, the strings may be augmented by winds and percussion to form a full symphony orchestra. May be repeated for credit. ***May be repeated for credit.***

Major Projects/Assignments: Chamber orchestra performs outside of class throughout the school year, including but not limited to evening concerts, school related performances (back to school night, musical pit orchestra, etc), CMEA (and/or comparable) Festivals. Participation in all performances is mandatory.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Students are expected to learn their individual parts on their own and demonstrate regular progress in rehearsals. The amount of outside of class practice time will vary with the individual student.

Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: VPA

UC/CSU a-g requirement: f

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: is for all level but serious vocalists, comprised of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Course Description: Students will rehearse and perform a variety of music from the jazz band repertoire. Students will develop technical skills on their vocal performance as well as study improvisation, music theory, composition/arranging, jazz history, and rehearsal and performance techniques. May be repeated for credit.

Major Projects/Assignments: The rehearsal and performance schedule will include rehearsals, concerts, festivals, a concert tour, etc. Participation in all performances is mandatory.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Sectionals and Individual Study (15-30 minutes)

World Language Department

In the World Languages Department we offer three language programs: Chinese (Mandarin), Italian, and Spanish. To graduate our students are required to have at least one year of World Language study. However, most universities require a minimum of two to three years. In all three language programs, our goal is to support our students in reaching communicative proficiency across the three communicative modes: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Students will work with authentic materials and communicate in real life settings. Cultural proficiency is an integral part of our program, so that students will be well prepared to compete in our global economy. Students will develop an understanding of the target culture, connect with other disciplines, and compare their native language and culture to those being studied.

Chinese I

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: Chinese (Mandarin) I CP (Priority is given to 9, 10; upperclassmen on space available basis). Chinese (Mandarin) I is designed for students with no background in the language. This course helps students develop the basic communicative skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students also learn cultural knowledge such as traditional festivals, the origin of Chinese characters and etiquette of greetings. Considerable amount of time in the first semester will be spent on Pinyin learning. Students will start to learn Chinese typing. By the end of the year, students should be able to read approximately 250 commonly used characters and write well-organized paragraphs in the simple sentence structure. They can carry on basic conversational topics including greetings, nationalities, ages, grades, family, dates and time, hobbies, making appointments, and making phone calls. This course helps students lay a solid foundation for the higher level studies.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Chinese II

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: Chinese I or equivalent

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: Chinese (Mandarin) II is designed to continue to develop student's ability in basic language skills. Students continue to gain knowledge and understanding of Chinese culture. The amount of time devoted to reading, writing and grammar learning will increase. Students will also sharpen their typing skills. By the end of the year, students should be able to read approximately 600 commonly used characters and write elaborated paragraphs with a mix of simple and compound sentence structures. The topics covered at this level include study Chinese, school life, shopping, transportation, weather and food. Lots of communicative activities and short essays will be assigned throughout the year. A range of communicative activities will be conducted throughout the year. Non-native speakers with some basic language skills as well as native speakers of other Chinese dialects can start at this level of Chinese course upon passing the placement test.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Chinese III

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: C or better required in Chinese II or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: Chinese III is designed to continue to develop student's ability in basic language skills. The emphasis will be placed on students' speaking and writing skills. The culture learning experience will be broadened. Rigorous practice of spoken and written Chinese will be conducted. By the end of the year, students should be able to read approximately 850 high frequency characters and write a personal experience essay with a variety of sentence structures. Students can dialogue on topics such as weather, dining, asking for directions, birthday party, and seeing a doctor. A variety of communicative activities and story writings will be assigned throughout the year. This course is intended for students who have completed Chinese II successfully.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 20-25 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Chinese IV Honors

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: C or better required in Chinese III

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: Chinese IV Honor is a preparation course for the AP Chinese and Culture Exam. Students are required to communicate with more complex sentence structures. The emphasis will be placed on students' interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills with authentic materials. The course provides opportunities for cultural enrichment as well. By the end of the year, students should be able to read and write about 1200 high frequency characters. Students can converse on topics such as dating, renting an apartment, sports, travel, and checking in at the airport. Different types of writing will be assigned throughout the year. This course is intended for students who have completed Chinese III successfully.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 20-25 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Italian I

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: This is an introductory course in which students will begin to understand and convey information about themselves (physical and personality traits, likes and dislikes) and the world around them (family, home, school life, leisure activities, foods, shopping, numbers, means of transportation, destinations). Students will comprehend and reproduce memorized words, phrases, and sentences when speaking or writing. They will understand uncomplicated speech when listening and simple texts when reading. In addition, students will start developing cross-cultural appreciation by learning the products, practices, and perspectives of the Italian culture.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Italian II

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: C or better required in level I, or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Proficiency in conjugating regular and some irregular verbs in the present tense; mastery of basic vocabulary and structures from level I.

Course Description: This course is designed to build upon the skills already acquired in Level 1/2. Students will begin to understand and convey information beyond themselves and their world (geography, directions, cultural and historical figures, places and events, health, travel and work, narrating events in the past and future). Students will use and understand connected sentences and short paragraphs when speaking, reading and writing. In addition, students will continue to develop cross-cultural appreciation by learning the products, practices, and perspectives of the Italian culture.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Italian III

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: C or better in level II required, or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Proficiency in conjugating regular and irregular verbs in the present and past tenses; mastery of level II vocabulary and structures.

Course Description: This course is designed to build upon the skills already acquired in Level 3/4. At this level, students are asked to communicate using more complex language. Students will begin to understand and convey information about art, history, literature, music, current affairs and civilization with an emphasis on significant people and events in these fields. Students will continue to use and understand connected sentences and short paragraphs when speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, students will continue to develop cross-cultural appreciation by learning the products, practices, and perspectives of the Italian culture. Cultural understanding will be expanded through the use of authentic sources (reading, video, audio, Internet)

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 20-25 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Advanced Placement (AP) Italian Language and Culture

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: B- or better in level III recommended, or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Proficiency in conjugating regular and irregular verbs in all major tenses and moods; mastery of level III vocabulary and structures.

Course Description: AP Italian Language and Culture is similar to third year university courses that focus on advanced speaking and writing in Italian. The course is organized thematically, with authentic listening, reading, writing and speaking activities focusing on a unifying theme. Grammar instruction is related to the theme as appropriate. The class seeks to develop the language and cultural skills necessary to take the AP Italian Language and Culture exam, which students are expected to take in May.

Major Projects/Assignments: Evidence of communication skills includes prepared and spontaneous role playing, oral presentations, listening with note taking, oral and written responses to reading and listening passages, essays on literary and journalistic readings, and short notes and letters. In preparation for the AP test, students will be assessed in their ability to analyze, compare and contrast, and synthesize information acquired from authentic sources.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 45 minutes, 5 days per week

Spanish I

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: This is an introductory course in which students will begin to understand and convey information about themselves (physical and personality traits, likes and dislikes) and the world around them (family, home, school life, leisure activities, foods, shopping, clothes, numbers, means of transportation, destinations). Students will comprehend and reproduce memorized words, phrases, and sentences when speaking or writing. They will understand uncomplicated speech when listening and simple texts when reading. In addition, students will start developing cross-cultural appreciation by learning the products, practices, and perspectives of the Spanish speaking world.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Spanish II

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: C or better required in level I, or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Proficiency in conjugating regular and some irregular verbs in the present tense; mastery of basic vocabulary and structures from level I.

Course Description: This course is designed to build upon the skills already acquired in Level I. Students will begin to understand and convey information beyond themselves and their world (geography, directions, cultural and historical figures, places and events, health, travel and work, narrating events in the past and future). Students will use and understand connected sentences and short paragraphs when speaking, reading and writing. In addition, students will continue to develop cross-cultural appreciation by learning the products, practices, and perspectives of the Spanish speaking world.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Spanish III

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: C or better in level Spanish II required, or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Proficiency in conjugating regular and irregular verbs in the present and past tenses; mastery of level II vocabulary and structures.

Course Description: This course is designed to build upon the skills already acquired in Level II. At this level, students are asked to communicate using more complex language. Students will begin to understand and convey information about art, history, literature, music, current affairs and civilization with an emphasis on significant people and events in these fields. Students will continue to use and understand connected sentences and short paragraphs when speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, students will continue to develop cross-cultural appreciation by learning the products, practices, and perspectives of the Spanish speaking world. Cultural understanding will be expanded through the use of authentic sources (reading, video, audio, Internet)

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short compositions, and presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 20-25 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Spanish IV Honors

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: C or better in level III recommended, or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Proficiency in conjugating regular and irregular verbs in all major tenses and moods; mastery of level III vocabulary and structures.

Course Description: This course is designed to build upon the skills already acquired in Level 3. Students will continue to progress toward a higher level of proficiency in the target language. They will deepen their understanding and their ability to convey information about art, history, literature, music, current affairs, career choices, the environment and social issues. Students will expand their use and understanding of connected sentences and short paragraphs when speaking, reading and writing. Cultural and linguistic understanding will be increased through the use of authentic sources (reading, video, audio, Internet) and the study of the products, practices, and perspectives of the Spanish speaking world.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students' development of proficiency will be assessed in a variety of ways during and at the end of each unit. Forms of assessment will include quizzes and tests, projects, short and long essays, practice AP tests, and oral presentations.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 30 minutes, 5 days per week

Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language & Culture

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Proficiency in conjugating regular and irregular verbs in all major tenses and moods; mastery of level IV vocabulary and structures.

Course Description: AP Spanish Language is similar to third year university courses that focus on advanced speaking and writing in Spanish. The course is organized thematically, with authentic listening, reading, writing and speaking activities focusing on a unifying theme. Grammar instruction is related to the theme as appropriate. The class seeks to develop the language skills necessary to take the AP Spanish Language exam, which students are expected to take in May.

Major Projects/Assignments: Evidence of communication skills includes prepared and spontaneous role playing, oral presentations, listening with note taking, oral and written responses to reading and listening passages, essays on literary and journalistic readings, and short notes and letters. In preparation for the AP test, students will be assessed in their ability to analyze, compare and contrast, and synthesize information acquired from authentic sources.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 45 minutes, 5 days per week

Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Literature & Culture

Grade level: 10-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: World Language

UC/CSU a-g requirement: e

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Spanish Language and Culture or teacher recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Strong reading skills in Spanish

Course Description: The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course is designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of a college /university survey course in literature written in Spanish. This thematically based course introduces students to the formal study of a representative body of 38 required texts from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S.Hispanic literature, including short stories, novels, poetry, drama, and essays, ranging from the Medieval period to the present. The course aims to help students progress beyond reading comprehension to read with critical, historical, and literary sensitivity. This course is conducted predominantly in Spanish.

Major Projects/Assignments: Students will be required to write essays to continue improving analytical writing, as well as participate in active discussions to analyze the different works of poetry, prose, and drama. Literary texts are grouped by themes. Students will discuss literary texts and their varied historical, socio-cultural, and political contexts in a variety of oral and written activities and assignments, all in Spanish. Finally, students will analyze themes and works of varied artistic representations, as well as audiovisual and audio resources, in relation to the course content.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 45 minutes, 5 days per week

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment is an educational practice that enables a high school student to enroll in and complete credit-bearing college courses. Successfully completing these courses provides a student with both college and high school credits. Some courses are taught by qualified high school faculty and some are taught by SMCCD faculty. Some offerings are only 1 semester, while others are tied to a yearlong commitment. To learn more about Dual Enrollment [click here](#).

Career Planning & Life Exploration (CRER 100)

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is designed to help students demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for the impact and significance of career choices on their lifestyle and social experiences. Provides a comprehensive approach to life and career planning. Topics include evaluation of students' values, skills, personality and interests, an analysis of career research and exploration, and learning current job seeking skills. An intensive career investigation that encompasses decision-making, goal-setting, job search strategies, resume writing, and interviewing skills will be completed. Students will analyze the relationship between themselves, their life choices and the ongoing process of career planning and self-development. CSU/UC college credit awarded. CSU/UC transferable. Requires College of San Mateo enrollment (done at BHS).

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

College & Academic Success (LCTR 240)

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: CTE

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course assists students in understanding and engaging in college success skills and strategies. Designed to improve academic and personal success, this course takes students through a journey that includes study skills development, value clarification, personal and educational goals and options, financial literacy, time and life management, critical and creative thinking, and an awareness of learning styles. The course also provides assistance to develop communication skills related to self-advocacy. (Course is cross listed as COUN 240.) CSU/UC college credit awarded. CSU/UC transferable. Requires College of San Mateo enrollment (done at BHS). Followed by Career Planning & Life Exploration (CRER 100). Full year course.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

Introduction to Business (BUS 100)

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course**

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: A broad overview of the primary functions of business, such as marketing, management, accounting, finance, and operations. Examination of critical business topics including current business trends, entrepreneurship, competition in global markets, ethical behavior and social responsibility.

CSU/UC college credit awarded. CSU/UC transferable. Requires College of San Mateo enrollment (done at BHS)

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

The Entrepreneurial Mindset (BUS 171)

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course**

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: g

Prerequisite: None

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Reading, writing, listening, speaking skills

Course Description: This course on the Entrepreneurial Mindset engages and inspires students with the determination and perseverance to succeed in business. The course encompasses success concepts in the context of entrepreneurship, and provides for experiential learning beyond the classroom, building relationships and networks that will contribute to opportunities and realization of business and personal goals.

CSU/UC college credit awarded. CSU/UC transferable. Requires College of San Mateo enrollment (done at BHS). Full year course followed by Intro to Business.

Approximate homework assigned daily: 15-20 minutes, 4-5 days per week

AVID

AVID:

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Pre-requisites: Teacher/Counselor recommendation

Course description: AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination and is a unique class which offers tremendous opportunities for students. AVID is a daily college prep elective designed to close the opportunity gap, preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. This class focuses on study skills, organization, time management techniques, and college readiness work that will help students navigate high school successfully and be then prepared for whatever comes next. AVID is a 4 year consecutive program.

AVID students push themselves and have the desire to succeed at the highest levels. AVID students have typically earned an overall GPA between 2.0-3.5, have college potential, and may be the first in their families to attend college or are part of a group underrepresented in college. AVID is a very select program - all students who would like to apply to be in AVID must complete and submit the AVID student application and be interviewed by AVID staff to be considered for possible enrollment in the class. Please contact your counselor for further details and next steps.

Other Support Courses

Self & Social Empowerment

Grade level: 9-11 **Course units:** 5 Credits – Semester Course
Graduation requirement: Elective **UC/CSU a-g requirement:** g

Pre-requisites: Teacher/Counselor recommendation

Course description: Guided Studies is a course that will help students build a strong academic identity and foster social responsibility in the high school setting. In addition to tutorial time that will provide students with assistance for their studies in other curricular areas, Guided Studies will focus on study skills, organizational strategies, critical thinking, team building, leadership training, and character development. Guided Studies will assist all students in creating academic success at the high school level so that students may achieve their post-high school goals. Guided Studies teachers meet one-on-one with students to discuss academic progress, set goals, and address individual student needs. Students also have the opportunity to meet with a Guided Studies counselor on a regular basis. The Guided Studies counselor’s role is to further assist students with a variety of challenges that may include time management, personal organization, social awareness, peer and personal relationships, communication skills, stress management, and any other hindrances to academic and personal success.

Community & Literacy in Action

Grade level: 9-12 **Course units:** 10 Credits – Year Course
Graduation requirement: Elective **UC/CSU a-g requirement:** g

Pre-requisites: Any Multilingual Learner who is a Long-Term Multilingual Learner 6+ years of education in the USA and has not been Reclassified as Fluent. Exceptions could be a Newcomer Advanced or Multilingual Learner with 4-5 years of education in the USA. This meets the required Designated ELD course for all Multilingual Learners.

Course description: This course is designed for multilingual scholars to develop leadership & literacy skills to connect and communicate their identities so that they are able to contribute to their school communities and beyond. Using Yosso’s Community & Cultural Wealth Model, students will work collaboratively and draw upon their home languages and cultures as resources in order to enhance their multilingual communication skills. This course will utilize asset based and humanizing pedagogy to provide students with opportunities to explore and develop their identities and leadership skills in order to understand their potential to be agents of change in their communities. This course, anchored in the ELD standards, is intended to support our multilingual scholars in improving their abilities to read, write, listen and speak across all content areas in order to demonstrate their leadership skills. Students focus on academic vocabulary development, language, syntax, grammar and writing structures through close reading of grade level informational and literary texts. Students learn how text structure, language features, and vocabulary vary depending upon purpose and audience and they develop academic language proficiency to recognize the various purposes, audiences and text types.

Designated English Language Development III

Grade level: 9-12 **Course units:** 10 Credits – Year Course
Graduation requirement: Elective **UC/CSU a-g requirement:** does not meet UC/CSU “a-g”

Pre-requisites: Any Multilingual Learner with less than 6 years of education in the USA will be assessed for language proficiency to determine if this ELD course is appropriate.

Course description: Students in ELD III are at the bridging stages of English development. Throughout the year, students will improve their understanding of the English language with a specific focus on reading, writing, listening and speaking by Interacting in Meaningful Ways (Part I of ELD standards) and Learning How English Works (Part II of ELD standards) in order to demonstrate language proficiency at the mainstream level based on our Mainstream descriptors. The ELD standards are part of the new ELA/ELD framework which was designed with the CCCS standards as an anchor.

Service Programs

Burlingame High School is proud to offer a variety of options for students to become involved in and learn more about the school, volunteer opportunities, and post-secondary careers. Through service learning, volunteering, assisting in classrooms and offices, and career exploration opportunities, students can apply, extend, and enrich their classroom learning into other areas. In addition to the credit-bearing opportunities below, diverse opportunities are available for students to support the school and community. The BHS Peer Tutoring Program, School Advisory Council (SAC), and Student Equity Council offer the opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills and support the school community. Information on community service programs and opportunities are available.

Academic Peer Tutoring

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Enrolling students should have strong academic skills, a desire to make a difference in another student's life, patience, honesty, and a good sense of humor.

Course Description: Under the direct supervision of a teacher, peer tutors will revisit basic cross-disciplinary content area skills and offer their expertise to struggling students. The Academic Peer Tutors will work with small groups (one to four tutees) to reinforce skills introduced by the classroom or content area teacher. In addition, the Academic Peer Tutors will assist tutees with homework, study skills, and projects in their content area classes. Tutors will assess daily progress of their tutees, intermittently set goals/plans to improve their tutoring practice, and will reflect on goals/plans. This practice will assist the tutors in engaging in meta-cognitive discourse on their own performance, which in turn will support the struggling students they are assisting. Ultimately, tutoring is sharing yourself with another student in a way that makes a positive difference in both of your lives.

Major Projects/Assignments: Varies by instructor.

Approximate homework assigned daily: None

Leadership

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

May be repeated for credit.

Prerequisite: [Application link for Leadership elective](#)

Suggested Course Preparation/Critical Skills: Students who wish to take Leadership need to apply in the spring semester before they enroll and receive the recommendation of two teachers. Students must have a 2.0 GPA to apply and to remain in the class, and should have a strong desire to serve their school and community through the various activities we host. Students who wish to hold an Associated Student Body (ASB) office must take the Leadership elective class.

Course Description: This year-long elective course allows students to take an active leadership role in their school and community by participating in the planning, administering, and evaluating of student activities on campus. Students wishing to take this course are expected to attend training the week before school starts in August. Leadership students will participate in a commission in which they will be responsible for developing their own tasks, duties, and projects.

Major Projects/Assignments: Weekly reviews and semester projects that vary depending on commission and special event needs.

Approximate homework assigned daily: Minimal homework is assigned daily. A weekly review will capture goals, progress, and reflection on contribution to the program.

Service Commission

Grade level: 9-12

Course units: 10 Credits – Year Course

Graduation requirement: Elective A

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Prerequisite: None

May be repeated for credit.

Service Commission is a unique peer leadership course. Service Commissioners (SCs) earn a course grade and credit. As student leaders, SCs model good citizenship at all times, adhering to school rules and expectations. All members must maintain no less than a 2.0 grade point average.

SCs are assigned to campus beautification duty one week per month. In addition, they are expected to assist at Back to School Night, Open House, athletic events, sustainability project based learning, and other community events where students, alumni, and/or parents gather. All members are expected to participate in special events that occur outside of regular school hours. Course goals include: Service to school, service to community, and self-management skills like how to be a leader on campus who contributes to a positive school climate.

We trust this opportunity will benefit members as individuals, providing valuable leadership experience, while our school benefits from their service. Please note that this class meets as a Period 0 on Wednesday mornings at 7:45am.

Teacher/Office Aide (TA)

Grade level: 11-12

Course units: 5 Credits – Semester Course

Graduation requirement: Elective

UC/CSU a-g requirement: None

Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to earn 5 semester credits as a clerical aide, office assistant or teacher aide at Burlingame High School. **Students that are interested in being a TA should consult with their counselor. Students will earn a (Pass/Fail) grade for this course.**

TEACHER ASSISTANT AND OFFICE AIDE POLICY

All students who are Teacher Assistants or Office Aides will receive a grade of Pass or Fail. Credits will be issued for these courses: five credits for a mark of Pass and zero credits for a mark of Fail. For athletic eligibility and participation in other extra-curricular activities, a Pass grade will be equal to a “C” grade, which is equivalent to 2 points for GPA purposes.

Off-Campus Programs

Middle College

Middle College is an alternative education collaboration between the San Mateo Union High School District and the College of San Mateo. Middle College serves high school juniors and seniors whose needs are not being met by the traditional high school. A student might choose Middle College because he/she desires more of an academic challenge, feels disconnected to his/her current school, craves more independence and is ready to begin the next steps of his/her life. The Middle College campus is located at the College of San Mateo. It is designed to promote academic achievement, completion of high school, and success in college.

A student's schedule consists of (1) three high school courses each semester which adhere to the SMUHSD approved curriculum and satisfy high school graduation requirements, (2) a daily study skills course, and (3) a variety of college courses for which the student earns high school and college credit. For more information, please see your counselor or call (650) 574-6101.

San Mateo Union High School's Applied Academic Curriculum for Non-diploma track students

A.A.C. (Applied Academic Curriculum program)

LOCATIONS: HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL, BURLINGAME HIGH SCHOOL AND MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Intended for: *Students receiving special education services who are eligible to be on a non-diploma track per the Individual Education Plan. Students will be enrolled in Specialized Academic Instruction classes, and receive appropriate designated instruction services (Speech/Language, Adaptive, PE, etc.) as indicated on the services page of the IEP.*

DESCRIPTION:

Applied Academics is an approach to learning which focuses on motivating and challenging students to connect what they learn with the world they experience and with what interests them. The basic premise is that if academic content is made more relevant, participatory and concrete, students learn better, retain more and apply learning in their lives. Teaching in this model uses hands-on innovative teaching methods sometimes called contextual learning. Teachers help students understand the reasons for studying their subject matter and capitalize on students' natural learning inclinations and problem-solving approaches they can use well beyond the classroom throughout their lives. Academic areas are tied to the CAPA (California Alternative Performance Assessment) standards. The classes will teach to a broad spectrum of ability levels, and addressed standards.

Applied and integrated curricular strategies are viewed as a means of ensuring that more students leave high school with the essential academic and occupational competencies that will help enable them to compete in an education and job market that demands increasingly higher levels of communication, math, science, analytical, and problem-solving skills. In short, the applied and integrated curriculum is intended to help more students master the skills they will need to live, learn, and work productively in an information-based society. The Transition Plan portion of the IEP drives the goals necessary while in a high school setting for post school success.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Life and Social Skills Curriculum

The goal of the Life Skills portion of the curriculum is to assist students with mild, moderate and severe disabilities to become independent young adults. The scope of the program includes functional academics, personal hygiene management, social skills, community training, daily living routines, health, nutrition, self regulation and assimilation, increasing expected behaviors, and vocational skills. The class work and assignments strives to develop the necessary skills for students to lead an independent and productive life.

Functional Academics

Students learn functional academic skills related to everyday living situations. Skills taught may include; math, money, reading, writing, banking, shopping, telling time, form completion, communication, both oral, and written, literature, listening and reading comprehension, written language, keyboarding skills, computer applications and following schedules.

Vocational Training

When Students start in the Applied Academic Curriculum Program at the freshman level, they learn behaviors, attitudes and skills necessary for them to become successful employees in a community setting. Specific job skills are developed according to student interests and abilities. Both in-school and community jobs are available through vocational training and relevant designated instruction services. Weekly job club activities are implemented and designed by Vocational Specialists, and classroom teachers.

Inclusion

Students are integrated into multiple mainstream environments with non disabled peers for school wide activities, brunch, lunch and other recreational activities. Students receiving Special Education services are appropriately mainstreamed into general education electives and/or PE classes, based on the student's IEP. In addition Special education classes may offer reverse mainstreaming opportunities by hosting peer tutors and peer models within class settings, for social skills and academic instruction.

Non-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policies

The San Mateo Union High School District does not discriminate against any person in the provision of any program or service based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status or physical or mental disability. It is the policy of the district to provide an education, employment and business environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment as defined and otherwise prohibited by Federal and State law. Copies of the district's Non-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment policies are available in the District's Human Resources and Administrative Services Office and the Principal's office at each campus. For information about Uniform Complaint Procedures and Title IX, contact Kirk Black, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources and Administrative Services and for 504 information contact Gloria Dirkmaat, Director of Special Education. They both may be contacted at (650) 558-2299, 650 N. Delaware Street, San Mateo, CA 94401.

For more information on BHS policies and the school overall, please refer to the [BHS Student/Family Handbook](#).