PHHS Freshman Elective Course Descriptions

Course	Description
Art	This introductory visual art course is designed to instruct students through the process of creative drawing and painting using a variety of materials. In addition, the course includes the principles and elements of design, art history, and art appreciation and promotes creative self-expression.
AVID	AVID prepares students for eligibility for four-year colleges and universities. Students are selected based on recommendations, grades, test scores, courses, and attendance. Students will be provided with academic instruction from an AVID teacher and a group of college tutors. Motivational activities will include guest speakers and college tours.
Band	This class is for intermediate students who have some experience in band. Instruments include the following: flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, oboe, bassoon, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone horn, tuba, and percussion.
Choir	This class is for students who have no experience or some experience in choir.
Construction Technology	Construction Tech 1 is a course designed to give the student practice in the care and use of hand tools. It will include an introduction to power tools found in most cabinet making shops. The course will provide basic knowledge of wood joints and box construction. This course meets the graduation requirement for fine arts; however, it does not count as a fine art for the CSU or UC system.
Drama	This is an introductory course which exposes the student to theatrical techniques of breathing, vocal projection, concentration and relaxation. Improvisation techniques, theatre games and scene study are a part of the course, as well as an introduction to musical theatre, singing and dancing for the stage. The audition process is explored, and by the end of the course, each student will have mastered 2 audition pieces. A school-wide Showcase Performance of best student work is held in May.
Ethnic Studies	The Ethnic Studies course aims to educate students to be politically, socially, and economically conscious about their personal connections to local and global histories. By studying the histories of race, ethnicity, nationality, and culture, students will cultivate respect and empathy for individuals and solidarity with groups of people locally, nationally, and globally so as to foster active social engagement and community building. Honoring the historical legacy of social movements and mass struggle against injustice, including the establishment of ethnic studies programs in public schools and university curricula, this course aims to provide an emancipatory education that will inspire students to critically engage in self-determination and seek social justice for all.

PHHS Freshman Elective Course Descriptions (continued)

Course	Description
Exploring Computer Science	Students are introduced to the concepts of computer and computing while investigating the major components of computers and the suitability of these components for particular applications. Students will have opportunities to become "computational thinkers" by applying problem-solving techniques, thinking abstractly and applying and creating algorithms. Students expand their knowledge of algorithms, abstraction, and web page design and apply it to the creation of web pages and documentation for users and equipment. Students design algorithms and create programming solutions to a variety of computational problems using an iterative development process. Students explore how computing has facilitated new methods of managing and interpreting data, finding patterns using their own, local data and a variety of large data sets. Students will also explore how robotics enables innovation by automating processes that may be problematic for humans. Students explore how to integrate hardware and software.
Guitar	Guitar 1 offers beginning instruction in basic chords, reading music, theory, and solo and rhythm techniques. Students learn how to play both the melody and accompaniment to songs.
Introduction to Business	Students will be introduced to the world of business including from the point of view of running a business as an entrepreneur. Students will create a business plan and develop business and marketing skills. Emphasis will also be placed on career opportunities, requirements, and appropriate workplace behaviors. Students will learn new computer terminology, develop keyboarding proficiency, and use current software applications for a variety of word processing, spreadsheet, graphic art, and presentation activities.
Jazz Ensemble	This course will be during 0 period (7:30-8:20a.m.). Choir-no experience required.. Instrumental-must be proficient on your individual instrument.
Manufacturing	This course applies the Engineering design process to problem solve, design and create a series of unique products that satisfy both practical and aesthetic needs. This course will provide an introduction to design theory, prototyping software tools and equipment, various materials, and collaborative skills. Students will learn how the available tools and equipment function, the history of the development of these tools, safe operation of the tools and utilize a variety of software programs to design objects and then communicate those products with 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines and other processes. The manufacturing lab is a place for students to develop creative solutions to authentic challenges and real-world problems while learning from and valuing past, present and future student work for artistic value. Students will learn and leverage a variety of technologically advanced tools to engage in design competitions that address real world problems and stress the acquisition and development of critical career skills and artistic expression, interpretation and analysis. Students will also participate in collaborative projects, peer feedback activities, reflection assignments, presentations, portfolio development, and exhibitions.
Orchestra	Proficient on your individual instrument This class is for intermediate students who have some experience in orchestra. Instruments include the following: violin, cello, viola, and bass.
Piano	Piano 1 offers beginning instruction in proper keyboard technique, chords, and note reading. The course includes music theory and fundamentals.