

2025 - 2026 NHCS HS Course Catalog



NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE CATALOG

2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear NHCS Scholars and Families,

Course selection is at the heart of teaching and learning, and the classes we offer at NHCS are a reflection of our school's priorities, values, and high expectations. As a school that serves a diverse scholar population, we believe our course offerings must serve as windows and mirrors for scholars; they must function as avenues for scholars to explore their intellectual identities while also equipping scholars with the knowledge and skills necessary for navigating the world beyond our school walls.

At NHCS, our goal is to continually improve our course offerings and schedule to best serve scholars as they prepare for college and careers. Over the course of this school year, we gathered extensive input from our community and beyond to reimagine the courses we offer scholars as well as the trajectory their program of study creates for them. We thank our scholars, teachers, and families for providing feedback leading to more pathways for rigorous coursework, including Advanced Placement and dual enrollment opportunities, as well as increased options for elective academic courses across disciplines.

We will continue to learn and recalibrate over time. In the meantime, we share our improved course offerings for the 2025-26 school year.

In partnership,

Emily Weiss
High School Principal

Note to scholars:

- This document is designed to help you understand your course options for next year.
- Each scholar will have the opportunity to meet individually with a member of the High School Leadership or College & Career Pathways Team to discuss your desired courses by the end of April.
- Many courses are offered at multiple levels. In combination with teacher recommendations, IEPs, and past course performance, we will consider your requests. However, we are not always able to fulfill ALL scholar course requests. This means that your schedule is not guaranteed by your requests; rather, this process is just the first step. Scholars' final schedules will be confirmed in August.
- Please reach out to Brian Gallagher, College & Career Counselor, at bgallagher@thenhcs.org, with any questions.

Learn more about...

- [Advanced Placement courses through The College Board](#)
- [Dual Enrollment courses through The National Education Equity Lab](#)



ACADEMIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Coursework: NHCS scholars must earn a minimum of 22 credits in order to graduate. To earn credit, scholars must earn a grade of 70% or higher.

Subject Area	Credits Needed
English	4
Math	4
Science	3
World Language	3
History/Social Sciences (HSS)	3
Additional Core (Science, HSS, OR World Language)	1
Art	1
College & Career Readiness	1
Additional credits in any subject	2
Total	22

NHCS PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Promotion from grade to grade in high school is based on credit accumulation in conjunction with the fulfillment of core requirements and academic standards / expectations. To earn promotion:

- To advance to 10th grade - Scholars must earn a minimum of 4.5 credits (with a minimum of 1 credit in math or English)
- To advance to 11th grade - Scholars must earn a minimum of 10 credits (with a minimum of 3 credits in math or English)
- To advance to 12th grade - Scholars must earn a minimum of 16 credits (with a minimum of 5 credits in math or English)



COURSE OVERVIEW BY DEPARTMENT

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Scholars need at least 4 ELA credits to graduate.
- Changes for 2025-26:
 - We will offer one AP English course for both 11th & 12th graders per school year. AP English Language & Composition will be offered in 2025-26, and AP English Literature & Composition will be offered in 2026-27.
 - College prep English courses for 11th and 12th graders will be combined, semester-long, and organized by theme.
 - We will also offer two semester-long upper-level English seminars, which may be taken as a scholar's core English class or as an additional elective. One of these is a college-level academic elective through the National Education Equity Lab, Introduction to Literature. *Scholars who take and pass this course will earn both high school and college credit.*

English Course Offerings	
Grade 8	☐ English 8: Exploring Power and Identity
Grade 9	☐ English I: Voices of Resistance (College Prep or Honors)
Grade 10	☐ English II: Perspectives (College Prep)
	☐ Pre-AP English (Honors level) <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in English I</i>
Grades 11 & 12	☐ English Seminar: The Art of Persuasion (S1) (College Prep)
	☐ English Seminar: Justice & Resistance (S2) (College Prep)
	☐ AP English Language & Composition (full-year, offered in 2025-26) <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior English courses OR by teacher recommendation</i>
	☐ AP English Literature & Composition (full-year, offered in 2026-27) <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior English courses OR by teacher recommendation</i>
	☐ Poetry Seminar (S1)
	☐ Introduction to Literature: Fantastic Places, Unhuman Humans (ENGL0511B) Brown University (S2) Course Flyer Syllabus <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior English courses OR by teacher recommendation; application required</i>



Math

- Scholars need at least 4 Math credits to graduate.
- All language courses are full-year, 1.0 credit.
- Rising seniors currently enrolled in Algebra II should enroll in Statistics.
- Rising seniors currently enrolled in AP Precalculus should enroll in AP Calculus AB.
- Rising seniors currently enrolled in Precalculus should receive teacher recommendation to enroll in either Statistics or AP Calculus AB.

Math Course Offerings
☐ Math 8
☐ Algebra 1 (College Prep or Honors)
☐ Geometry (College Prep or Honors)
☐ Algebra II (College Prep or Honors)
☐ Precalculus (College Prep)
☐ AP Precalculus <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior Math courses OR by teacher recommendation</i>
☐ Statistics
☐ AP Calculus AB (12th only) <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in AP Precalculus OR by teacher recommendation</i>

History & Social Sciences (HSS)

- Scholars need at least 3 HSS credits to graduate; however, we generally recommend 4 unless there is an extenuating circumstance.
- Changes for 2025-26:
 - We are shifting US History to be the core 10th grade History class to allow more choice in upper-level history courses for 11th and 12th graders. In 2025-26, 10th & 11th graders will take US History.
 - We are adding two college-level academic elective history courses through the National Education Equity Lab: Psychology and Black Studies. *Scholars who take and pass these courses will earn both high school and college credit.*
- Scholars are required to take at least one World History and one US History class to graduate. Beyond that, they can take any combination of upper-level HSS courses and may choose to take additional HSS courses as electives if desired.



History & Social Sciences Course Offerings	
Grade 8	☐ Social Studies 8: Civics / US History I
Grade 9	☐ Global Civilizations (College Prep) - <i>formerly called World History I</i>
Grades 10 & 11	☐ US History II (College Prep or Honors)
Grades 11 & 12 (for scholars who have already taken World & US History)	☐ AP US Government & Politics <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior History courses OR by teacher recommendation</i>
	☐ Government (S1)
	☐ Economics (S2)
	☐ Black Life, Culture, and the Emergence of the Field from Emancipation to the Present (AFRICAAM 217) Stanford University (S1) Course Flyer Syllabus <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior English courses OR by teacher recommendation; application required</i>
	☐ Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 105) Wesleyan University (S2) Course Flyer Syllabus <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior English courses OR by teacher recommendation; application required</i>

Science

- Scholars need at least 3 Science credits to graduate; however, we generally recommend 4 unless there is an extenuating circumstance.
- All Science courses are full-year, 1.0 credit.
- 9th graders take Biology I or Biology I Honors.

Science Course Offerings	
Grade 8	☐ Science 8
Grade 9	☐ Biology (College Prep or Honors)
Grades 10, 11, & 12	☐ Chemistry (College Prep)
	☐ Environmental Science (College Prep)
	☐ Principles of Biomedical Sciences (College Prep)
	☐ Physics (College Prep)
	☐ AP Biology <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior Biology AND Chemistry courses OR by teacher recommendation</i>
	☐ AP Physics (offered in 2026-27) <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in Physics OR by teacher recommendation</i>



World Languages

- Scholars need at least 3 World Language credits to graduate. *However, it is highly encouraged by selective colleges to take 4 language credits.*
- All language courses are full-year, 1.0 credit.

World Languages Course Offerings
☐ Spanish 8
☐ Spanish I (College Prep)
☐ Spanish II (College Prep) <i>*Prerequisite: Spanish I</i>
☐ Spanish III (College Prep) <i>*Prerequisite: Spanish II</i>
☐ Spanish IV (College Prep) Note: may be offered in 2025-26 depending on scholar interest and staffing) <i>*Prerequisite: Spanish III</i>
☐ *New for 2025-26* AP Spanish Language and Culture <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior Spanish courses OR by teacher recommendation</i>
☐ Mandarin I
☐ Mandarin II <i>*Prerequisite: Mandarin I</i>
☐ Mandarin III <i>*Prerequisite: Mandarin II</i>
☐ Mandarin IV <i>*Prerequisite: Mandarin III</i>

Electives

- Scholars need at least 1 Art credit to graduate.
- Scholars must take PE each year by state requirement.
- New for 2025-25:
 - Visual Arts and Music electives will be semester-long and topic-based instead of quarterly and sequential (e.g., I, II, III, and IV).
 - College & Career Readiness will meet weekly throughout the school year in all grades.



Elective Course Offerings

Visual Arts	☐ Foundations in Drawing (<i>previously Art I</i>) (S1, S2)
	☐ Painting: Working in Color (S1) <i>*Prerequisite: Foundations in Drawing</i>
	☐ Printmaking: Working in Editions (S2) <i>*Prerequisite: Foundations in Drawing</i>
	☐ Art Portfolio (full year) <i>*Prerequisites: Foundations in Drawing and at least one other Visual Arts class OR by teacher recommendation</i>
Music	☐ Modern Band I (<i>previously Music I</i>) (S1, S2)
	☐ Music Composition <i>*Prerequisite: Music I or Modern Band I</i>
	☐ Vocal Studio <i>*Prerequisite: Music I or Modern Band I</i>
	☐ Music Technology <i>*Prerequisite: Music I or Modern Band I</i>
	☐ Modern Band II <i>*Prerequisite: Music I or Modern Band I</i>
	☐ Hip-Hop and Jazz Band Ensemble <i>Open to 11th & 12th grade scholars; *Prerequisite: Music I or Modern Band I</i>
	☐ Jazz and Hip Hop: Creating the Sound of the 20th Century <i>Open to 11th & 12th grade scholars; *Prerequisites: Music I or Modern Band I, English II</i>
	☐ Global Percussion
Theatre	☐ Introduction to Theatre
	☐ Independent Study <i>Open to 11th & 12th grade scholars; *Prerequisite: at least 2 ensemble classes, play a secondary instrument, and have the ability to arrange/conduct</i>
Personal Finance	☐ Essentials of Personal Finance Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (S2) Course Flyer Syllabus <i>*Prerequisite: 80%+ in prior English courses OR by teacher recommendation; application required</i>
Physical Education	☐ Physical Education (meets 1X/week for a quarter) <i>Required for 9th and 10th grades, optional for 11th and 12th</i>



Elective Course Offerings	
	☐ Competitive Team Sports (meets 4X/week for a quarter) <i>Open to 11th and 12th grades; application required</i>
	☐ Introduction to Personal Training (meets 4X/week for a quarter) <i>Open to 11th and 12th grades OR by teacher recommendation</i>
	☐ Leadership in Sports (meets 4X/week for a quarter) <i>Open to 11th and 12th grades OR by teacher recommendation</i>
Health	☐ Health I <i>Must be taken in grade 9 or 10</i>
	☐ Health II <i>Must be taken in grade 11 or 12</i>
	☐ Free Game Mentorship (meets 1X/week all year + mentoring & field trip opportunities) <i>By recommendation or application</i>
College and Career Readiness	☐ College & Career Readiness I <i>Must be taken in 9th grade</i>
	☐ College & Career Readiness II <i>Must be taken in 10th grade</i>
	☐ College & Career Readiness III <i>Must be taken in 11th grade</i>
	☐ College & Career Readiness IV <i>Must be taken in 12th grade</i>
Teaching Assistant-ship	☐ Teaching or Office Assistant / Internship <i>Available for 11th and 12th grade scholars by application and arrangement with the College and Career Pathways Team, in collaboration with partnering educator or staff member.</i>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English Language Arts (ELA) Course Descriptions

English I: Voices of Resistance (112) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 9th grade

All 9th graders take English I in which they explore various writing styles and literary analysis. Scholars will build on their middle school coursework as they focus on reading strategies, writing proficiency, vocabulary enhancement, and analytical skills.



English I: Voices of Resistance (Honors) (113) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 9th grade

The honors curriculum is designed for scholars who love literature and wish to challenge themselves academically. They will have higher expectations for completing reading outside of school allowing for a deeper level of analysis and increased writing opportunities. In English I Honors scholars will build on their middle school coursework as they focus on analytical writing and critical thinking and reading skills.

English II: Perspectives (213) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 10th grade

English II is a continuation of English I typically taken in the 10th grade. In English II scholars will dig deeper into the structure of the English language, learning more about using the language to communicate effectively. English II will prepare them for the high school English Language Arts MCAS which is a Massachusetts graduation requirement.

Pre-AP English (212) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 10th grade

The pre-AP English curriculum is designed for scholars who love literature and wish to challenge themselves academically. They will have higher expectations for completing reading outside of school allowing for a deeper level of analysis and increased writing opportunities in preparation for enrollment in AP English in 11th grade. Pre-AP English will prepare them for the high school English Language Arts MCAS which is a Massachusetts graduation requirement.

English Seminar: The Art of Persuasion (S1) (College Prep) (413) .5 Credits, Semester

English Seminar: Justice & Resistance (S2) (College Prep) (414) .5 Credits, Semester

Open to 11th & 12th grades

Our upper-level English seminars represent the continuation of the English curriculum, in which scholars will explore contemporary and classic literature in a variety of genres, with a focus on nonfiction text. Scholars will analyze and respond to literature, discuss themes and issues, and write essays. They will also continue to hone their vocabulary and grammar skills with a focus on effective communication.

AP English Language & Composition (411) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 11th & 12th grades

AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. Scholars cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style. This course prepares scholars to take the AP exam in May.

AP English Literature & Composition (412) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 11th & 12th grades (OFFERED 2026-27)

AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Scholars cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works.

Intro to Literature: Fantastic Places, Unhuman Humans (416) (ENGL0511B) | Brown University .5 Credit (S2)

Open to 11th & 12th grades

How have we constructed the conceptual boundary between what we qualify as human and what we



categorize as robotic, animal, android, or alien? What, in the end, makes the human “human”? This course will dive into these and related questions in a distinctive way through the “gamified” structure of this course.

History & Social Sciences (HSS) Course Descriptions

Global Civilizations (141) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 9th grade

Global Civilizations, formerly titled World History I, is part of the 9th grade curriculum. It covers themes in world history from 500 – 1800 AD and develops critical thinking and writing skills needed for historical analysis. Scholars will look at the way current political, economic and structures have developed beginning in the ancient world.

United States History II (340) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 10th and 11th grades

In US History II, scholars will explore topics in the history of the United States beginning after the Civil War and continuing through the present day. Scholars will look for themes and recurring trends throughout history while learning to analyze historical texts and documents as well as develop analytical writing skills.

United States History II Honors (341) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 10th and 11th grades

US History II Honors is designed for scholars who have an interest in history and want to explore themes and topics covered more thoroughly. Scholars are expected to complete more independent work outside of class in order to spend more class time focusing on analysis and critical exploration of themes. The course will look at United States history beginning after the Civil War and continuing through the present day. Scholars will also further develop their critical writing skills while looking at history through a variety of lenses.

Government (440) .5 Credits, 1 Semester (S1)

Open to 11th and 12th grade

This course explores the government and politics of some of the major nations in the world as well as developing nations. Political structures, functions, processes and policies are compared with each other. Particular consideration is given to contemporary world problems with an emphasis on developing comparative analytical skills and abilities.

Economics (441) .5 Credits, 1 Semester (S2)

Open to 11th and 12th grades

This course will give the scholars a greater understanding of economics ranging from the viewpoint of the individual consumer or small business owner to the global economy. The course relates history and politics to the study of economics.

AP U.S. Government and Politics (442) 1 Credit, Full Year

Open to 11th & 12th grades

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Scholars cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis. This course prepares scholars to take the AP exam in May.



Black Life, Culture, and the Emergence of the Field from Emancipation to the Present (443) (AFRICAAM 217)
| Stanford University .5 Credit (S1)

Open to 11th & 12th grades

This interdisciplinary course will explore various historical, political, social, and artistic themes that impact our understanding of Black life and identity. To do this, we will draw from a broad range of scholarship to introduce scholars to the intellectual history of African American Studies as a field of study--its genealogy, development, and major debates. Scholars will be exposed to a range of topics to develop a critical understanding of various movements in Black history and key concepts such as Black feminisms, mass incarceration, transformative and restorative justice, Afrocentricity, Pan-Africanism, and the African Diaspora.

Introduction to Psychology (444) (PSYC 105) | Wesleyan University .5 Credit, (S2)

Open to 11th & 12th grades

In this course, scholars will learn all about the brain and the human behavior it causes. They will cover topics ranging from development through childhood stories, to subliminal coding in political advertisements, to brainstorming how to redesign higher education.

Math Course Descriptions

Algebra I (120) 1 Credit, Full Year

All 9th graders take Algebra I, in which they learn the essential algebra skills such as solving equations and inequalities, graphing and solving both linear and quadratic equations, solving systems of equations, properties of exponents, and working with polynomials and factoring. In Algebra I scholars will form a foundation for higher math courses.

Algebra I Honors (121) 1 Credit, Full Year

All 9th graders take Algebra I, in which they learn the essential algebra skills such as solving equations and inequalities, graphing and solving both linear and quadratic equations, solving systems of equations, properties of exponents, and working with polynomials and factoring. In Algebra I Honors scholars will form a foundation for higher math courses as they dig deeper into mathematical concepts and further their inquiry into mathematical solutions.

Geometry (220) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra I Honors*

Geometry, typically for 10th grade scholars, follows Algebra I in the math course of study. Topics to be explored include inductive and deductive reasoning, proofs, properties of triangles and special right triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume, and similarity. Scholars will explore concepts including right triangle trigonometry, proof and geometric constructions. This course will include a substantial focus on the topics often covered on the 10th grade MCAS mathematics examination.

Geometry Honors (221) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra I Honors*

Geometry, typically for 10th grade scholars, follows Algebra I in the math course of study. Topics to be explored include inductive and deductive reasoning, proofs, properties of triangles and special right triangles, polygons, circles, area, volume, and similarity. Scholars will explore concepts including right triangle trigonometry, proof and geometric constructions. This honors course will include a substantial focus on the topics often covered on the 10th grade MCAS mathematics examination as well as introduce scholars to advanced concepts in Geometry.

Algebra II (320) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Algebra I; Teacher recommendation required for 10th grade scholars on the accelerated math track*



In Algebra II, typically part of the 11th grade curriculum, scholars will develop their ability to think logically and refine their mathematical skills to prepare themselves for the SAT, future courses involving mathematics, and the application of these concepts in the real world. This course focuses on problem solving strategies and real world application of mathematics. In this course scholars will learn to use a graphing calculator to solve a variety of problems.

Algebra II Honors (321) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Algebra I*

In Algebra II, typically part of the 11th grade curriculum, scholars will develop their ability to think logically and refine their mathematical skills to prepare themselves for the SAT, future courses involving mathematics, and the application of these concepts in the real world. This course focuses on problem solving strategies and real world application of mathematics. In this advanced course scholars will learn to use a graphing calculator to solve a variety of problems as they dig deeper into algebraic concepts and mathematical problem solving.

Financial Algebra (925) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Modified Algebra II*

Financial Algebra is a project-based course that builds on scholars' prior knowledge of math concepts from other courses. This algebra-based and technology-oriented course covers six financial umbrellas: Investing, Banking, Credit, Income Taxes, Insurance, and Household Budgeting. Financial Algebra takes scholars step by step through strategies to learn the time value of money; how to compare leasing vs. buying a car; how to build a business plan by knowing costs, profits, and break-even points; and much more.

Precalculus (422) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Algebra II (MAY be offered in 2025-26)*

This course, typically part of the 12th grade curriculum, enables mathematically sophisticated scholars to expand upon, integrate, and develop strong theoretical mathematical skills. It forms the basis for a solid course in Calculus and helps prepare scholars for the mathematics found in a variety of other disciplines.

AP Precalculus (424) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Algebra II*

AP Precalculus prepares scholars for other college-level mathematics and science courses. Through regular practice, scholars build deep mastery of modeling and functions, and they examine scenarios through multiple representations. The course framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science. This course prepares scholars to take the AP exam in May.

Statistics (420) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Geometry*

This course, typically part of the 12th grade curriculum, prepares scholars for future studies in statistics and other courses that make use of statistics. The course will explore key terms, various representations of data, frequency, independent and dependent variables, contingency, standard deviation, normal distribution, outliers, percentiles, scatterplots, correlations and gathering data. Throughout the year, this course will include an emphasis on the real-world applications of the topics discussed.

AP Calculus AB (425) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Precalculus or AP Precalculus*

This course, the final course of the accelerated math track, is an introductory college-level calculus course. Scholars cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions. This course prepares scholars to take the AP exam in May.



Science Course Descriptions

Biology (130) 1 Credit, Full Year All 9th graders take Biology in which they learn to understand the living organisms in our surroundings as well as ourselves. This course prepares them to take the science MCAS exam which is a Massachusetts graduation requirement.

Biology Honors (131) 1 Credit, Full Year All 9th graders take Biology in which they learn to understand the living organisms in our surroundings as well as ourselves. This course prepares them to take the science MCAS exam which is a Massachusetts graduation requirement. In this advanced course scholars will further explore scientific concepts and develop critical analysis and independent problem solving skills.

Chemistry (230) 1 Credit, Full Year In this course, typically part of the 10th grade curriculum, scholars will study chemistry as an experimental science with a focus on understanding chemical structure and establishing mathematical relationships for the chemical concepts presented. Scholars will compare, contrast and synthesize useful models of the structure and properties of matter and the mechanisms of its interactions.

Physics (330) 1 Credit, Full Year Physics, typically part of the 11th grade curriculum, will introduce scholars to the laws of physics, the experimental skills, including the mathematical aspect of problem-solving, required in physics and to the social and historical aspect of physics as an evolving body of human knowledge about nature. Scholars will study concepts involving measurement, mechanics, waves and sound, magnetism, and momentum and energy.

Environmental Science (232) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Biology*

Environmental Science is focused on a holistic understanding of Earth systems in order to learn from the past, comprehend the present and influence the future. It is the study of how physical, chemical and biological processes maintain and interact with life, and includes the analysis of environmental problems, both natural and human-made.

Principles of Biomedical Science (432) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Biology*

Biomedical Science scholars are empowered to explore and find solutions to some of today's most pressing medical challenges. Through scaffolded activities that connect learning to life, scholars step into the roles of biomedical science professionals and investigate topics including human medicine, physiology, genetics, microbiology, and public health.

AP Biology (331) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry*

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Scholars cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics like evolution, energetics, information storage and transfer, and system interactions. This course prepares scholars to take the AP exam in May.

AP Physics 1 (431) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Algebra II (OFFERED 2026-27)*

Open to 11th and 12th grade

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Scholars cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory work as they explore concepts like systems, fields, force interactions, change, and conservation. This course prepares scholars to take the AP exam in May.



World Language Course Descriptions

Mandarin I (153) 1 Credit, Full Year Mandarin I is designed for scholars with no experience or knowledge of Mandarin, one of the world's fastest-growing languages. Scholars will learn to speak, read, and write in Mandarin while also learning about Chinese culture.

Mandarin II (253) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Mandarin I*

Mandarin II is a continuation of Mandarin I in which scholars will continue to develop their proficiency in Mandarin. They will learn to read and write as well as speak Mandarin while also continuing to learn about Chinese culture.

Mandarin III (353) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Mandarin II*

Mandarin III is a continuation of Mandarin II in which scholars will further develop their Mandarin fluency skills. Scholars will learn to speak, read, and write in Mandarin while continuing to learn about Chinese culture.

Mandarin IV (453) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Mandarin III*

Mandarin IV is a continuation of Mandarin III for scholars interested in developing their Mandarin skills and fluency more fully. Scholars will converse in Mandarin and dig more deeply into various cultural aspects of Chinese society while learning to read and write in Mandarin.

Spanish I (150) 1 Credit, Full Year Spanish I is designed for scholars with little to no experience speaking, reading, or writing in Spanish. Scholars will gain a basic understanding of the Spanish language and culture as a foundation for further language study.

Spanish II (250) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Spanish I*

Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I. Scholars will continue to develop their proficiency with grammar and vocabulary as they learn to speak, read, and write in Spanish. They will also spend time learning about the various Spanish-speaking cultures throughout the world.

Spanish III (350) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Spanish II*

Spanish III is a continuation of the Spanish II curriculum. Scholars will continue to develop speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish while also learning more about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Spanish IV (450) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Spanish III (MAY be offered in 2025-26)*

Spanish IV is a continuation of the Spanish III curriculum. Scholars will continue to develop speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish while also learning more about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

AP Spanish Language and Culture (451) 1 Credit, Full Year **Prerequisite: Spanish III*

AP Spanish Language and Culture is equivalent to an intermediate level college course in Spanish. Scholars cultivate their understanding of Spanish language and culture by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations as they explore concepts related to family and communities, personal and public identities, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges. This course prepares scholars to take the AP exam in May.



Elective Course Descriptions

College and Career Readiness

CCR I (180) .25 Credits, Full Year Open to 9th grade

All 9th graders take College and Career Readiness I, in which they begin to explore various paths available to them after high school and learn how to set themselves up for success in their high school career. This course meets weekly throughout the school year as scholars begin to plan out their high school pathways.

CCR II (280) .25 Credits, Full Year Open to 10th grade

All 10th graders take College and Career Readiness II, in which they continue to explore various paths available to them after high school. They will dig more deeply into college and career paths and begin to look more specifically at both colleges and careers. They will also focus on high school planning and preparing a path for postsecondary success. This course meets weekly throughout the school year as scholars continue their paths to success.

CCR III (380) .25 credits, Full Year Open to 11th grade

All 11th graders take College and Career Readiness III, in which they focus on the college selection and preparation for postsecondary education and careers. They will prepare for and take college entrance exams, write personal statements, research scholarships opportunities, and begin to start working on their college applications. The class will also cover essential skills for success in higher education and the workforce, including goal setting, interview preparation, and time management. This course meets weekly throughout the school year as scholars focus their postsecondary plans.

CCR IV (480) .25 Credits, Full Year Open to 12th grade

All 12th graders take College and Career Readiness IV, in which they finalize their postsecondary success plans, which are a graduation requirement. Scholars will complete the steps to apply to 2- and/or 4-year colleges in addition to steps for any other paths they choose in this individualized, self-driven course. This course meets weekly throughout the school year as scholars prepare for postsecondary success.

Health

Health I (171) .25 Credits, 1 Term Health I must be taken in grade 9 or 10

In Health I, scholars learn about physical and emotional health. Key concepts and topics include mental and emotional health, substance abuse prevention, nutrition and physical activity, and sexual health and HIV/AIDS education.

Health II (371) .25 Credits, 1 Term Health II must be taken in grade 11 or 12

In Health II scholars dig deeper into topics surrounding physical and emotional health. Key concepts and topics include mental and emotional health, substance abuse prevention, nutrition and physical activity, and sexual health and HIV/AIDS education. Scholars will gain lifelong health skills to prepare them for their postsecondary lives. *Interested scholars will have the opportunity to apply to serve as mentors for 9th grade health scholars through a new partnership with the Health Information Project (behip.org).*

Free Game Mentorship (103 / 303) .25 Credits, 1X/week / Full Year Free Game is a school-based boys mentorship program that prioritizes skill building to enable young men to focus on their education to



succeed in school and life. The goal is to provide a safe environment in which young men are able to share and discuss their concerns and gain exposure to tools for problem sharing and conflict resolution. Overall, the program seeks to explore and reinforce the following values: integrity, accountability, self-determination, self-expression, and respect for womanhood. Scholars in 9th/10th grade will take this course for one quarter (course 103), scholars in 11th/12th grade will take this course for the full year (course 303).

Performing Arts

Music Technology (264) .5 Credits, Semester

In this course, scholars will explore the creation of music through key musical elements such as harmony, form, melody, and rhythm, specifically for digital recording. Engineers enrolled in this course will develop their own sound organically with guidance from the instructor. By the end of the course, engineers will present a solid and thoughtful portfolio of digital music.

Composition and Music Theory (164) .5 Credits, 1 Term *(not offered in 2025-26)*

Music Composition I is a foundational course designed for scholars who are passionate about music and interested in creating their own compositions. In this course, scholars will explore the fundamental principles of music theory, including melody, harmony, rhythm, and form. They will learn to apply these concepts by composing original pieces across a variety of styles and genres. Throughout the semester, scholars will engage in hands-on activities such as composing short pieces. Scholars can use digital tools to refine their compositions. The course will also emphasize creativity, problem-solving, and self-expression, encouraging scholars to develop their unique musical voice. By the end of the course, scholars will have a deeper understanding of how music is structured and the skills necessary to produce original compositions.

Vocal Studio (561) .5 Credits, Semester

**Prerequisite: None; however, prior singing experience is beneficial. Scholars should also be prepared to perform solo vocal parts as part of the course requirements.*

Vocal Studio is a course for scholars interested in developing their vocal skills and exploring various styles of singing. Scholars will learn vocal technique, breath control, pitch accuracy, and performance skills. Through individual and group instruction, scholars will perform a range of repertoire from folk to contemporary genres, building confidence and stage presence. The course will also cover basic ear training and vocal health to ensure scholars can sing safely and effectively. Whether preparing for auditions, performances, or simply improving their voice, this class offers a supportive environment for vocal growth.

Modern Band I (660) .5 Credits, Semester

**Prerequisite: None, but the willingness to play an instrument*

Modern Band I is an exciting, hands-on course for scholars interested in playing contemporary music in a group setting. Scholars will explore a variety of modern genres, including hip-hop, pop, rap, folk, diasporic genres (Latin, Caribbean, African) and , while learning to play instruments such as bass guitar, percussion, ukulele, and keyboards. Emphasis is placed on developing practical skills in rhythm, harmony, and ensemble playing, as well as working collaboratively to perform and arrange music. The course also includes an introduction to music technology and recording techniques. Perfect for scholars looking to form a band and perform in a creative, supportive environment!

Modern Band II (661) .5 Credits, 1 Term

**Prerequisite: Modern Band I*

Modern Band II is an exciting continuation of Modern Band I for scholars interested in playing contemporary



music in a group setting. Scholars will continue to explore: hip-hop, pop, rap, folk, diasporic genres (Latin, Caribbean, African) as well as starting advanced concepts such as arranging, improvisation, solos on instruments, and music theory. While continuing to play instruments such as bass guitar, percussion, ukulele, and keyboards. Scholars should also be prepared to play in a secondary instrument ensemble as well. Emphasis is placed on furthering developing practical skills in rhythm, harmony, and ensemble playing, as well as working collaboratively to perform and arrange music. This course will end with a Showcase in Legends Hall at the end of the semester.

Jazz and Hip-Hop: Creating the Sound of the 20th Century (364) .5 Credits, 1 Term

**Prerequisite: Modern Band I*

This course is designed to discover the sounds that were created in America through Jazz and Hip-Hop. Scholars will look at historical events that connected to the music at the time. Scholars will also interpret, discuss and challenge ideas about specific repertoire and music motives. This course is non-instrumental and is open to scholars who want to have full discussion on music, a weekly writing example will be required as well as scholar-led conversations.

Hip-Hop and Jazz Band Ensemble (662) .5 Credits, 1 Term

**Prerequisite: Modern Band I*

This course combines the rich traditions of jazz and hip-hop in a collaborative ensemble setting, where scholars will explore rhythm, improvisation, and composition. Focusing on live performance, scholars will merge the spontaneous nature of jazz with the beats and lyrical flow of hip-hop, gaining hands-on experience in arranging, composing, and performing original pieces. Through group work and individual projects, scholars will develop their skills in both genres, culminating in a final live performance.

Global Percussion (663) .5 Credits, 1 Term

**No prerequisites*

In this course, scholars will gain hands-on experience learning contemporary and ancient rhythms from all over the globe. Scholars will learn how to drum individually and as a part of a percussion ensemble. They will get opportunities to play drum set, snare drum, drum pads, hand drums, electronic drums, and various other percussion instruments. Scholars will create their own rhythms, learn about the history of drumming, and have opportunities to perform for the school community! No prior musical experience is required. Drumming is for everybody!

Independent Study (960)

**Prerequisite: At least 2 ensemble classes, play a secondary instrument, and have the ability to arrange/conduct*

This course offers scholars the opportunity to explore music at their own pace through independent research, performance, and composition. Scholars will focus on developing personal musical skills, exploring various genres and techniques, and setting individual goals with guidance from instructors. With an emphasis on self-discipline and creativity, participants will gain a deeper understanding of music theory, history, and production while building a portfolio of their work. This course encourages self-expression and prepares scholars for future studies or careers in music.

Introduction to Theatre (191)

**No prerequisites*

Curious about what makes theatre come to life? In this class, you'll dive into the world of acting through drama games, scene study, and improvisational comedy. You'll also get a hands-on introduction to directing, playwriting, stage design, and other behind-the-scenes roles that bring a production to life. Whether you've



never seen a play before or you dream of being an actor, this is your chance to learn what theatre is, why it matters, and how you can use storytelling to make your voice heard.

Personal Finance

Essentials of Personal Finance (491) | Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania .5 Credit (S2)

**Open to scholars in 10th - 12th grades*

We interact with money and make financial decisions every day, big or small: do I spend \$5 or \$10 on lunch? How much do I earn if I work as a cashier? Can I afford a car? When should I start to invest? Do I have enough money to pay for my college tuition? Various financial products can be very confusing, which easily lead us to make mistakes or even get deceived. This course will introduce you to basic finance concepts such as time value of money, tax and loans, help you acquire money-managing skills such as budgeting, saving and investing, and provide you useful tools to make sound financial decisions and avoid mistakes.

Physical Education

Physical Education (271) .25 Credits, Full Year Required for 9th and 10th grades, optional for 11th and 12th

All 9th and 10th graders are required to take Physical Education, where they will engage in a variety of sports and activities. This course focuses on teaching scholars how to care for their bodies while developing lifelong movement skills and exploring different physical opportunities.

Competitive Team Sports (373) .25 Credits, 1 Term

Open to 11th and 12th grades

This is an incentive-based course centered around the idea of healthy competition. This course is designed for scholars who enjoy playing team sports and want to work and play hard during class.

Introduction to Personal Training (471) .25 Credits, 1 Term

Open to 11th and 12th grades OR by teacher recommendation

This hybrid elective combines classroom learning with hands-on experience in the gym. Scholars will explore the importance of data collection and goal tracking for both personal fitness and potential future clients. The course will also prepare scholars to earn certifications in CPR, First Aid, and concussion awareness upon successful completion.

Leadership in Sports (472) .25 Credits, 1 Term

Open to 11th and 12th grades OR by teacher recommendation

This classroom-based course gives scholars the opportunity to explore the qualities of effective leadership and how leadership has been understood and demonstrated throughout history. The course will also examine the evolving role of sports in the professional world, with a focus on the impact of Title IX and the increasing visibility and influence of women in athletics.

Visual Arts

Foundations of Drawing (166) .5 Credits, 1 Semester (S1 & S2) Open to 9th and 10th graders who have not taken a previous visual arts class

This course introduces scholars to the fundamentals of creating, understanding, and discussing art. Scholars will explore various drawing techniques, including observational drawing and perspective, while working in a range of artistic mediums. Scholars will also be introduced to a diverse group of artists from both historical and



contemporary contexts.

Painting: Working in Color (267) .5 Credits, 1 Semester (S1 & S2)

**Prerequisite: Foundations in Drawing or Art I*

This course focuses on developing skills with a variety of painting mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, and tempera. Scholars will explore both representational and abstract approaches to expressing their ideas and analyzing artwork. They will also be introduced to color theory, learning how colors interact and influence one another in the art they study and create.

Printmaking: Working in Editions (269) .5 Credits, 1 Semester (S1 & S2)

**Prerequisite: Foundations in Drawing or Art I*

This course will focus on building skills in a variety of printmaking techniques, including linoleum cuts, monoprints, collagraphs, stencils, and silkscreen printing. Scholars will explore the concepts of one-of-a-kind prints, editions, and the idea of multiplicity. The prints created in class will serve as a foundation for further artistic exploration through other media, such as artist books, collages, mixed media works, and even merchandise.

Portfolio Studio (465) 1 Credit, Full Year

**Prerequisites: Foundations in Drawing and at least one other Visual Arts class OR by teacher recommendation*

This course is designed for scholars who are deeply committed to art and may be considering a future in the arts after graduation. The goal is to support scholars in developing a well-rounded portfolio that could be used for college admissions. Scholars will work independently to explore their personal artistic voice and experiment with new techniques based on their individual interests.



SAMPLE COURSE SELECTION BY GRADE

Standard Track

Subject	Rising 9th Grade (Class of 2029)	Rising 10th Grade (Class of 2028)	Rising 11th Grade (Class of 2027)	Rising 12th Grade (Class of 2028)
English	English I	English II	English Seminar	English Seminar
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Statistics / PreCalculus
History	Global Civilizations	US History II	US History II	Government Economics / National Ed Equity Lab Semester Courses
Science	Biology	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science/ Biomedical Science	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science/ Biomedical Science
World Language	Spanish / Mandarin I	Spanish / Mandarin II	Spanish / Mandarin III	AP Spanish / Spanish IV / Mandarin IV
CCR	CCR I	CCR II	CCR III	CCR IV
Art/Business/PE	Physical Education 2 Art courses	Physical Education Health I 1 Art/Business Course	Health II PE Elective 2 Art/Business Courses	PE Elective 3 Art/Business Courses



Math Accelerated Track

Subject	Rising 9th Grade (Class of 2029)	Rising 10th Grade (Class of 2028)	Rising 11th Grade (Class of 2027)	Rising 12th Grade (Class of 2028)
English	English I	English II	English Seminar	English Seminar
Math	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry Honors Algebra II	AP Precalculus	AP Calculus AB
History	Global Civilizations	US History II	US History II	
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Biomedical Science
World Language	Spanish / Mandarin I	Spanish / Mandarin II	Spanish / Mandarin III	AP Spanish / Spanish IV / Mandarin IV
CCR	CCR I	CCR II	CCR III	CCR IV
Art/Business/PE	Physical Education 2 Art courses	Physical Education Health I 1 Art/Business Course	Health II PE Elective 2 Art/Business Courses	PE Elective 3 Art/Business Courses



Science Accelerated Track

Subject	Rising 9th Grade (Class of 2029)	Rising 10th Grade (Class of 2028)	Rising 11th Grade (Class of 2027)	Rising 12th Grade (Class of 2026)
English	English I	English II	English Seminar	English Seminar
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Statistics Precalculus
History	N/A	World History I	US History II	Government Economics
Science	Honors Biology Chemistry	AP Biology	Physics	AP Physics
World Language	Spanish or Mandarin I	Spanish or Mandarin II	N/A	Spanish / Mandarin III
CCR	CCR I	CCR II	CCR III	CCR IV
Art/Business/PE	Physical Education 2 Art courses	Physical Education Health I 1 Art/Business Course	Health II PE Elective 2 Art/Business Courses	PE Elective 3 Art/Business Courses



Math and Science Accelerated Track

Subject	9	10	11	12
English	English I	English II	English Seminar	English Seminar
Math	Honors Algebra I	Honors Geometry Honors Algebra II	AP Precalculus	AP Calculus AB
History	N/A	World History I	US History II	Government Economics
Science	Honors Biology Chemistry	AP Biology	Physics	AP Physics
World Language	Spanish or Mandarin I		Spanish or Mandarin II	Spanish or Mandarin III
CCR	CCR I	CCR II	CCR III	CCR IV
Art/Business/PE	Physical Education 2 Art courses	Physical Education Health I 1 Art/Business Course	Health II PE Elective 2 Art/Business Courses	PE Elective 3 Art/Business Courses



English Accelerated Track

Subject	9	10	11	12
English	Honors English I	Pre-Ap English	AP Lang / AP Lit	AP Lang / AP Lit
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Statistics / PreCalculus
History	Global Civilizations	US History II	Government Economics / National Ed Equity Lab Semester Courses	Government Economics / National Ed Equity Lab Semester Courses
Science	Biology	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science/ Biomedical Science	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science/ Biomedical Science
World Language	Spanish / Mandarin I	Spanish / Mandarin II	Spanish / Mandarin III	AP Spanish / Spanish IV /Mandarin IV
CCR	CCR I	CCR II	CCR III	CCR IV
Art/Business/PE	Physical Education 2 Art courses	Physical Education Health I 1 Art/Business Course	Health II PE Elective 2 Art/Business Courses	PE Elective 3 Art/Business Courses



History Accelerated Track

Subject	9	10	11	12
English	English I	English II	English Seminar	English Seminar
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Statistics / PreCalculus
History	Global Civilizations	US History II Honors	AP Government / National Ed Equity Lab Semester Courses	AP Government / National Ed Equity Lab Semester Courses
Science	Biology	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science/ Biomedical Science	Chemistry / Physics / Environmental Science/ Biomedical Science
World Language	Spanish / Mandarin I	Spanish / Mandarin II	Spanish / Mandarin III	AP Spanish / Spanish IV / Mandarin IV
CCR	CCR I	CCR II	CCR III	CCR IV
Art/Business/PE	Physical Education 2 Art courses	Physical Education Health I 1 Art/Business Course	Health II PE Elective 2 Art/Business Courses	PE Elective 3 Art/Business Courses